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 Chicago-Health Questions

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

**Important Healthcare Issues**

- Staying mentally sharp: 96%
- Staying physically healthy: 95%
- Having adequate health insurance coverage: 95%
- Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future: 91%
- Paying for health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays: 86%
- Paying for prescription drugs: 82%

**I1.** For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=401)
CARE1. Are you currently providing unpaid help to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? (n=401)

Two out of five (41%) African American/Black Chicago residents age 45+ are currently providing unpaid help to an adult relative or friend.
CAREGIVING ISSUES

More than two out of five (44%) African American/Black Chicago residents age 45+ who are not currently caregivers have provided this type of care in the past.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care in The Past

- Yes: 56%
- No: 44%
Caregiving Issues

More than half (52%) of Chicago’s African American/Black residents age 45+ are very or somewhat likely to face financial hardship if an unpaid leave from work is needed to care for a loved one.

Likelihood of Facing Financial Hardship if Unpaid Leave Was Needed

- Extremely likely: 3%
- Very likely: 10%
- Somewhat likely: 22%
- Not very likely: 20%
- Not likely at all: 16%
- Don’t know/ refused: 3%

CARE43. How likely is it that you or your family would face serious financial hardship if you had to take up to a few months of unpaid time off from work because of a serious illness or injury, to care for a new child, or to care for a family member with a serious illness or disability? (n=401)
Chicago’s African American/Black residents age 45+ have a variety of long-term care and health care concerns.

**Health and Aging Concerns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Concerned (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The quality of healthcare services available to you in your community</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having long-term care or home health services available when needed</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying safe in your own home and community as you get older</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing support, help, or caregiving for a loved one</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The quality of care in Illinois nursing homes</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying for long-term care such as nursing home or home health services</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COVID-19

As of June 2021, about three-quarters (76%) of Chicago’s African American/Black residents have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

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

- Yes (already got): 76%
- Yes (plan to): 11%
- No: 9%
- Don’t know/ refused: 5%

CVD-11. Have you gotten or do you plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine? (n=401)
Nearly two-thirds (65%) of Chicago’s African American/Black residents age 45+ who are not getting the COVID-19 vaccine (or are unsure if they will get it) said concerns about side effects are preventing them from getting vaccinated.

<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>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t trust the drug companies that make the vaccine</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want to wait and see how it goes for other people</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not trust the government</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The risks of taking a new vaccine outweigh any benefits</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy and don’t need a COVID-19 vaccine</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not think the vaccination will work to protect from infection</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Already had COVID-19, so you can’t get it again</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not think you will get that sick if you get COVID-19</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping away from health care sites to avoid COVID-19</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerned about the cost of the vaccine</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (specify)</td>
<td>2%</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? (Percent ‘yes’) (n=51)
Survey Results for Chicago-Wealth Questions

Issues That Impact Chicago’s African American/Black Adults Age 45 and Older
Chicago's African American/Black residents age 45+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to retirement and Social Security benefits.

Important Economic Issues

- Having enough income or savings to retire: 97%
- Having adequate Social Security benefits: 94%
- Having affordable utilities: 92%
- Protecting yourself against consumer fraud: 91%
- Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices: 91%
- Protection from age discrimination: 86%
- Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want: 86%
- Having online security: 78%
- Having good employment opportunities in your community: 78%
- Maintaining relevant job skills and experience: 71%
- Having access to affordable high-speed Internet: 65%

II. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent ‘extremely important’ or ‘very important’) (n=401)
Nearly four out of five (79%) African American/Black residents age 45+ in Chicago are very or somewhat anxious about having enough money to live comfortably throughout retirement.
About one in five (19%) African American/Black workers age 45+ in Chicago work for an employer that does not provide a way to save for retirement.
Survey Results for Chicago-Livable Community Questions

Issues That Impact Chicago’s African American/Black Adults Age 45 and Older
About half (52%) of Chicago’s African American/Black residents age 45+ own their home.
Independent living is extremely or very important to most of Chicago's African American/Black residents age 45+.

Important Independent Living Issues

- Staying in your own home as you get older: 91%
- Getting to the places you need to go independently: 91%
- Having enough services so people who want to can be cared for in their homes as they age: 90%
- Caring for a loved one: 88%
- Having high quality long-term care in your community: 85%
- Having flexibility in your schedule to care for a loved one: 82%
- Having paid time off to care for yourself or a seriously ill family member: 81%
- Having alternatives to nursing home care: 75%
- Having ways to be connected to your community and socialize as you age, both in-person and online: 74%

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=401)
Chicago’s African American/Black residents age 45+ are concerned about a variety of home and community issues, especially having safe streets that are safe and easy to use.

