

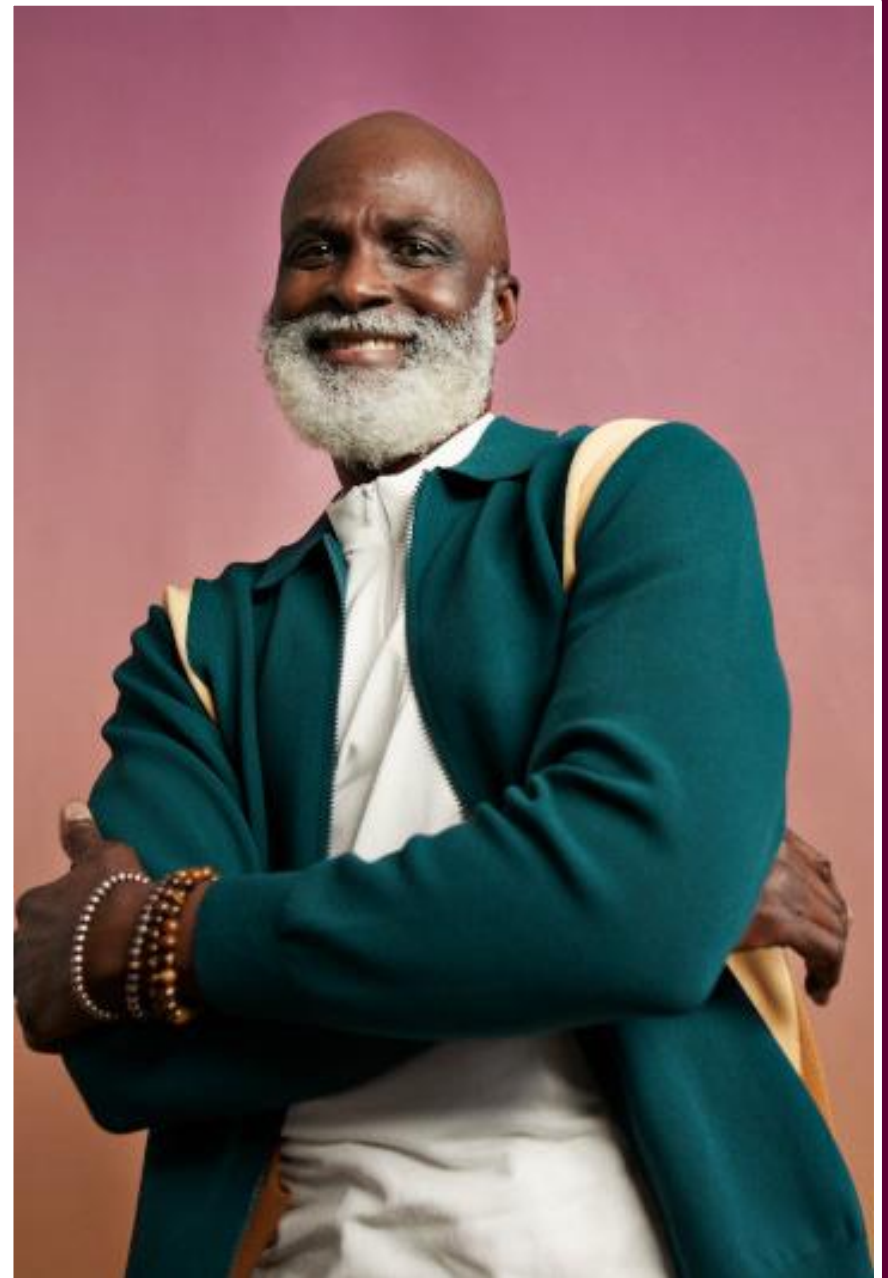
VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact
Arkansas's African
American or Black
Adults Age 45 and
Older, November 2023



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INTRODUCTION

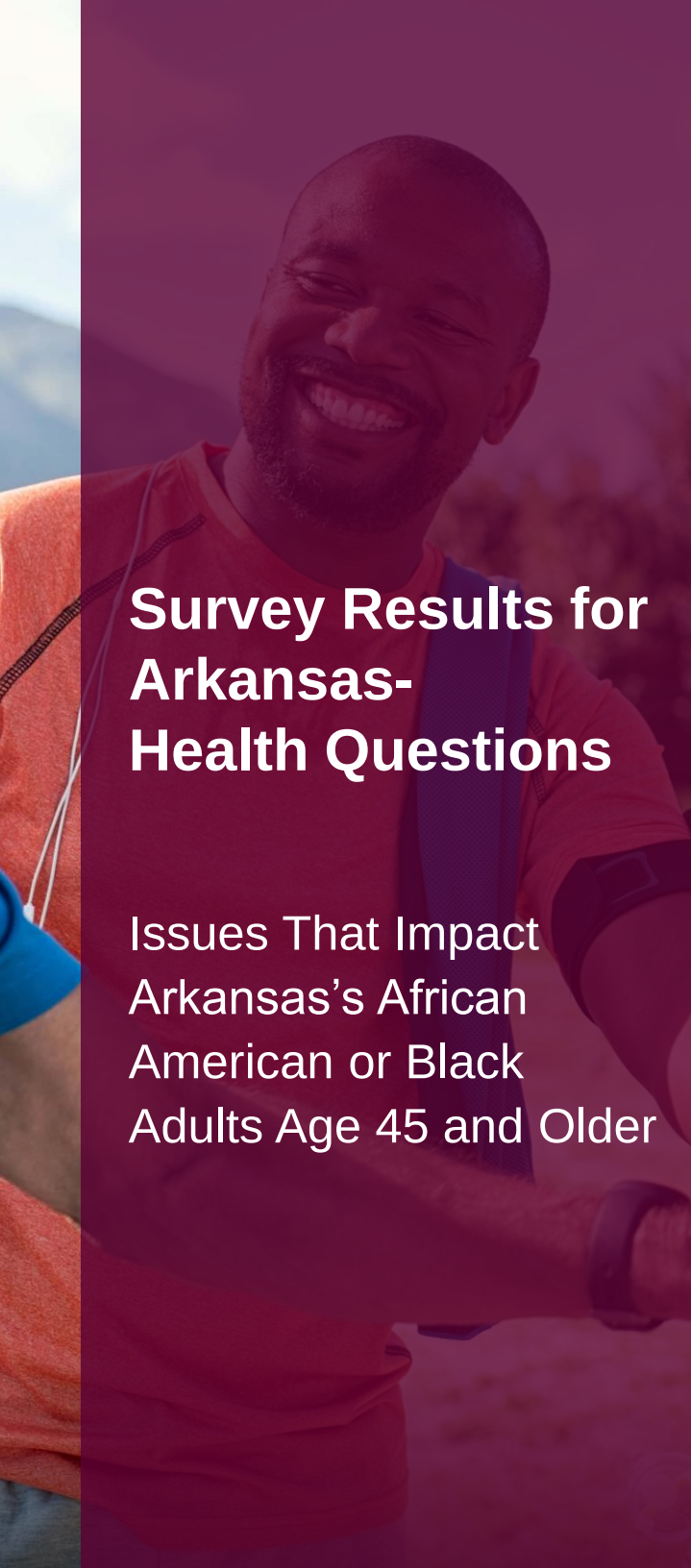
There are currently about 119 million Americans who are 50 and older; this number will grow to 157 million by 2050. The 50 and older population is and will continue to be an essential contributor to American society. Understanding the needs and opinions of older Americans is critical to ensuring they 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.



A smiling Black man with a beard, wearing an orange shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is looking slightly to the right and has a joyful expression. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a blue sky.

