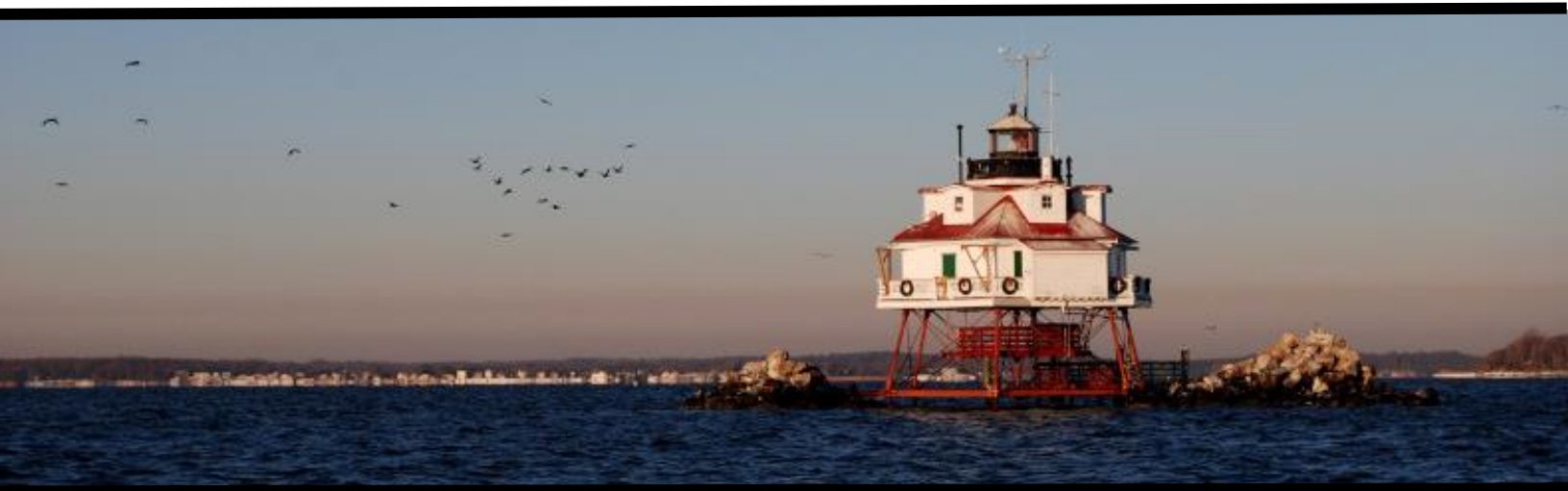
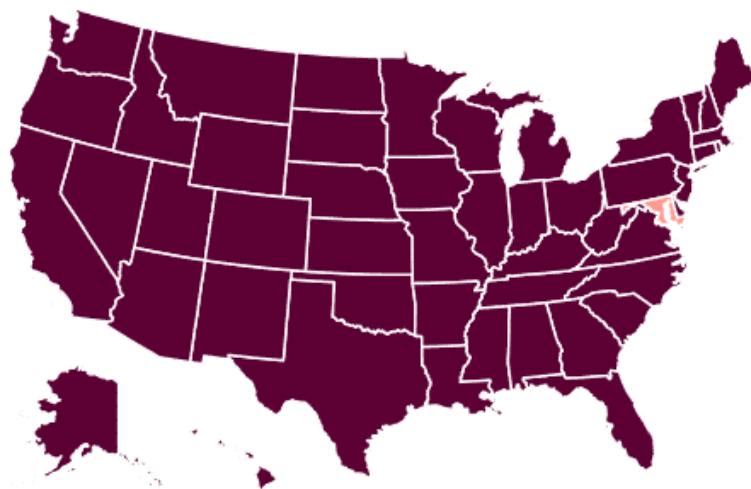




VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Maryland's African American or
Black (AA/B) Adults Age 45 and Older, July 2024
Annotated Questionnaire





VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Maryland's AA/B Adults Age 45 and Older

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For more information on the methodology or the survey, contact Aisha Bonner Cozad, PhD at ABonner@aarp.org.

Interviews were conducted with 401 African American or Black Maryland residents age 45 and older between June 17, 2024 and July 7, 2024. All data have been weighted by age and gender according to 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. Survey results have a 4.9% margin of error.

Hello, this is _____ calling from Alan Newman Research, a national opinion research firm. We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We are interested in your thoughts about issues of importance to you and people like you in Maryland. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation. (Web: "We are interested in your thoughts about issues of importance to you and people like you in Maryland. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation.")

Screener

S1. Our study is interested in the opinions of certain age groups. Could you please tell me your age as of your last birthday? (IN YEARS) [RECORD AGE; TERMINATE IF UNDER AGE 45 OR REFUSED] (Web: "Our study is interested in the opinions of certain age groups. What is your age as of your last birthday?")

