

# Family Caregiving in Wisconsin: Overwhelming Support for The CARE Act

2019 AARP Survey of Wisconsin Registered Voters 40 and Older



## ABOUT THIS SURVEY

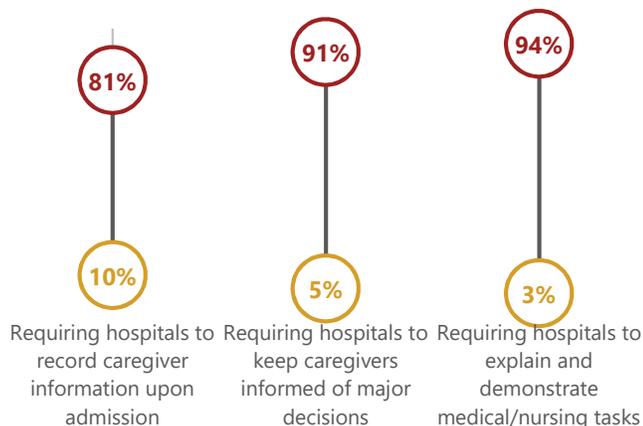
This AARP Wisconsin survey of 1,000 Wisconsin registered voters, age 40 and older, seeks to understand the experiences of family caregiving and support of legislative policies to help family caregivers. Data was collected through a telephone survey conducted in June-July, 2019.

## KEY FINDINGS

**More than eight in ten of Wisconsin registered voters age 40 and older support the components in the Caregiver Advise, Record, and Enable (CARE) Act**, which will help unpaid family caregivers when their loved ones go into the hospital and as they transition home. The bill features three important provisions that require hospitals to:

- (1) Engage with caregivers by recording the name of the family caregiver when a loved one is admitted into a hospital.
- (2) Keep a family caregiver informed of major decisions, like transferring or discharging the patient.
- (3) Provide instructions on the medical tasks the family caregiver may need to perform at home.

**Support for Proposals to Help Family Caregivers When Their Loved Ones Go Into Hospitals (Registered Voters 40+ N=1,000)**  
Support vs. Oppose



**Support for these three CARE Act components reaches well over the majority of voters in Wisconsin regardless of their political party.** Registered voters, who identified their political party as Republican, Democrat, or Independent, overwhelmingly support The CARE Act.

**Percentage Supporting The CARE Act by Political Party**

	Recording the name of the caregiver	Keeping caregivers informed	Explaining & demonstrating medical or nursing tasks
Republicans	80%	89%	94%
Independents	83%	93%	95%
Democrats	87%	94%	98%

**Many Wisconsin voters age 40-plus have experience as family caregivers.** Nearly half of Wisconsin voters say they have provided care – either currently (15%) or in the past (33%) – on an unpaid basis for an adult loved one who is ill, frail, elderly, or who has a disability. Most of these current or former caregivers (76%) say their loved one was admitted to a hospital while under their

**34% of current or former caregivers whose loved ones were admitted to a hospital did not receive instructions or demonstrations of medical or nursing tasks.**

care, but one-third were **NOT** provided with instructions or a live demonstration of any medical tasks they may need to perform at home.

## IMPLICATIONS

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**Caregivers in Wisconsin are already providing much needed unpaid care to their loved ones.** Family members are often the ones who provide care to their loved ones to help them through an illness or with chronic care or at the end of life. And most voters in Wisconsin (79%) would prefer – **to receive care at home** from a caregiver if they needed help due to aging or illness.

In Wisconsin, it is estimated that there are **578,000 caregivers**<sup>1</sup> who provide more than **538 million hours** of unpaid care valued at over **\$7 billion** each year.

Family caregivers have a huge responsibility – one that gets even more difficult when the person they are caring for goes into the hospital. **The CARE Act will improve the way family caregivers are supported when their loved ones are admitted into the hospital** and will ensure they receive the critical information and instructions they need to effectively care for their loved ones at home. That may be why so many registered voters 40-plus in Wisconsin support The Care Act.

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<sup>1</sup> Valuing the Invaluable: 2015 Update, AARP Public Policy Institute, July 2015.

# SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

*N = 1,000 registered voters 40 and older residing in Wisconsin*

Demographic Variable	Weighted
<b>Age</b>	
40 – 49	21%
50 – 54	13%
55 – 64	30%
65 or older	37%
<b>Gender</b>	
Men	46%
Women	54%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
White or Caucasian	87%
Non-White	6%
Hispanic	1%
<b>Education</b>	
High school degree or less	41%
2-year degree or more	54%
<b>Employment Status</b>	
Employed	52%
Retired	33%
<b>Voting Frequency in State Elections</b>	
Always	61%
Most of the time	24%
<b>Marital Status</b>	
Married	59%
Not-married	36%
<b>Household Income</b>	
Less than \$30,000	16%
\$30,000 - \$74,999	34%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12%
\$100,000 or more	19%

## METHODOLOGY

AARP Wisconsin commissioned a telephone survey among 1,000 registered voters age 40-plus in Wisconsin to learn about their experiences with family caregiving. The sample utilized an age-targeted landline and cell phone registered voter list obtained from Aristotle International. Wisconsin registered voters 40-plus who lived in rural counties were oversampled. Quotas were used in this study based on age and gender and were filled based on responses to questions in the questionnaire. Respondents were selected at random from the sample list to be dialed. American Directions Research Group (ADRG) asked to speak with the registered voter listed on the file. If that person was unavailable, ADRG asked to speak with another member of the household age 40-plus who was registered to vote in Wisconsin. The interviews were conducted from June 17 through July 12, 2019. The interviews averaged 19 minutes in length and were conducted in English. The data is weighted by age, gender, and geography to reflect registered voters in Wisconsin age 40-plus, based on the sample source. Percentages reported are rounded. The margin of error for this survey is  $\pm 3.1$  percent.

For more information on the methodology or the survey, contact Terri Guengerich at 202-434-6306 or [tguengerich@aarp.org](mailto:tguengerich@aarp.org). For more information on this issue in Wisconsin, please contact Helen Marks Dicks at 608-286-6337 or [HMDicks@aarp.org](mailto:HMDicks@aarp.org).