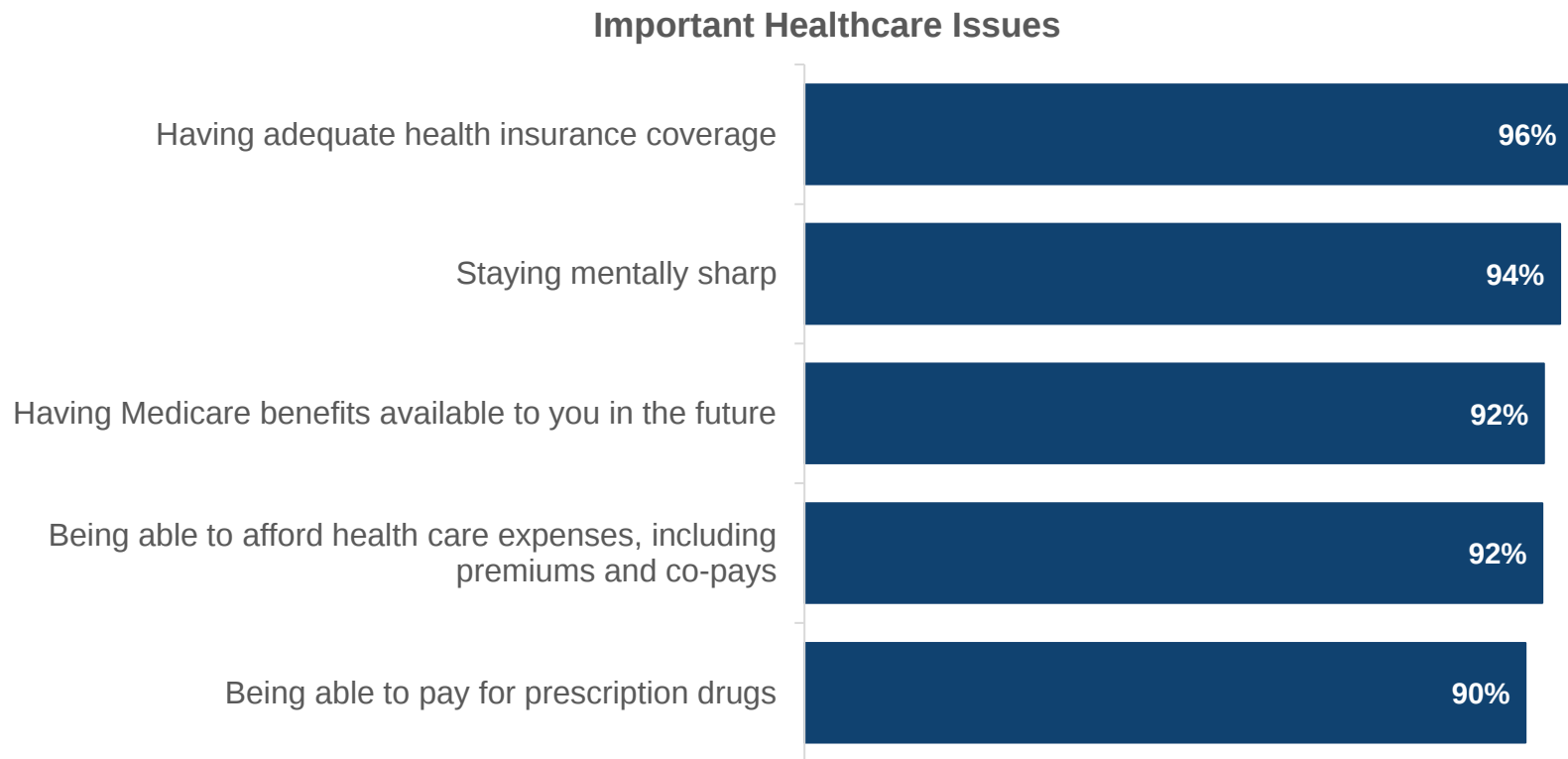
Survey Results for Arkansas- Health Questions

Issues That Impact
Arkansas's African
American or Black
Adults Age 45 and Older



ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Arkansas's African American/Black residents age 45+ think many healthcare issues are important, with having adequate health insurance (96%) and staying mentally sharp (94%) topping the list.



11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=299)

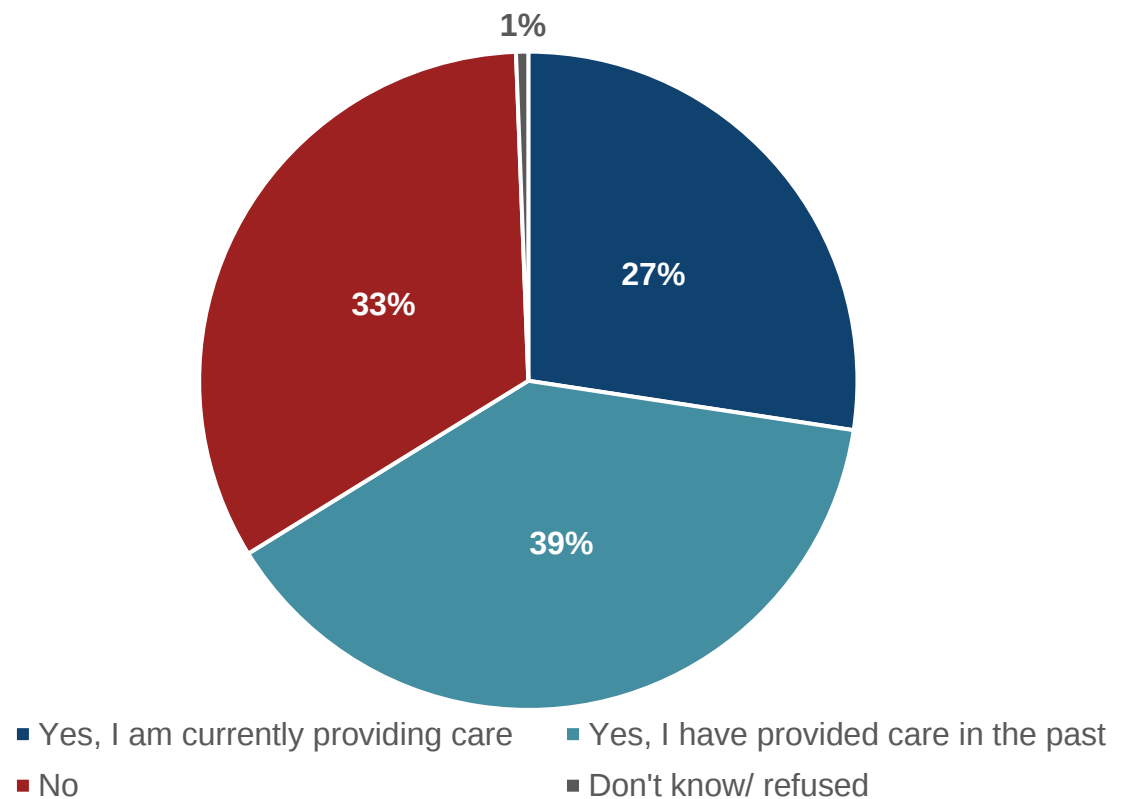


C2_CARE1. Are you currently or have you ever provided unpaid help to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? (n=299)

CAREGIVING

Two-thirds (66%) of Arkansas's African American/ Black 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



CAREGIVING

Arkansas's African American/Black caregivers age 45+ have a variety of daily caregiving tasks, including helping their loved one with meals (49%) and aiding with household chores (44%).



CARE7. Thinking about the person you are providing care to the most, how often are you [ITEM]? (Percent 'daily') (n=198)

