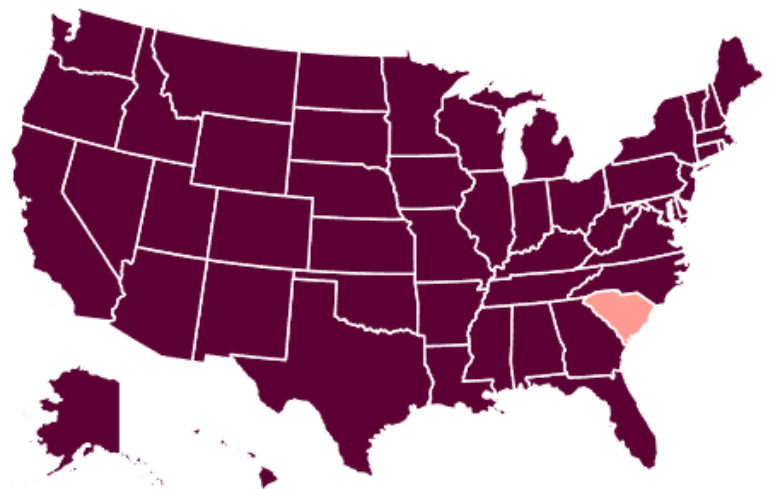




VITAL VOICES

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





VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact South Carolina'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 202 South Carolina's African American or Black residents age 45 and older between August 7, 2024 and August 14, 2024. All data have been weighted by age and gender according to 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. Survey results have a 6.9% 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 South Carolina. 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 South Carolina. 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=202
0	Under 45 [TERMINATE]
13	45-49
18	50-54
15	55-59
18	60-64
13	65-69
11	70-74
8	75-79
4	80-84
1	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 SOUTH CAROLINA OR DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK FOR RESIDENT IN HH; TERMINATE IF NO ONE IN HH IS AGE 45+ RESIDENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA] (Web: TERMINATE IF NOT A MATCH)

S4. Are you registered to vote in South Carolina?

%	n=202
94	Yes
6	No
0	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=190
97	Yes
0	No
3	Don't know (Web: "Not sure")
0	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=202
7	Self-employed full-time
3	Self-employed part-time
27	Employed full-time
4	Employed part-time
7	Unemployed and looking for work
44	Retired and not working at all
9	Or are you not in the labor force for other reasons
0	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	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=202	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not important at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Having adequate health insurance coverage	69	26	3	0	1	0	0
B. Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future	62	29	6	<1	2	1	0
C. Staying mentally sharp	71	27	2	0	1	0	0
E. Being able to pay for prescription drugs	66	25	7	<1	1	<1	0
F. Being able to afford health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays	66	27	4	1	2	0	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=202
22	Yes, I am currently providing care
40	Yes, I have provided care in the past
38	No
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

CARE1-2. [IF C2_CARE1=Yes (Current caregiver)] Is the person you provide care for a veteran?
[IF C2_CARE1=Yes (Past caregiver)] Is the person you provided care for a veteran?

%	n=124
16	Yes
84	No
0	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

CARE46. [IF C2_CARE1=Yes (Current or past caregiver)] As a caregiver, have you ever spent (did you ever spend) your own money to help care for your loved one, including transportation, medical devices, hiring others to help, or home modifications?

%	n=124
86	Yes
14	No
0	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_CGTC1. Do you support or oppose providing family caregivers with a tax credit to help offset the costs associated with caring for older parents, spouses, or other loved ones? (Is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include this text)

%	n=202
79	Strongly support
12	Somewhat support
4	Neither support nor oppose (VOL)
1	Somewhat oppose
2	Strongly oppose
2	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_CGTC1a. [ASK ONLY IF C2_CGTC1 = 1 or 2] South Carolina's current Family Caregiver Tax Credit offers eligible caregivers \$100 per month if they are unable to work due to caregiving responsibilities, or \$50 per month if they are still able to work. Do you support or oppose increasing South Carolina's tax credit for family caregivers? (Is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include this text)

%	n=184
81	Strongly support
12	Somewhat support
3	Neither support nor oppose (VOL)
2	Somewhat oppose
2	Strongly oppose
1	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Telehealth

TEL-7. Would you support or oppose policies that [ITEM]? (Is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include "And is that strongly or somewhat?") [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=202	Strongly support %	Somewhat support %	Neither support nor oppose %	Somewhat oppose %	Strongly oppose %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Allow you or a loved one to remain at home and receive telehealth services from a healthcare provider located at their office	71	23	2	2	3	1	0
B. Provide greater access to in-home medical monitoring technologies that allow patients with chronic health conditions to connect, consult, and monitor their condition along with healthcare providers, via computers or tablets	75	19	2	1	3	1	0
C. Allow for the coverage of telehealth services, regardless of the distance between a person's home and their healthcare provider's office	71	20	4	2	2	2	0

