VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Mississippi Adults
Age 45 and Older, October 2020

Annotated Questionnaire

VITAL VOICES

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For more information on the methodology or the survey, contact Cassandra Cantave at CCantave@aarp.org.

Interviews were conducted with 729 Mississippi residents age 45 and older between October 3, 2020 and October 18, 2020. All data have been weighted by age, gender, and race/ethnicity according to 2018 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) statistics. Survey results have a 3.6% 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 Mississippi. 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 Mississippi. 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=729
0	Under 45 [TERMINATE]
17	45-49
17	50-54
15	55-59
17	60-64
10	65-69
11	70-74
6	75-79
4	80-84
4	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 MISSISSIPPI OR DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK FOR RESIDENT IN HH; TERMINATE IF NO ONE IN HH IS AGE 45+ RESIDENT OF MISSISSIPPI] (Web: TERMINATE IF NOT A MATCH)

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

%	n=729
1	Yes
99	No
1	Don't know
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=729
63	White
35	Black or African American
1	American Indian or Alaska Native
<1	Asian
0	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
<1	Some other race [SPECIFY]
0	Multi-race [SPECIFY]
0	Don't know (VOL)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

S4. Are you registered to vote in Mississippi?

%	n=729
95	Yes
5	No
<1	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

S6. How likely are you to vote in the November 2020 elections? (READ LIST)

%	n=729
90	Very likely
3	Somewhat likely
1	Not very likely
4	Not likely at all
0	Don't know (VOL)
2	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

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

%	n=729
11	Self-employed full-time
3	Self-employed part-time
21	Employed full-time
5	Employed part-time
5	Unemployed and looking for work
47	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=729	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Having adequate health insurance coverage	58	35	5	1	1	<1	0
B. Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future	59	32	7	1	1	<1	0
C. Staying mentally sharp	59	35	5	1	<1	<1	0
D. Staying physically healthy	56	38	5	<1	<1	0	0
E. Paying for prescription drugs	52	37	8	1	2	<1	0
F. Paying for health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays	55	34	9	1	2	<1	0

Long-Term Care Issues

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

n=729	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.	36	27	21	8	8	<1	0
E. Feeling isolated or lonely	20	17	22	18	23	<1	0

Caregiving

CARE1. Are you currently providing 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=729
27	Yes
73	No
<1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

CARE1_A. [IF CARE1≠Yes] Have you ever provided this type of unpaid help in the past?

%	n=536
41	Yes
59	No
<1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Healthcare

NURS1. Some states are considering a proposal that would allow registered nurses with advanced training who often visit older people in their homes to serve as the primary or acute care provider on record for a patient. These nurse practitioners have additional training in specific areas, like elder care. Would you support or oppose this proposal for Mississippi? (And is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include "And is that strongly or somewhat?")

%	n=729
64	Strongly support
23	Somewhat support
5	Neither support nor oppose (VOL)
3	Somewhat oppose
2	Strongly oppose
3	Don't know (VOL)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

TEL-2. How interested would you be in using each of the following telehealth services for yourself or a loved one if you had a choice? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=729	Extremely interested %	Very interested %	Somewhat interested %	Not very interested %	Not interested at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Meeting with your doctor without being at the same location, but at a time that is convenient for you, using telehealth	27	27	26	9	11	1	0
B. A phone conversation or video call with a doctor, nurse, or specialist to discuss symptoms, progress, or treatment options, with the ability to get medication prescribed right away for yourself or a loved one	37	31	20	5	7	1	<1
D. A monitoring device that tracks key health information like blood sugar or heart rate and sends that information to a doctor or nurse so they can monitor chronic health conditions	33	28	24	8	7	1	0

Prescription Drugs

PER2. Approximately how many different prescription medications do you take on a regular basis such as daily, weekly, or monthly? (READ LIST)

%	n=729
18	None
11	1 prescription medication
29	2 to 3 prescription medications
21	4 to 5 prescription medications
19	6 or more prescription medications
<1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