Survey Results for Arkansas- Wealth Questions

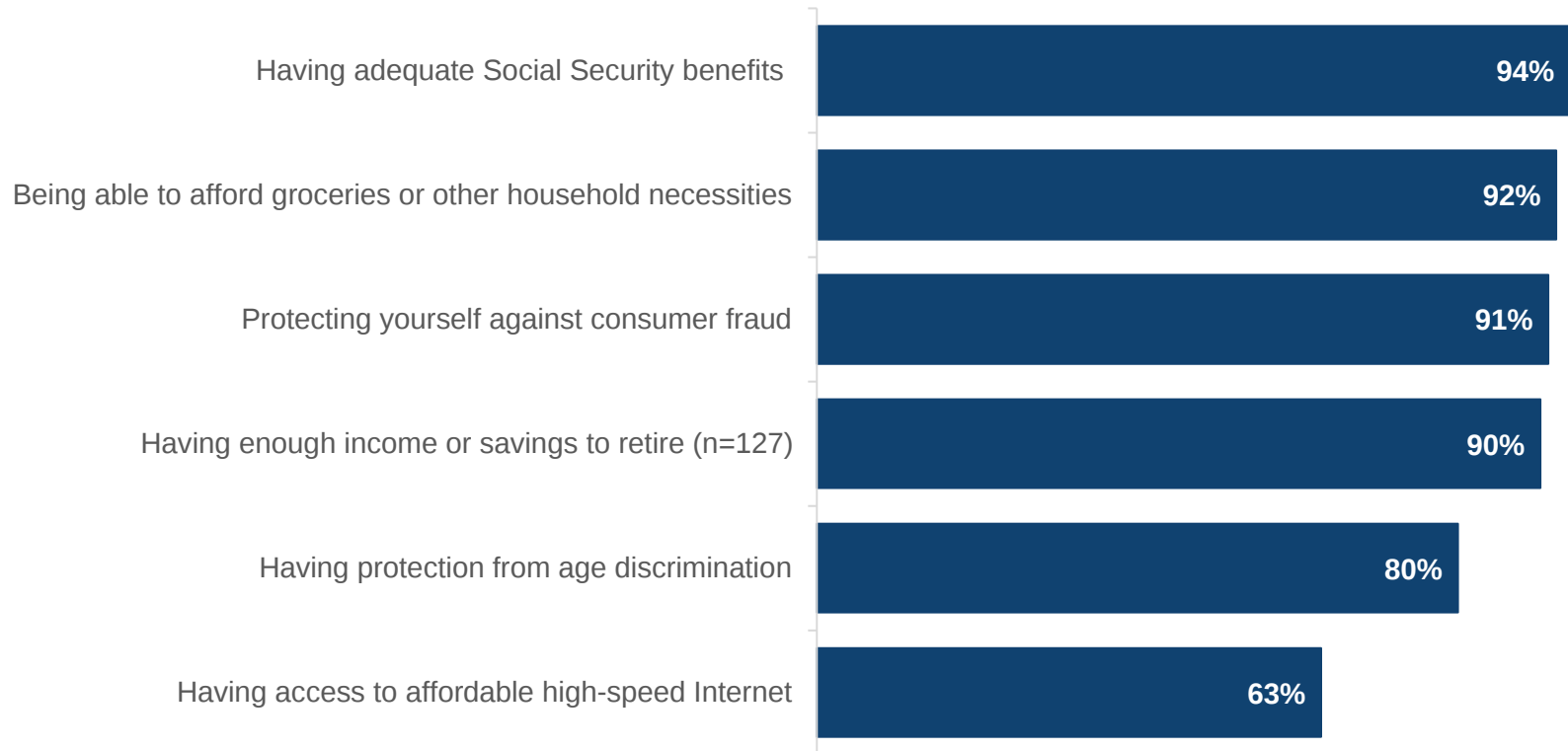
Issues That Impact
Arkansas's African
American or Black
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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Having adequate Social Security benefits (94%) and being able to afford groceries and other household necessities (92%) are extremely or very important to the vast majority of Arkansas's African American/Black residents age 45+.

Important Economic and Financial Issues



I1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=299)

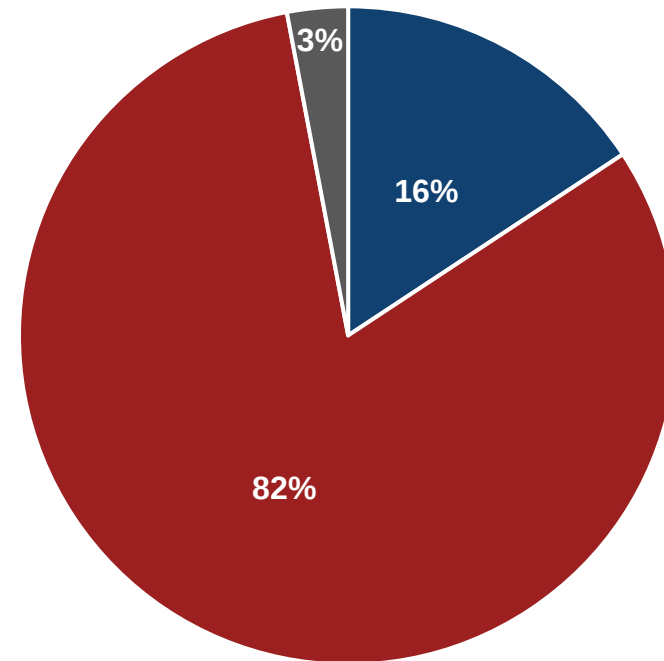


FRA19. In the last 12 months, have you been a victim of a scam or fraud? (n=299)

FRAUD

In the past 12 months, 16% of Arkansas's African American/Black adults age 45+ have lost money to a scam or fraud.

Victim of a Scam or Fraud in the Past Year



■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/ refused

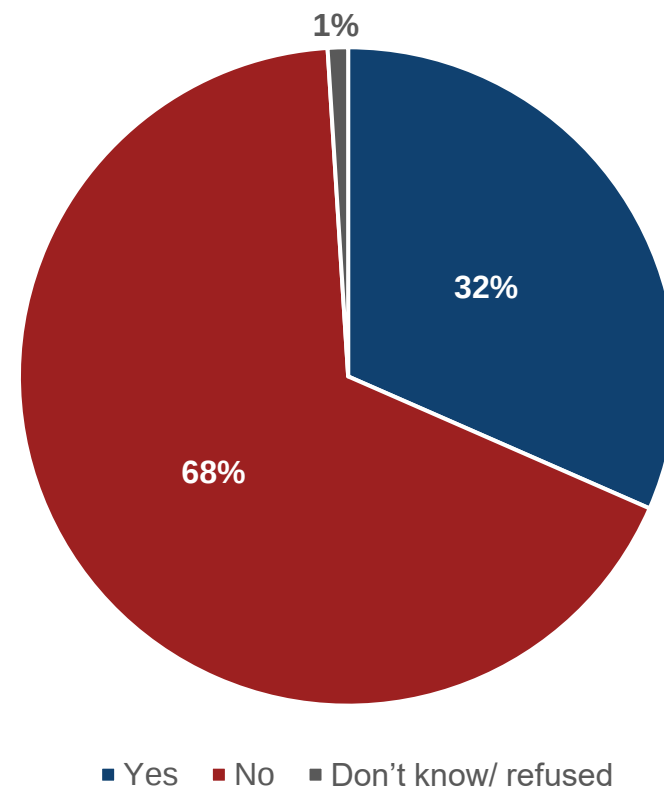


FRA20. Do you know of a family member or close friend who may have been victims of a scam or fraud? (n=299)

FRAUD

Nearly one-third (32%) of Arkansas's African American/Black adults age 45+ know a family member or close friend who may have lost money to a scam or fraud.

Friend or Family a Victim of a Scam or Fraud



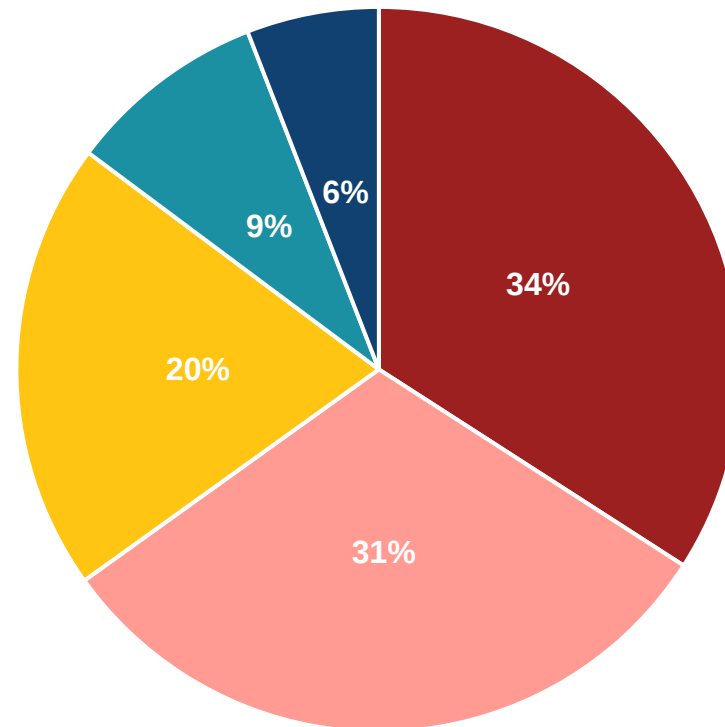


C2_FRA4. How concerned are you, personally, about being targeted by a scam or fraud?
(n=299)

FRAUD

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of Arkansas's African American/Black adults age 45+ are extremely or very concerned about personally being targeted by a scam or fraud.