Wealth

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=202	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	71	26	3	0	1	0	0
AL. Having access to affordable high-speed internet	39	32	22	5	2	0	0
K. [IF S3#Retired and not working at all] Having enough income or savings to retire (n=112)	79	17	1	0	2	0	1
I. Having protection from age discrimination	55	30	10	1	4	0	1
M. Protecting yourself against consumer fraud	61	32	5	2	1	0	0
W. Being able to afford groceries or other household necessities	72	25	3	0	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=202
63	A great deal
11	Somewhat
4	Not much
1	Not at all
22	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=202
58	I prefer a solution to fixing Social Security that reflects the views of all political parties OR
13	I prefer a solution to fixing Social Security that reflects only the views of the political party I most agree with OR
28	Neither of these
1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

Utilities

GUTIL1. Thinking about your monthly electricity costs, would an increase in your electricity bill be a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem for you?

%	n=202
58	Major problem
26	Minor problem
13	Not a problem
3	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

GUTIL2. Do you believe that your state elected officials are doing enough to keep your electricity affordable?

%	n=202
15	Yes
71	No
15	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_SCUTIL_1. After the VC Summer nuclear project failure, consumer protections were established, which include having advocates through the SC Public Service Commission help keep utility rates affordable and reliable. Do you think these consumer protections should continue to be enforced?

%	n=202
87	Yes
3	No
11	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Taxation

TAX4. [IF LIVCOMM3 = Own] On average, how much do you spend per year on property taxes? (READ LIST)

%	n=155
51	Less than \$1,000
22	\$1,000 up to \$1,999
15	\$2,000 up to \$2,999
8	\$3,000 or more
5	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

TAX1. [IF LIVCOMM3 = Own] How concerned are you about being able to afford to pay the property taxes on your primary residence over the next five years? (READ LIST)

%	n=155
28	Extremely concerned
22	Very concerned
22	Somewhat concerned
14	Not very concerned
14	Not concerned at all
0	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_TAX10. [IF LIVCOMM3 = Own] How important is it to you that elected officials prioritize property tax relief or reforms in the upcoming year? (READ LIST)

%	n=155
52	Extremely important
29	Very important
12	Somewhat important
4	Not very important
0	Not at all important
2	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Payday Lending

PD2. Payday loans are high-interest, small-dollar loans that are due in full on a borrower's next payday. South Carolina law allows payday lenders to charge borrowers annual interest rates up to 391% on a two-week loan. While 31 states mirror South Carolina's law, 19 other states do not allow lenders to charge annual interest rates above 36%. Given this, which statement best represents your opinion? (READ LIST) [ROTATE ORDER OF 1-2; ANCHOR 3 LAST]

%	n=202
81	South Carolina law should be changed to set limits or place caps on payday lending rates and fees
7	South Carolina law should remain as is and allow annual interest rates
6	Neither reflect my opinion (VOL)
6	Don't know (VOL)
1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Food Security

FS2. Has there ever been a time when you or someone close to you like a neighbor or friend or relative was at risk for hunger – that is, they lacked access to fresh produce and meat on a regular basis due to lack of money or other resources? [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES FOR 1-2]

%	n=202
21	Yes, I have
32	Yes, someone I know has
52	No
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Livable Communities

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=202	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	68	28	2	1	1	0	0
Q. Having high quality long-term care in your community	57	32	8	1	2	0	0
R. Getting to the places you need to go independently	57	37	6	1	1	0	0
Y. Having affordable housing options in your community	58	32	8	1	2	0	0

Long-term Care

C2_GLTC3. In the past year, have you or someone you know been placed on a waiting list for services like home-delivered meals, utility assistance, transportation, housing assistance, or home modifications that help you live independently at home?

%	n=202
32	Yes
67	No
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_GLTC4. Do you support or oppose increasing state funding to hire more licensed inspectors and ombudsmen? This would allow for better inspection, evaluation, monitoring, and reporting on the quality of care provided by South Carolina nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and similar providers. (Is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include this text)

%	n=202
71	Strongly support
17	Somewhat support
6	Neither support nor oppose (VOL)
1	Somewhat oppose
2	Strongly oppose
4	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_GLTC5. Do you support or oppose state funding to create and maintain a Vulnerable Adult Abuse and Maltreatment Registry within a state government agency? This registry would record cases of known and intentional abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults, ensuring that perpetrators are prevented from harming others in the future. (Is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include this text)

%	n=202
79	Strongly support
12	Somewhat support
5	Neither support nor oppose (VOL)
<1	Somewhat oppose
2	Strongly oppose
2	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_GLTC5_A. How much money do you think the South Carolina government should spend to support funding a Vulnerable Adult Abuse and Maltreatment Registry in South Carolina?

