## VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact North Carolina Adults Age 45 and Older, November 2021

### Issues of Importance to North Carolina Adults Age 45+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Care</th>
<th>Economic/Financial</th>
<th>Independent Living/Long-Term Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staying mentally sharp</td>
<td>Having enough income or savings to retire</td>
<td>Getting to the places you need to go independently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate health insurance coverage</td>
<td>Adequate Social Security benefits</td>
<td>Staying in your home as you get older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying physically healthy</td>
<td>Protection against unfair financial practices</td>
<td>Caring for a loved one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare benefits available in the future</td>
<td>Protection against consumer fraud</td>
<td>Having high-quality long-term care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying for health care expenses</td>
<td>Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want</td>
<td>Living in a community that meets your needs as you get older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying for prescription drugs</td>
<td>Having online security</td>
<td>Staying in your community as you get older</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>88%</td>
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<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally.”

*% “extremely important” or “very important”*
Interviews were conducted with 802 residents of North Carolina by landline (44%), cell phone (29%), and online (27%) between November 15, 2021 and November 30, 2021.

**Age**
- 45 to 49: 14%
- 50 to 64: 46%
- 65+: 40%

**Education**
- Some college or less: 61%
- 4-year college degree: 21%
- Post-graduate study or degree: 18%

**Employment**
- Full-time: 32%
- Part-time: 7%
- Retired: 46%

**Gender**
- Female: 54%
- Male: 46%

**Marital Status**
- Married/ living with partner: 58%
- Divorced/ separated: 17%
- Widowed: 13%
- Never married: 11%

**Race/Ethnicity**
- White/ Caucasian: 69%
- Black/ African American: 20%
- Hispanic/ Latino: 5%
- Other: 6%

**Political Views**
- Conservative: 39%
- Moderate: 32%
- Liberal: 23%

**Annual Household Income**
- Less than $50,000: 42%
- $50,000 to less than $100,000: 32%
- $100,000+: 16%