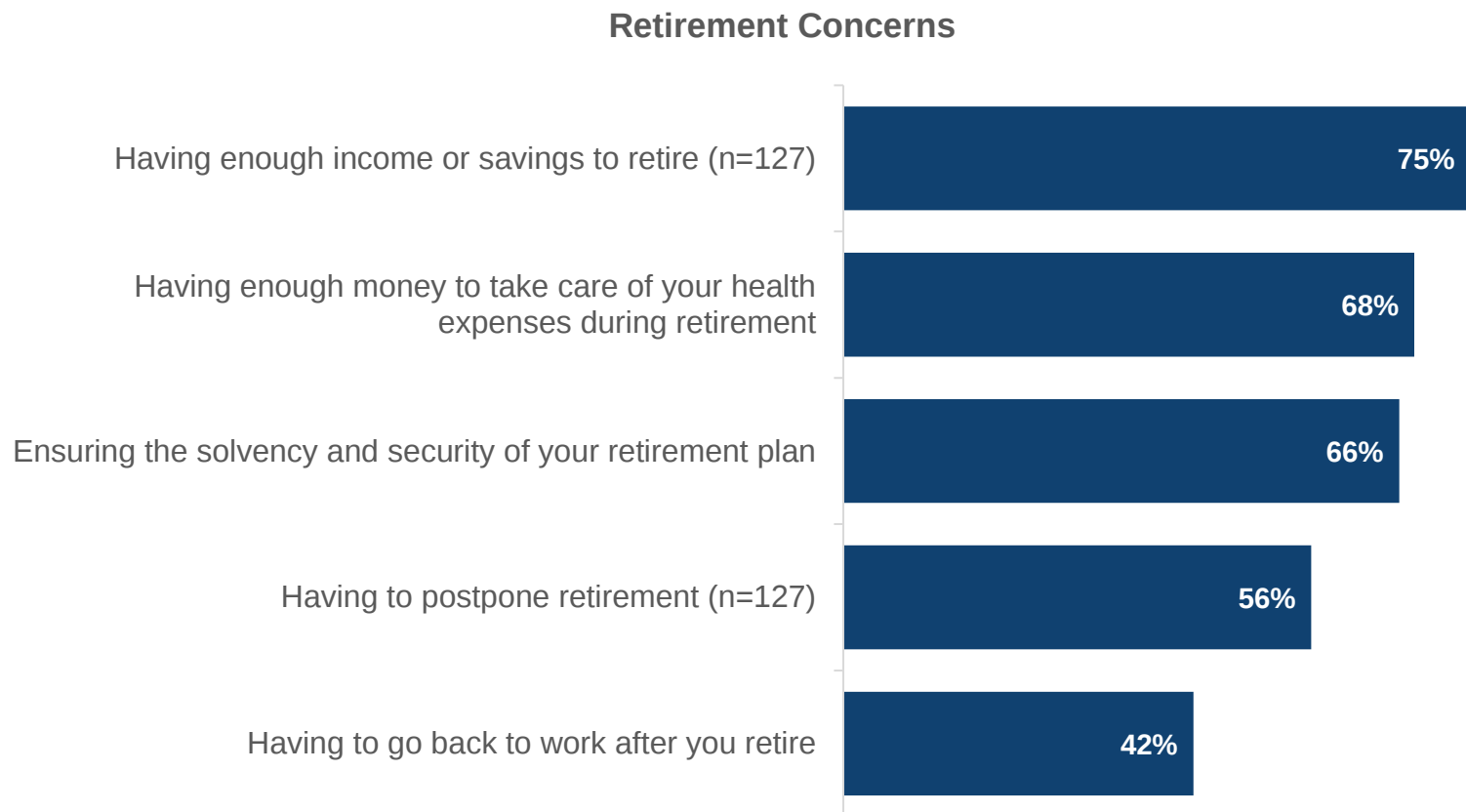
Concern About Scams and Fraud



■ Extremely concerned ■ Very concerned ■ Somewhat concerned
■ Not very concerned ■ Not at all concerned

FINANCIAL SECURITY AND RETIREMENT

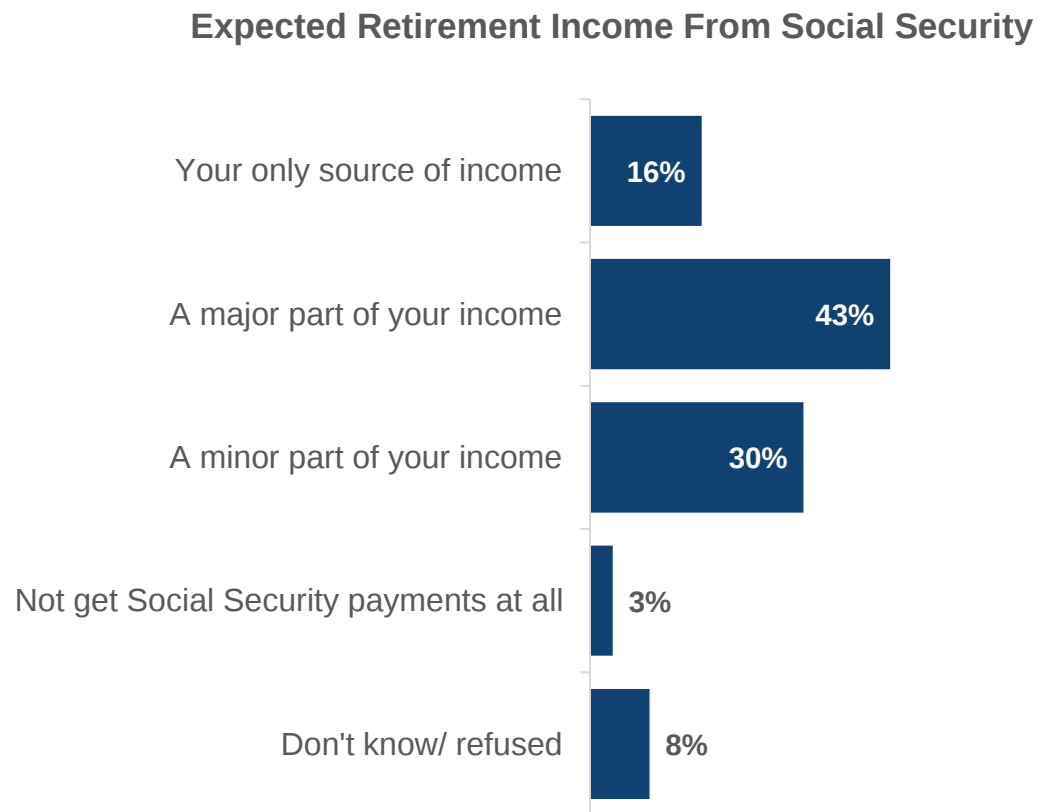
Three-quarters (75%) of employed African American/Black Arkansas residents age 45+ are extremely or very concerned about having enough income or savings to retire.



RET1. How concerned are you about the following? (Percent 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned') (n=299)

FINANCIAL SECURITY AND RETIREMENT

Two in five (43%) African American/Black Arkansas residents age 45+ think that Social Security will be a major part of their retirement income, and 16% think it will be their only source of income.



RET21. How much of your retirement income do you think will come from Social Security? Do you think it will be...? (n=299)

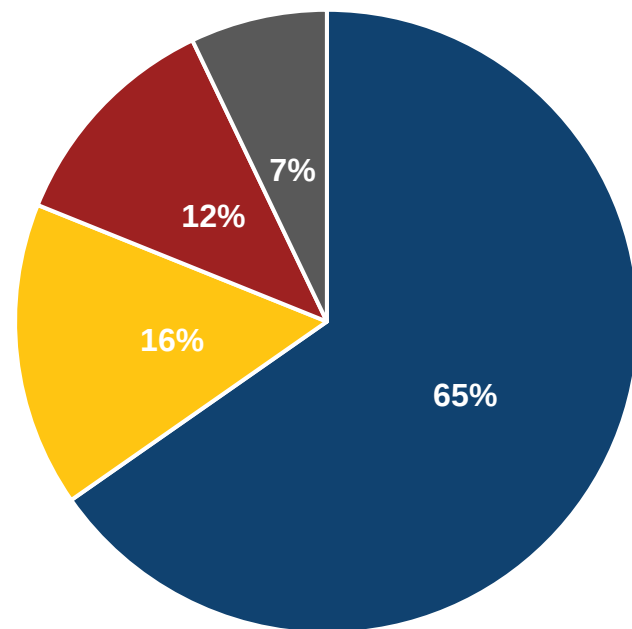


RET11. If your employer offered a way to save for retirement at work, how likely would you be to take advantage of it? (n=127)

FINANCIAL SECURITY AND RETIREMENT

Among Arkansas's African American/Black workers age 45+, nearly two-thirds (65%) would be extremely or very likely to take advantage of a retirement savings option if it were offered.