%	n=401
0	Under 45 [TERMINATE]
18	45-49
15	50-54
17	55-59
17	60-64
11	65-69
10	70-74
6	75-79
3	80-84
3	85+
0	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say") [TERMINATE]

S2. What is your 5-digit zip code? _____ [ENTER ZIP CODE; VERIFY MATCH – IF NOT A MATCH TO MARYLAND OR DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK FOR RESIDENT IN HH; TERMINATE IF NO ONE IN HH IS AGE 45+ RESIDENT OF MARYLAND] (Web: TERMINATE IF NOT A MATCH)

D8. Which of the following best describes your race? (READ LIST)

%	n=401
100	Black or African American
0	White
0	American Indian or Alaska Native
0	Asian or Asian American
0	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
0	Some other race [SPECIFY]
0	Multi-race [SPECIFY]
0	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

S4. Are you registered to vote in Maryland?

%	n=401
94	Yes
6	No
1	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_S5b. [IF S4≠No] Do you plan to vote in the November 2024 elections?

%	n=377
93	Yes
2	No
4	Don't know (Web: "Not sure")
1	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

S3. What is your current employment status? (READ LIST AS NEEDED TO CLARIFY)

%	n=401
5	Self-employed full-time
5	Self-employed part-time
33	Employed full-time
6	Employed part-time
8	Unemployed and looking for work
36	Retired and not working at all
7	Or are you not in the labor force for other reasons
0	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

Health

I1. Next, I am going to read a list of issues, and I'd like you to please tell me how important each is to you, personally. Is [ITEM] extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all to you? [RANDOMIZE ORDER] (Web: "For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you, personally." [MATRIX LAYOUT])

n=401	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not important at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Having adequate health insurance coverage	72	23	3	1	<1	<1	0
B. Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future	69	24	6	1	0	<1	0
C. Staying mentally sharp	71	26	3	<1	0	0	0
E. Being able to pay for prescription drugs	68	24	6	1	<1	1	0
F. Being able to afford health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays	72	22	5	<1	1	<1	0

Caregiving

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? This would include doing things for them such as grocery shopping, providing transportation, managing finances, arranging for healthcare or other services, or preparing meals.

%	n=401
25	Yes, I am currently providing care
45	Yes, I have provided care in the past
30	No
0	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

CARE7. [IF C2_CARE1=Yes (Current or past caregiver)] Thinking about the person you are providing care to the most, how often are you [ITEM]? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=281	Daily %	Weekly %	Monthly %	Less frequently than monthly %	Not at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Assisting with bathing or dressing	23	8	2	12	55	1	<1
B. Providing transportation to appointments	22	27	19	13	18	1	0
C. Taking them shopping or shopping for them	20	33	21	14	12	1	0
D. Helping them with meals	40	19	12	13	16	<1	0
E. Helping them manage finances	23	11	25	13	28	1	0
F. Aiding with household chores	34	24	11	9	22	<1	0
G. Providing social activities or companionship	34	27	8	13	16	1	0
H. Providing maintenance or upkeep of their property	28	19	15	9	28	1	0
I. Overseeing their medication management	36	13	7	10	34	0	0
J. Being responsible for medical or nursing tasks	30	15	9	14	32	<1	0

Isolation and Mental Health

ISO33. The following list includes some ways you may have felt or behaved. How often you have felt this way in the past week? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=401	Rarely or none of the time (less than 1 day) %	Some or a little of the time (1-2 days) %	Occasionally or a moderate amount of time (3-4 days) %	Most or all of the time (5-7 days) %	Don't know %	Refused %
F. I felt depressed.	59	19	16	5	<1	<1
H. I felt hopeful about the future.	14	17	26	42	1	1
K. My sleep was restless.	35	27	23	13	<1	1
P. I enjoyed life.	6	12	22	58	1	<1
R. I felt sad.	55	24	15	4	1	1

ISO36. Are you currently seeing a mental health professional, or are you in group therapy for issues related to [ITEM]? [ROTATE ORDER OF ISO36_A AND ISO36_B]

n=401	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Depression	16	83	0	1
B. Anxiety	21	78	0	1

ISO51. Different people have different passions in life, or topics that interest them. How about you? Would you be interested in attending, either virtually online or in-person, events or workshops on the following? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=401	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Personal finances, such as money management, saving, or investing	65	35	<1	0
B. Health or wellness, such as diet and exercise	72	28	<1	0
D. Personal safety or security, such as avoiding fraud or scams	68	32	<1	<1
K. Media or entertainment, such as shows or movies	69	31	1	0
L. Culture, such as music, art, books, or theater	69	31	<1	0
N. Food or cooking	63	37	<1	0
S. Issue or policy areas, such as Social Security, Medicare, or prescription drugs	70	30	<1	0