%	n=202
15	\$250k-\$499k annually
14	\$500k-\$999k annually
16	\$1 million annually
27	More than \$1 million annually
28	Don't know (VOL)
1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_GLTC6. Residents in skilled nursing home facilities covered by Medicaid are currently allowed to keep only \$30 per month for personal expenses. This amount, called the personal needs allowance, has not been updated since 1988 despite the rising cost of living. Do you support increasing South Carolina's personal needs allowance for residents of skilled nursing facilities?

%	n=202
94	Yes
5	No
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_GLTC6_A. [ASK ONLY IF C2_GLTC6=Yes] Assuming adjustments for future inflation, how much would you raise the personal needs allowance of residents in skilled nursing facilities? (READ LIST)

%	n=190
9	An increase to at least \$65
10	An increase to at least \$80
36	An increase to at least \$100
38	An increase to at least \$150
8	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Housing

LIVCOMM3. Do you rent or own your home (residence)? (READ LIST AS NEED TO CLARIFY)

%	n=202
77	Own (or being bought by you or someone in your household)
19	Rent
3	Some other type of living arrangement [specify]
0	I am homeless (VOL)
1	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_LIVCOMM3_A. [ASK ONLY IF LIVCOMM3 =RENT] How much has your rent increased in the past two years?
[OPEN-ENDED]

C2_LIVCOMM3_B. [ASK ONLY IF LIVCOMM3 =RENT] Are you worried about the possibility of losing your housing if rent and utility costs keep increasing?

%	n=39
60	Yes
31	No
8	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_HOU8. Middle housing refers to a mix of affordable housing options with various pricing levels that include duplexes, triplexes, multiplexes, and townhomes in walkable neighborhoods. Do you support more middle housing in your neighborhood or within a mile of your home?

%	n=202
59	Yes
28	No
12	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Technology

C2_TECH25. Are you worried that you might be left behind as more services, like doctor's appointments, banking, government programs, and even shopping coupons, move online instead of being done in person?

%	n=202
51	Yes
37	No
13	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

C2_DL7. Would you be interested in attending free classes to learn how to use technology, such as using a smartphone, joining virtual meetings like Zoom, and accessing online medical records like MyChart? (READ LIST)
[ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES FOR 1-2]

%	n=202
31	Yes, in-person
21	Yes, online
54	No, I don't need or want classes
3	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Demographics

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

%	n=202
78	Yes, I have a smartphone
17	Yes, I have a regular cell phone
4	No, I don't have any type of cell phone
1	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=202
29	Cable
14	Fiber
13	Satellite or fixed wireless
12	DSL
11	Through my cellular service
1	Dial-up
3	Other
5	I do not have an Internet connection at home
11	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=202
20	Yes, I have
54	Yes, a family member has
32	No
<1	Don't know
0	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=202
36	Yes
64	No
0	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	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=202
4	0 through 12 th grade (no diploma)
25	High school graduate (or equivalent)
5	Post- high school vocational or technical training
34	Some college (no degree), Associate's degree, 2-year college degree
16	College graduate (4-year degree)
<1	Post-graduate study
16	Graduate or professional degrees (Master's degree/ PhD/ Law)
0	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

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

%	n=202
56	Female
44	Male
0	Another gender identity [SPECIFY]
0	Don't know (VOL)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=202
3	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=202
41	Married
3	Living with a partner
10	Widowed
23	Divorced or separated
23	Never married
0	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	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=202
45	Yes
52	No
2	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

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

%	n=202
99	Yes
0	No
0	Don't know
1	Refused (Web: 'Prefer not to say')

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

%	n=202
100	Black or African American
0	White
0	Asian or Asian American
0	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
0	American Indian or Alaska Native
0	Some other race [SPECIFY]
0	Multi-race [SPECIFY]
0	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (VOL) (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=202
47	Moderate
21	Conservative
21	Liberal
1	Other [SPECIFY]
7	Don't know
5	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=202
71	Democrat
16	Independent
8	Republican
0	Other [SPECIFY] (VOL)
2	Don't know (VOL)
4	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=202
9	Less than \$10,000
15	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000
30	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000
15	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
11	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
8	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000
4	\$150,000 to less than \$200,000
3	\$200,000 or more
5	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.