Likelihood of Taking Advantage of a Retirement Savings Option at Work

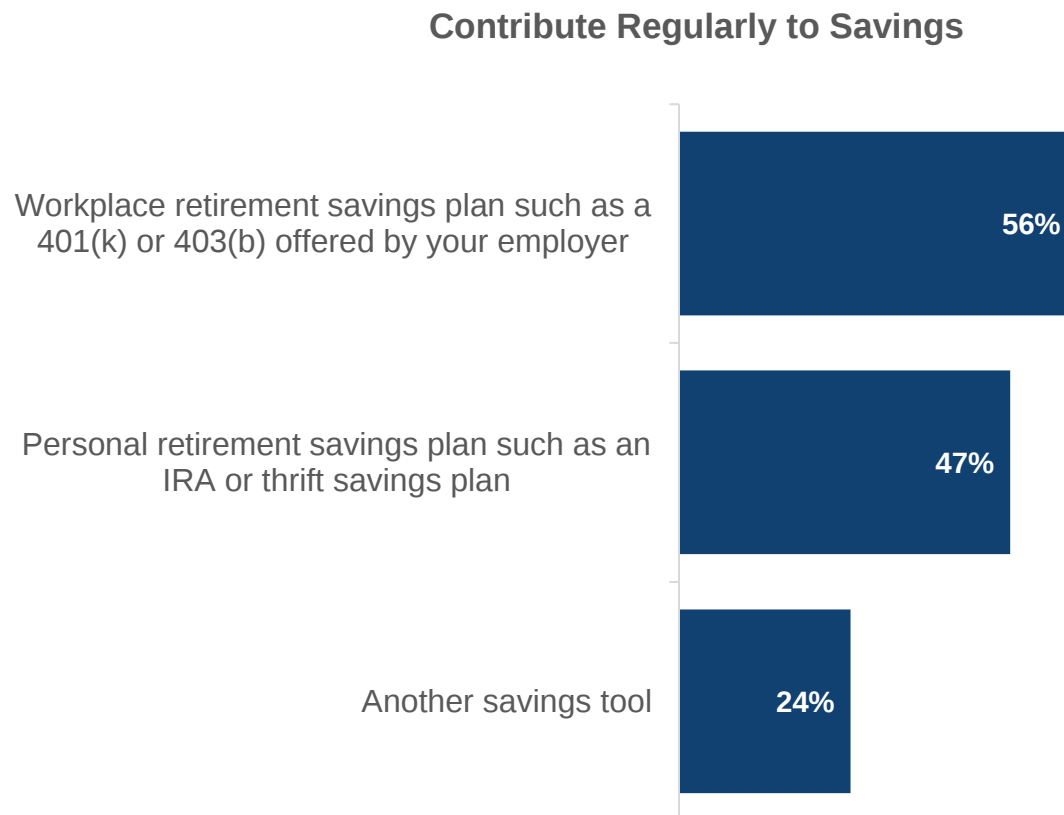


■ Extremely likely/ very likely
■ Not very likely/ not likely at all

■ Somewhat likely
■ Don't know/ refused

FINANCIAL SECURITY AND RETIREMENT

Over half (56%) of Arkansas's African American/Black residents age 45+ with access to a workplace retirement savings plan are making regular contributions to a 401(k) or 403(b) plan offered by their employer.



RET12. Are you making regular contributions to [ITEM]? (n=91)

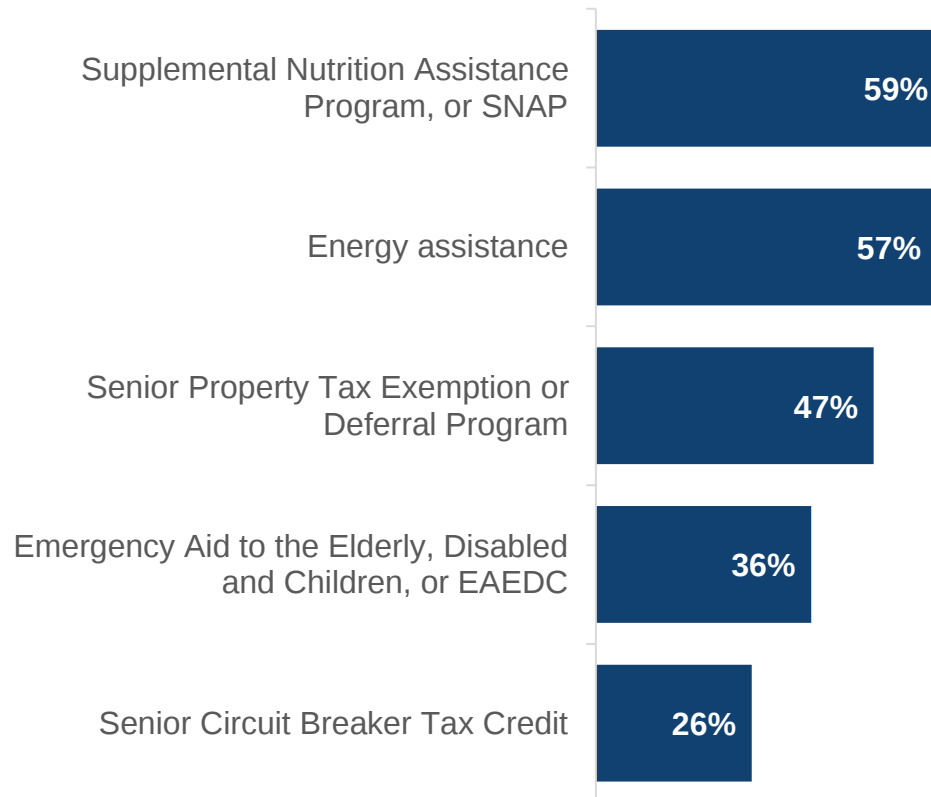


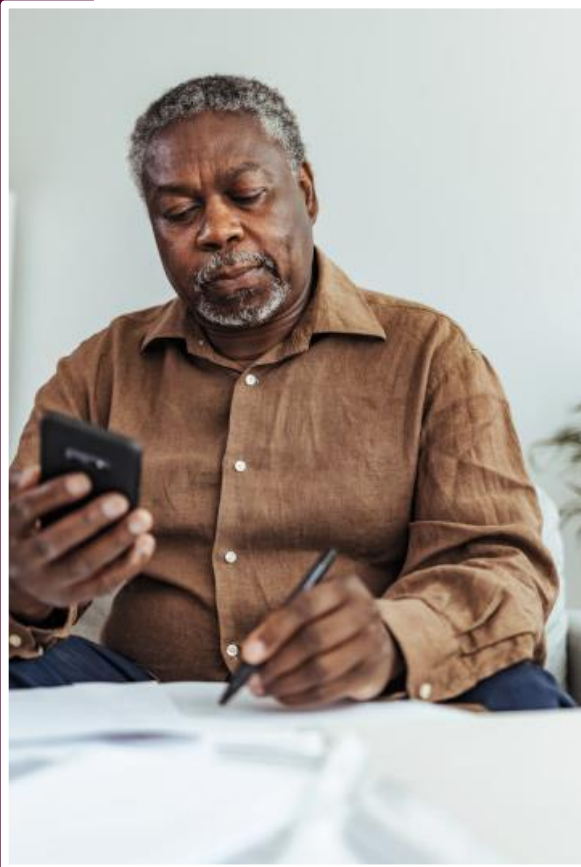
C2_ECON4. If you found yourself having difficulty making ends meet, would you know how to access the following financial supports?
(Percent 'Yes') (n=299)

MONTHLY EXPENSES AND UTILITIES

Nearly three in five (59%) African American/Black Arkansas residents age 45+ know how to access the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, but only 26% know how to access the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit.

Access to Financial Support



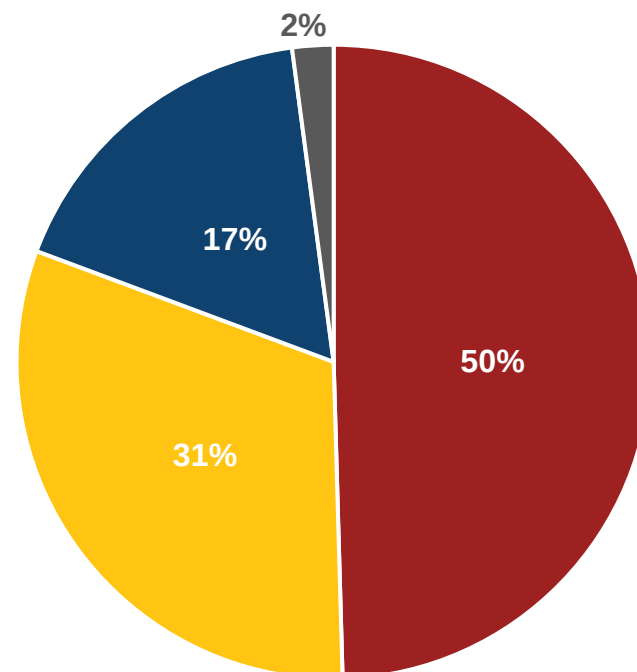


GUTIL1. Thinking about your monthly costs for household utilities including heating, cooling, electricity, and natural gas, would an increase in your utility bill be a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem for you? (n=299)

MONTHLY EXPENSES AND UTILITIES

An increase in utility bills would be a major problem for half (50%) of Arkansas's African American/Black residents age 45+.