Livable Community Concerns

- Having streets that are safe and easy for all pedestrians to use: 73%
- Being able to find affordable housing if you needed to downsize or move to another community: 65%
- Being able to afford to remain in your home as you age: 63%
- Being able to get around your community: 60%
- Having access to transportation near your home if you are unable or prefer not to drive: 56%
- Being able to afford modifications to your home so that it is easier to live in as you age: 56%
- Being able to afford groceries or household necessities: 54%

LIVCOMM1. How concerned are you about the following? (Percent ‘extremely concerned’ or ‘very concerned’) (n=401)
Chicago’s African American/Black residents age 45+ cite neighborhood safety (69%) and home safety (65%) as factors that would greatly impact their ability to remain in their home as they age.

Factors Impacting Ability to Age in Place

- Safety in your neighborhood: 69%
- Increasing rent (if renting): 68%
- Safety in your home: 65%
- Increasing property taxes (if own): 64%
- Being able to make the necessary repairs and modifications to your home so you can continue to live there safely: 60%
- Being close to goods and services: 58%
- Heating and cooling costs: 56%
- Increasing maintenance costs: 54%

HOME-1. How much do you think each of the following would impact your ability to remain in your home as you age? (Percent ‘a lot’) (n=207)
At least two out of five (44%) African American/Black residents age 45+ in Chicago have considered leaving Illinois in the past year.

**Considered Leaving Illinois in the Past Year**

(as of June 2021)

- **Yes:** 56%
- **No:** 44%

**MIG-1.** In the past year, have you personally considered leaving Illinois? (n=401)
Chicago's African American/Black residents age 45+ who have considered leaving Illinois in the past year list a variety of reasons for doing so, including wanting lower overall cost of living (90%), lower taxes (89%) and lower crime rate.

Reasons for Considering Leaving Illinois

- Lower overall cost of living: 90%
- Lower taxes: 89%
- A safer community or lower crime rate: 88%
- Lower housing costs: 85%
- Better climate: 82%
- To live in someplace with a better managed state government: 61%
- To be in a home that is safer for older adults: 60%
- Better job opportunities: 57%
- More financial assistance: 52%
- To be with or live closer to other family members: 50%
- Better access to health care: 45%
- Other: 6%

MIG-2. What are your reasons for considering leaving Illinois? Is it for [ITEM]? (Percent ‘yes’) (n=177)
Nine percent (9%) of Chicago’s African American/Black residents age 45+ feel they are in danger of losing their home due to eviction or foreclosure because of financial hardship during the pandemic.
Two-thirds (66%) of Chicago’s African American/Black homeowners age 45+ would consider creating an ADU within their home or property if they had the space available to do so.

Would Consider Creating an ADU Within Home or Property

- Yes: 66%
- No: 32%
- Don't know/ refused: 2%

ADU-2. An Accessory Dwelling Unit, or ADU, is a residential unit built on the same lot as an existing single-family home. It is commonly referred to as a "granny flat" or "in-law quarters." ADUs provide complete separate living quarters, including a kitchen and bathroom, that can allow older adults to age in their existing home with live-in care, make it possible for adults to assist their aging parents or other loved ones, or be used for rental income. If you had the space to create an ADU within your home or on your property, would you consider doing that? (n=207)
RACE-1. How big a problem would you say racism is in our society today? (n=401)

DISCRIMINATION

Nine out of ten (89%) Chicago's African American/Black residents age 45+ agree that racism is a big problem in society today.

Racism as a Problem in Society Today

- A big problem: 89%
- Somewhat of a problem: 8%
- A small problem: 2%
- Not a problem at all: 2%
DISCRIMINATION

Two-thirds (66%) of Chicago’s African American/Black residents age 45+ have often seen or experienced racism personally.

Frequency Seeing or Experiencing Discrimination

- Racism: 66%
- Ageism or age discrimination against someone older: 44%
- Sexism: 44%

FP16. How often do you personally see or experience the following types of discrimination? (Percent ‘very often’ or ‘often’) (n=401)
In May 2021, AARP engaged ANR Market Research Consultants to conduct a quantitative research study among African American/Black residents of Chicago City age 45 and older. Topics included healthcare, the economy, financial issues, independent living, long-term care, caregiving, and retirement issues.

### 401 Interviews

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

**Fielded in May/June 2021**

ANR completed a total of 401 interviews (126 via landline telephone, 150 via cell phone, and 125 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- African American/Black resident of Chicago City

Survey length averaged 22.3 minutes by telephone and 20.5 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 Illinois residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 63,344 records were utilized. The list of 5,270,291 Illinois residents age 45 and older was randomly divided into 5,271 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 54 replicates representing a total of 53,141 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The sample of 401 African American/Black respondents yields a maximum statistical error of ±4.9% 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 ±4.9 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed.)

Interview Methodology

The survey was launched on May 17, 2021 and closed on June 7, 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](http://www.aarp.org) or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.
CONTACT

Kate Bridges,
KBridges@aarp.org

For media inquiries, please contact media@aarp.org.

This research was designed and executed by AARP Research.