Wealth

11. Next, I am going to read a list of issues, and I'd like you to please tell me how important each is to you, personally. Is [ITEM] extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all to you? [RANDOMIZE ORDER] (Web: "For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you, personally." [MATRIX LAYOUT])

n=401	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not important at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
G. Having adequate Social Security benefits available to you in the future	73	22	4	1	<1	<1	0
AL. Having access to affordable high-speed internet	34	35	23	5	3	0	0
K. [IF S3#Retired and not working at all] Having enough income or savings to retire (n=256)	76	21	3	<1	0	0	0
I. Having protection from age discrimination	56	31	8	3	1	1	0
M. Protecting yourself against consumer fraud	65	27	6	2	<1	<1	0
W. Being able to afford groceries or other household necessities	73	22	4	1	<1	0	0

Social Security

C2_SS9. Government accountants recently announced that if Congress doesn't take action to fix Social Security soon, the program will run short of funds, and Americans will see an average loss in benefits of 20% - or about an average of \$4,000 per year starting around 2035.

If you saw a reduction in your Social Security retirement benefits by approximately 20%, how much would that impact you personally? (READ/ROTATE 1-4 AND 4-1)

%	n=401
56	A great deal
16	Somewhat
5	Not much
3	Not at all
21	Or are you not currently collection Social Security retirement benefits (Web: I am not currently collecting Social Security retirement benefits)
0	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_SS10. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion? (READ/ ROTATE 1-2)

%	n=401
53	I prefer a solution to fixing Social Security that reflects the views of all political parties OR
18	I prefer a solution to fixing Social Security that reflects only the views of the political party I most agree with OR
29	Neither of these
1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

Livable Communities

Q1. What do you think is the single most important problem or challenge facing mid-life or older adults as they age? [ENTER VERBATIM RESPONSE] (Web: Large text box, open-end) [CODED OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES]

%	n=401
33	Retirement/ Social Security/ finances/ cost-of-living
26	Health generally/ health problems
19	Access to healthcare (finding insurance, providers, etc.)
5	Economy
4	Healthcare cost (insurance cost, cost for services)
4	Housing
4	Assistance/ care at home
3	Loneliness/ social isolation
3	Government
3	Employment
2	Prescription drug costs
2	Not being respected/ accepted
1	Staying involved/ connected/ contributing to society
1	Transportation
<1	Keeping up with technology
<1	Climate change/ environment
5	Other
3	Don't know

I1. Next, I am going to read a list of issues, and I'd like you to please tell me how important each is to you, personally. Is [ITEM] extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all to you? [RANDOMIZE ORDER] (Web: "For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you, personally." [MATRIX LAYOUT])

n=401	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not important at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
P. Staying in your own home as you get older	62	27	9	1	1	<1	0
Q. Having high quality long-term care in your community	58	30	10	1	1	0	0
R. Getting to the places you need to go independently	60	33	5	1	<1	<1	0
Y. Having affordable housing options in your community	63	26	9	2	1	<1	0

LIVCOMM1. How concerned are you about the following? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE]

n=401	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Not very concerned %	Not concerned at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Being able to afford to remain in your home as you age	63	22	10	4	2	0	0
B. Being able to get around your community to get the things you need and do the things you want to do as you age	54	27	13	3	3	0	0
C. Being connected with others in your community and having opportunities to socialize as you age	33	27	28	9	4	0	0
D. Being able to afford groceries or household necessities	64	21	9	4	2	0	0
E. Having access to transportation if you are unable to drive	57	25	10	4	5	0	0
F. Being able to find affordable housing if you needed to downsize or move to another community	57	22	14	4	3	<1	0
M. Being able to afford the cost of your utilities	58	26	11	4	2	0	0

REP2. For each of the following, would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?
(READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=401	Excellent %	Very good %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Don't know %	Refused %
H. Streets and paths that allow people of all ages and ability levels to walk safely	26	22	22	19	9	1	<1
I. Separate, protected bike lanes for cyclists	15	17	22	19	19	8	<1
G. Enforced speed limits	20	20	27	19	12	2	0
K. Public bus services	21	23	25	15	9	7	<1
L. Accessible and well-maintained bus stops	23	18	26	19	8	6	<1
J. Affordable housing options that are in walking distance to your downtown or village center	18	14	21	21	19	6	1

Long-Term Care

GLTC1. How concerned are you about the following? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=401	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Not very concerned %	Not concerned at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
B. Paying for long-term care, such as nursing home or home health services, etc.	35	24	21	7	12	<1	0
C. Having long-term care or home health services available	35	25	22	7	10	<1	<1
D. Continuing to drive or get around as you get older	32	22	21	13	12	0	0
E. Feeling isolated or lonely	21	12	19	20	27	<1	0

C2_GLTC2. 'Memory Care' is specialized care for people living with the challenges of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Currently, Maryland has no state or federal regulations for 'Memory Care' units. This means that any residential living facility can advertise 'Memory Care' without meeting any particular standards or requirements for staff, quality of care, etc.