Impact of an Increase in Utility Costs



■ Major problem ■ Minor problem ■ Not a problem ■ Don't know/ refused

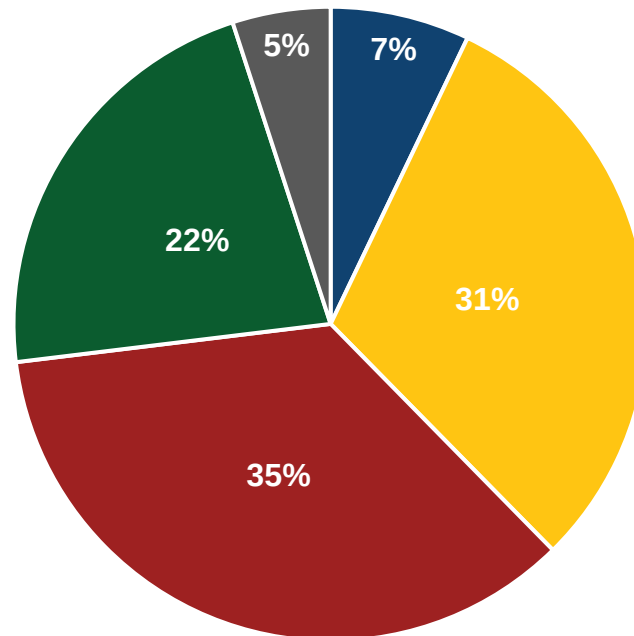


C2_GUTIL2. In the past 12 months, has your natural gas bill...? (n=299)

MONTHLY EXPENSES AND UTILITIES

The natural gas bill has gone up in the past 12 months for over one-third (35%) of Arkansas's African American/Black residents age 45+.

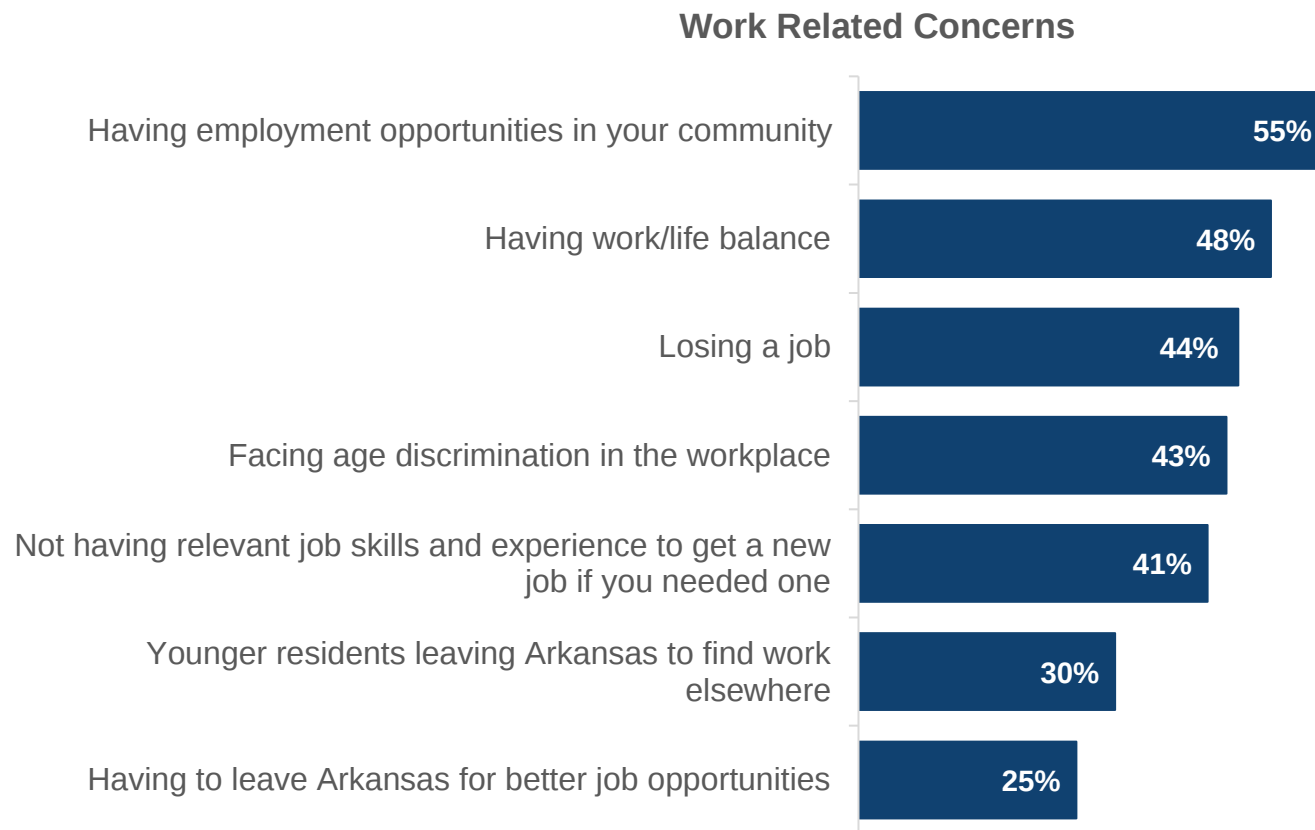
Natural Gas Bill in Last 12 Months



■ Gone down ■ Stayed the same ■ Gone up
■ I don't have natural gas ■ Don't know/ refused

EMPLOYMENT ATTITUDES

Over half (55%) of Arkansas's working African American/Black residents age 45+ are concerned about having employment opportunities in their community.



WORK1. How concerned are you about [ITEM]? (Percent 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned') (n=127)

Survey Results for Arkansas- Livable Communities Questions

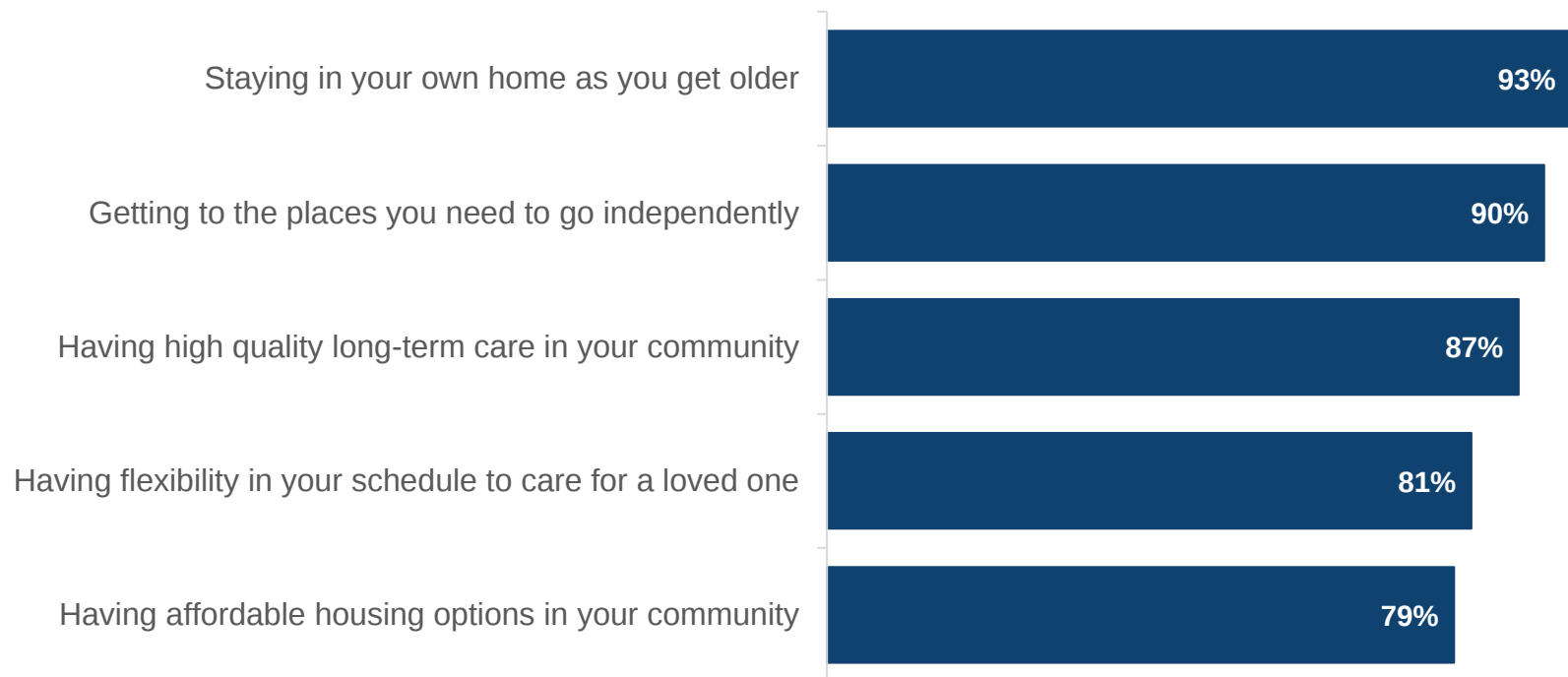
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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Aging in place (93%) and getting to places independently (90%) are extremely or very important to the majority of Arkansas's African American/Black residents age 45+.

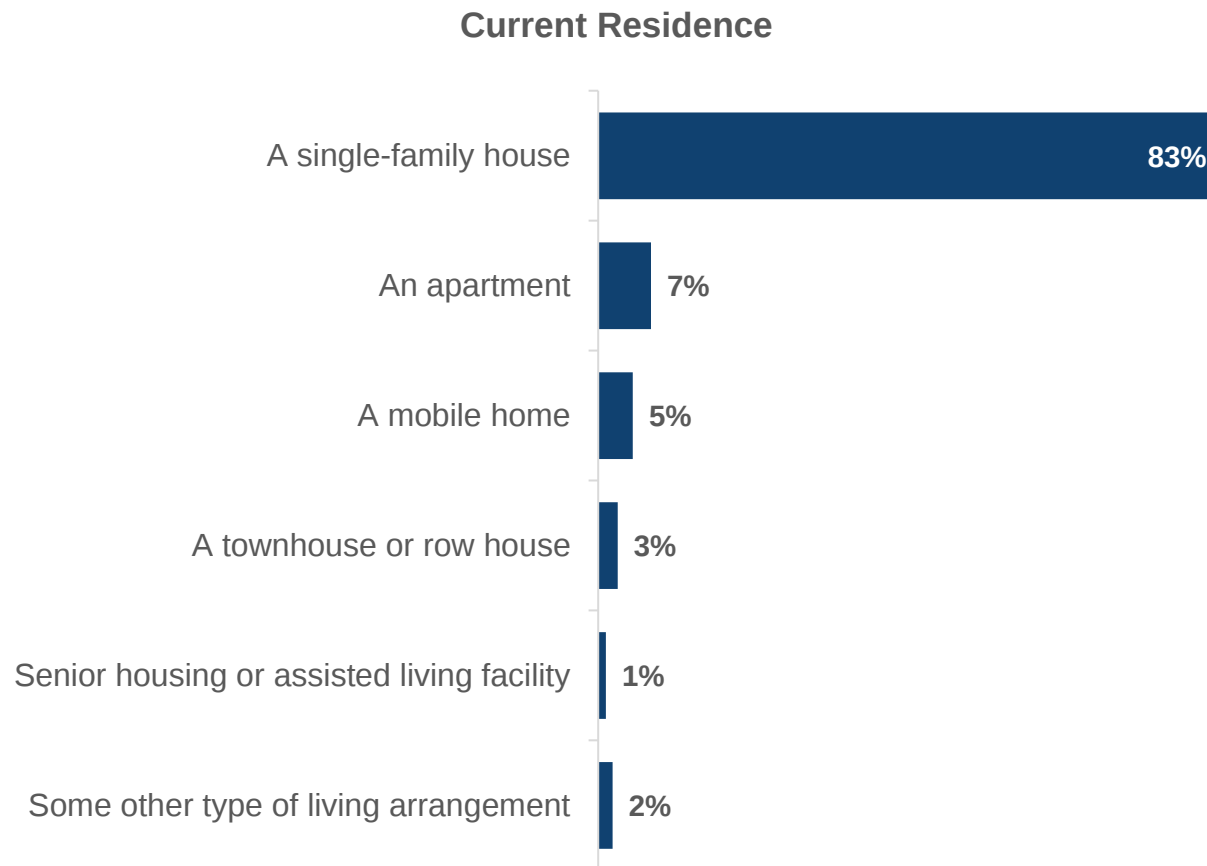
Important Independent Living Issues



I1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=299)

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

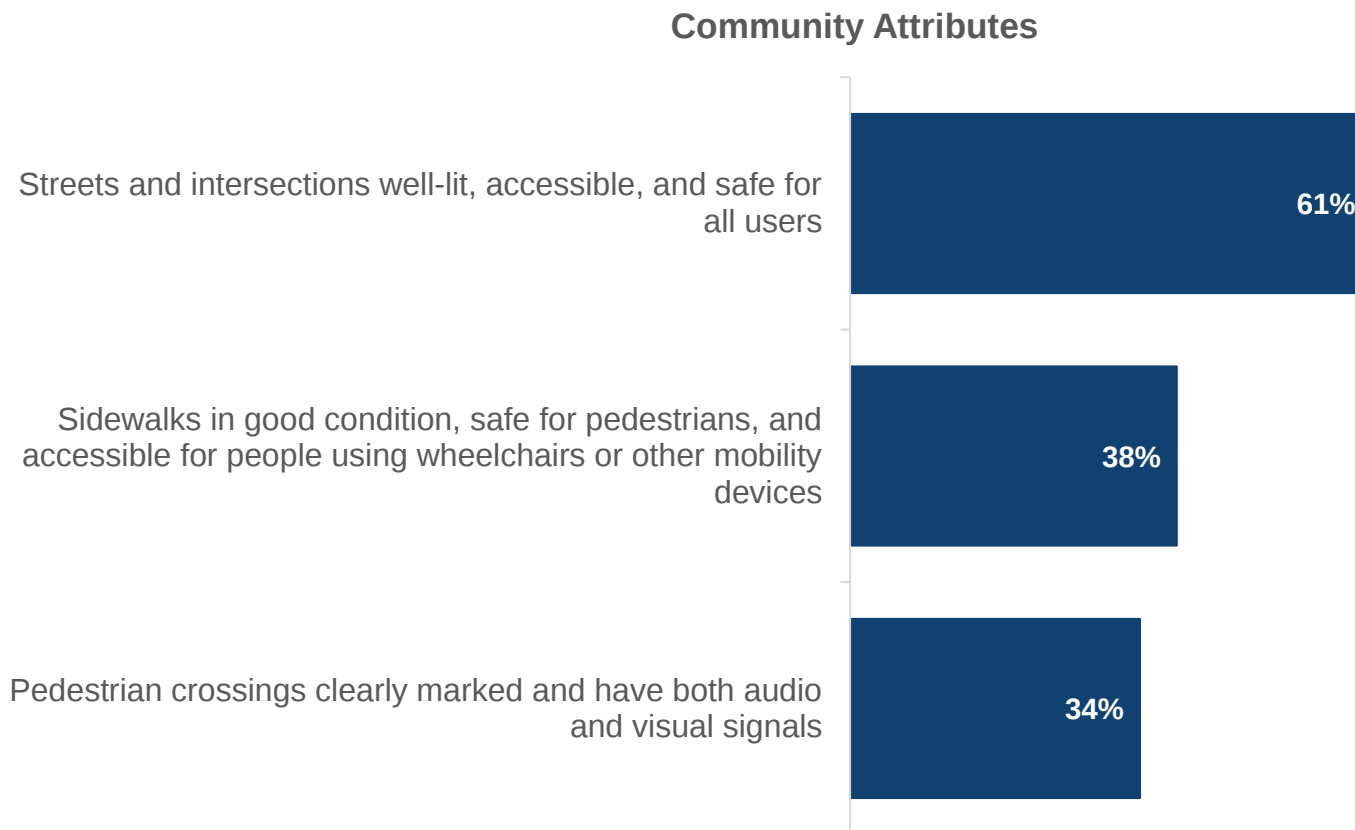
Four in five (83%) African American/Black Arkansas adults age 45+ currently live in a single-family home.



COMM10. Which of the following types of homes best describes where you currently live? (n=299)

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Six in ten (61%) Arkansas African American/Black residents age 45+ have well-lit, accessible, and safe streets and intersections in their community; only 34% have pedestrian crossings that are clearly marked with both audio and visual signals.