Do you think it is important that there be a standard definition of 'Memory Care' in the long-term care industry?
(READ LIST)

%	n=401
80	Very important
12	Somewhat important
6	No opinion
1	Of little importance
1	Not important
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Attitudes on Aging

FP14. Do you feel the following statements are true or false? If you are not sure, please just indicate whatever BEST corresponds with your feelings. (And is that definitely (true/false) or somewhat (true/false?)) (Web: Do not include "And is that definitely (true/false) or somewhat (true/false?)" [RANDOMIZE]

n=401	Definitely true %	Somewhat true %	Somewhat false %	Definitely false %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Having more aches and pains is an accepted part of aging.	43	38	10	8	<1	<1
C. I expect that as I get older, I will become more forgetful.	24	43	19	13	1	0
F. Every year that people age, their energy levels go down a little more.	30	45	17	8	1	0
G. Quality of life declines as people age.	26	41	20	12	1	<1
I. Being lonely is just something that happens when people get old.	15	29	25	30	1	0
K. I expect that as I get older, I will spend less time with friends and family.	21	32	20	26	1	0
L. It's normal to be depressed when you are old.	13	26	28	31	2	<1

Demographics

C2_D1_A. Do you own a smartphone (e.g. iPhone, Android) or a regular cell phone?

%	n=401
91	Yes, I have a smartphone
7	Yes, I have a regular cell phone
2	No, I don't have any type of cell phone
0	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_D1_B. What type of Internet connection do you have in your home? (READ LIST AS NEEDED)

%	n=401
41	Cable
23	Fiber
10	Satellite or fixed wireless
9	Through my cellular service
4	DSL
1	Dial-up
4	Other
1	I do not have an Internet connection at home
7	Not sure
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

D2. Have you or a family member ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard? [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES FOR 1-2]

%	n=401
15	Yes, I have
46	Yes, a family member has
39	No
2	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_D14. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a long-term health problem or disability?

%	n=401
28	Yes
71	No
<1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Thank you for your time so far. I have just a few final questions for classification purposes. All of your responses will be completely confidential. (Web: Do not include)

D3. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? (CODE BELOW; READ TO CLARIFY IF NEEDED)

%	n=401
3	0 through 12 th grade (no diploma)
23	High school graduate (or equivalent)
3	Post- high school vocational or technical training
35	Some college (no degree), Associate's degree, 2-year college degree
15	College graduate (4-year degree)
3	Post-graduate study
18	Graduate or professional degrees (Master's degree/ PhD/ Law)
<1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

D4. How do you identify your gender? (CODE BELOW; READ TO CLARIFY IF NEEDED)

%	n=401
56	Female
44	Male
0	Another gender identity [SPECIFY]
0	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D4a. Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer?

%	n=401
4	Yes
94	No
<1	Not sure
2	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D5. What is your current marital status? (CODE BELOW; READ TO CLARIFY IF NEEDED)

%	n=401
35	Married
4	Living with a partner
13	Widowed
24	Divorced or separated
23	Never married
<1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

D6. [IF D5=Married or 'Not married, living with a partner'] Are you or your (spouse/partner) currently a member of AARP? [IF D5≠Married or 'Not married, living with a partner'] Are you currently a member of AARP?

%	n=401
44	Yes
54	No
2	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

D7. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino background?

%	n=401
0	Yes
99	No
1	Don't know
1	Refused (Web: 'Prefer not to say')

D9. In general, how would you describe your political views? Would you say you are conservative, moderate, liberal, or something else? (Web: "In general, how would you describe your political views?")

%	n=401
39	Moderate
29	Liberal
18	Conservative
<1	Other [SPECIFY]
6	Don't know
8	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D10. Are you a...? (READ LIST) [ROTATE ORDER]

%	n=401
73	Democrat
15	Independent
5	Republican
0	Other [SPECIFY] (VOL)
2	Don't know (VOL)
7	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D11. What income range includes your household's total income from all sources in 2023? (READ LIST)

%	n=401
8	Less than \$10,000
12	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000
19	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000
16	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
12	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
16	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000
8	\$150,000 to less than \$200,000
5	\$200,000 or more
7	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.