C2_PS1. In your community, are the [ITEM]? (Percent 'yes') (n=299)

METHODOLOGY

In November 2023, AARP engaged ANR Market Research Consultants to conduct a quantitative research study among Arkansas's African American or Black adults age 45 and older. Topics included healthcare, the economy, financial issues, retirement, fraud, independent living, long-term care, caregiving, livable communities, and voter access.

299 Interviews

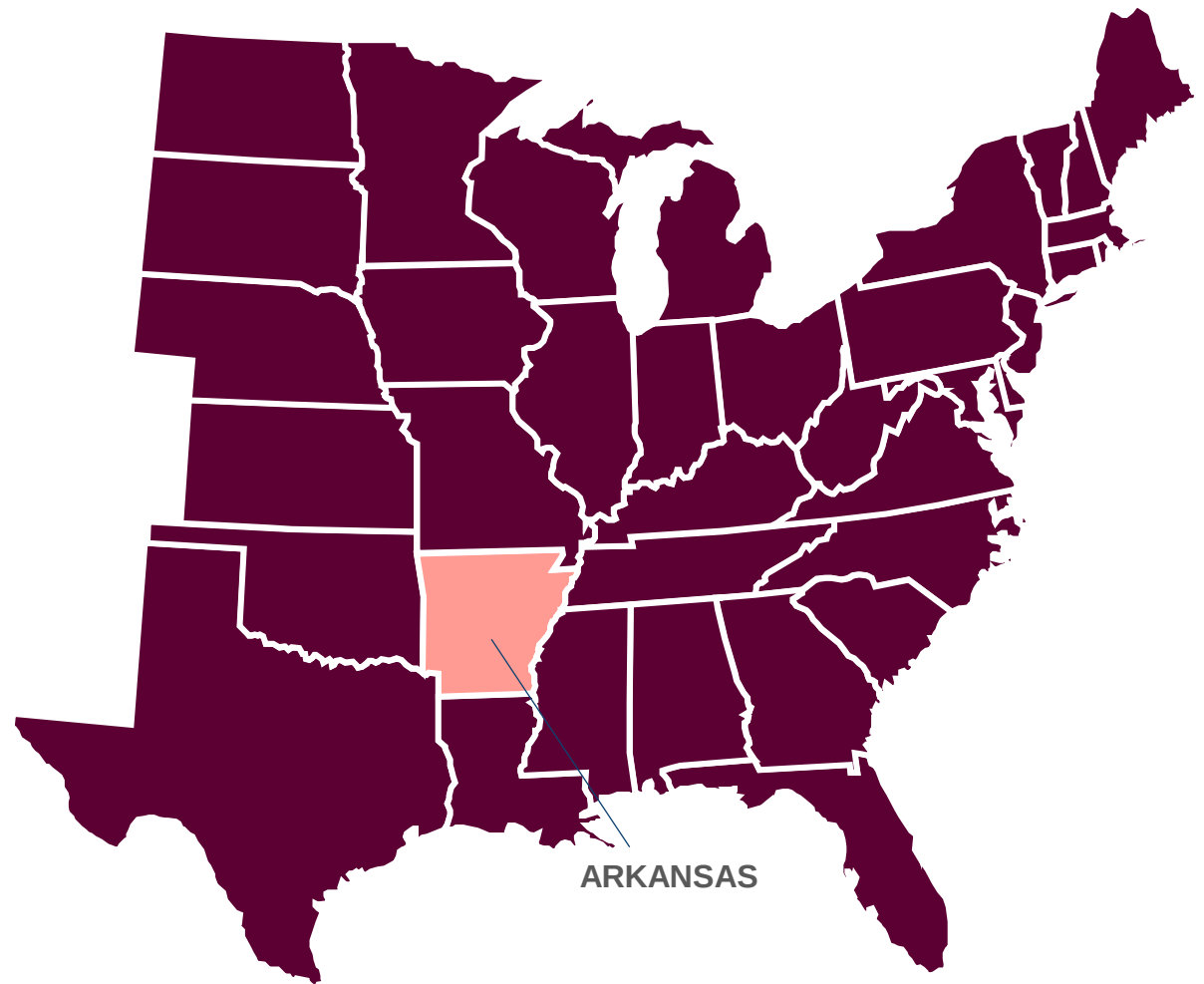
Arkansas's African American or Black Residents Age 45+

Fielded in November 2023

ANR completed a total of 299 interviews (138 via landline telephone, 102 via cell phone, and 59 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- Resident of Arkansas
- African American or Black

Survey length averaged 19.5 minutes by telephone and 15.2 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 Arkansas residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 53,329 records were utilized. The list of 1,256,260 Arkansas residents age 45 and older was randomly divided into 1,257 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 53,329 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The sample of 299 respondents yields a maximum statistical error of $\pm 5.7\%$ 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 ± 5.7 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed.)

Interview Methodology

The survey was launched on November 3, 2023 and closed on November 20, 2023.

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.

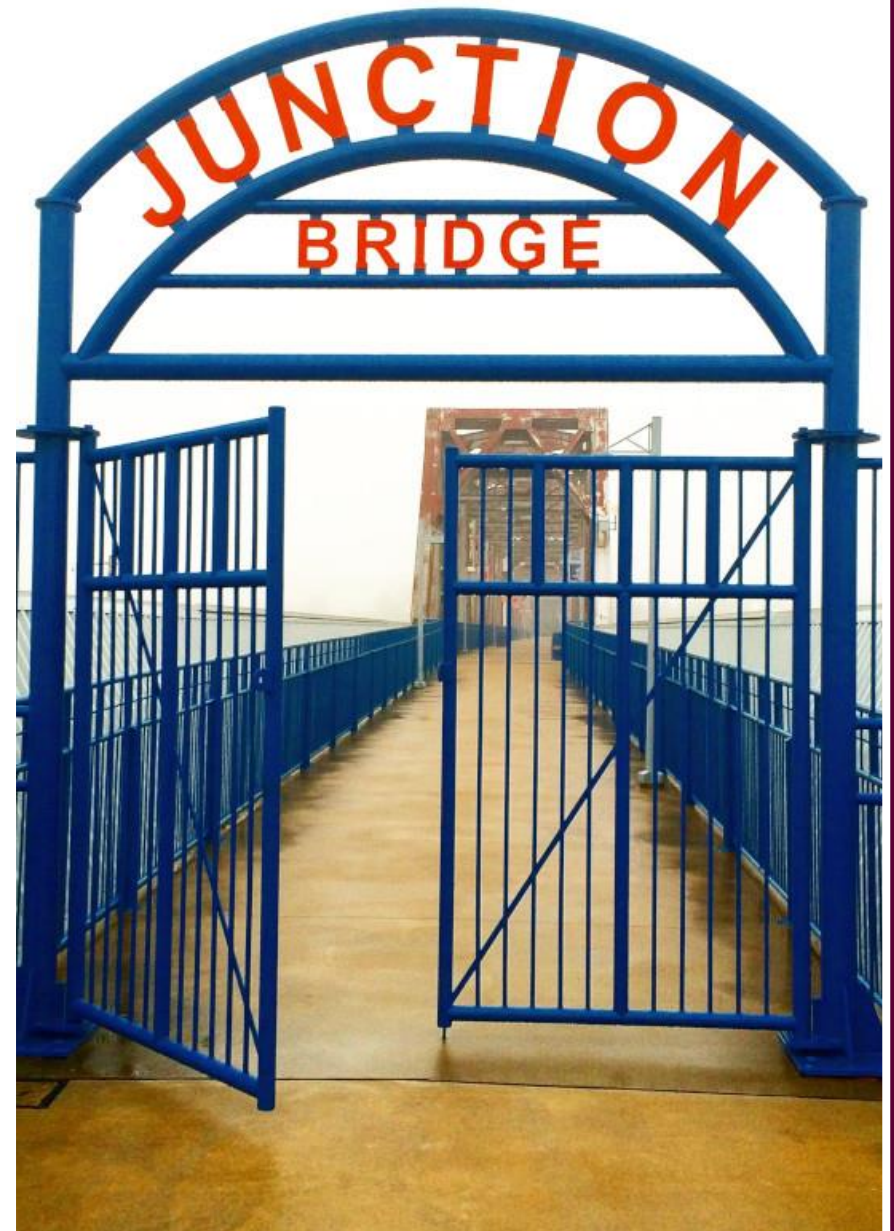
Percentages of some questions may exceed 100% due to rounding or the use of multiple response question formats.

All data have been weighted by age and gender according to 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates.



ABOUT AARP

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 @AARPadvocates on social media.





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This research was designed and
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