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=729	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
G. Having adequate Social Security benefits available to you in the future	63	31	4	1	1	0	0
H. Having good employment opportunities in your community	40	36	12	4	7	1	<1
I. Protection from age discrimination	42	34	13	6	4	1	0
J. Maintaining relevant job skills and experience	28	36	20	7	8	2	<1
K. [IF S3≠Retired and not working at all] Having enough income or savings to retire (n=389)	59	32	6	<1	2	0	<1
L. [IF S3=Employed (full-time, part-time), self-employed (full-time, part-time), or unemployed and looking for work] Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want (n=334)	44	35	12	4	4	1	<1
M. Protecting yourself against consumer fraud	48	40	10	1	1	<1	0
N. Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices	46	42	8	2	2	1	<1
O. Having online security	38	33	17	5	5	1	<1
V. Having affordable utilities	54	37	8	1	1	<1	0
W. Being able to afford groceries or other household necessities	59	33	5	2	1	0	0
AB. Having access to high-speed Internet	29	36	23	7	5	1	0

Taxation

TAX3. As you may know, virtually all states are currently facing budget deficits. Do you support or oppose the following proposals that have been suggested as ways to address the state budget deficit? (And is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include “And is that strongly or somewhat?”) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=729	Strongly support %	Somewhat support %	Somewhat oppose %	Strongly support %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Raising the state tobacco tax	39	23	11	22	4	<1
B. Increasing state income tax	10	15	23	48	4	<1
C. Increasing sales taxes	8	14	24	51	3	<1
E. Increasing income taxes on those making more than \$300,000 per year	43	23	13	17	5	<1
H. Taxing additional services such as haircare, nail care, pet grooming, and dating services	15	22	20	36	7	1
I. Eliminating tax breaks for large corporations	37	20	12	26	5	<1

Self

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=729
29	Access to healthcare (finding insurance, providers, etc.)
21	Health generally/ health problems
20	Retirement/ Social Security/ finances/ cost-of-living
7	Healthcare cost (insurance cost, cost for services)
3	Economy
3	Government
3	Employment
3	COVID-19/ coronavirus/ pandemic
2	Prescription drug costs
1	Transportation
1	Loneliness/ social isolation
1	Not being respected/ accepted
1	Staying involved/ connected/ contributing to society
1	Housing
1	Assistance/ care at home
<1	Keeping up with technology
<1	Racial justice
0	Climate change/ environment
0	Nursing home safety
7	Other
8	Don't know/ refused

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=729	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
AH. Safe streets	49	39	8	2	2	1	0
AC. Sidewalks	23	27	25	13	10	1	<1
AE. Public transportation	21	25	22	17	15	1	0
AG. Affordable housing	47	35	11	4	4	<1	0

Independent Living and Long-Term Care

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=729	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
P. Staying in your own home as you get older	55	37	6	1	2	0	0
Q. Having high quality long-term care in your community	46	40	10	2	2	<1	0
R. Getting to the places you need to go independently	47	41	9	2	2	1	0
S. Caring for a loved one	52	36	7	2	3	<1	0
T. Having paid time off to care for yourself or a seriously ill family member	39	31	11	6	10	1	1
X. Having flexibility in your schedule to care for a loved one	41	38	13	3	5	1	0
Z. Improvements to Mississippi's long-term care services so residents who need the care stay in the state	46	38	11	2	2	1	0
AJ. Having alternatives to nursing home care	43	40	13	1	3	1	<1

Grandparenting

GRP-2. Would you support or oppose a change in Mississippi law so that grandparents who are providing primary care and financial support for their grandchildren could have temporary access to their grandchild's medical and school records the same way their parents do?

%	n=729
72	Strongly support
20	Somewhat support
4	Somewhat oppose
3	Strongly oppose
2	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Attitudes on Aging

FP15. The following statements are used by some people to describe how society views aging and getting older. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (And is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include "And is that strongly or somewhat?") [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=729	Strongly agree %	Somewhat agree %	Neither disagree nor agree %	Somewhat disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. It is important for the older population to share the benefits of their experiences with younger people.	63	25	7	2	4	<1	0
B. Employers prefer younger workers to older ones.	39	30	11	9	9	2	<1
E. American society is driven from a perspective of youth.	28	33	19	10	6	4	0
H. Society provides everyone, regardless of age, with the services needed to lead healthier lives with independence and dignity.	27	24	13	19	16	1	0
I. As people age, they are treated with less respect.	37	33	10	12	8	1	0
J. People are less likely to contribute to the economy the older they get.	16	23	17	21	21	2	0
K. Society provides the financial resources and opportunities needed to match our longer life spans.	20	29	15	18	15	2	0

FP16. Discrimination can take a variety of forms in society. How often do you personally see or experience the following types of discrimination? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=729	Very often %	Often %	Sometimes %	Rarely %	Never %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Racism	22	13	25	20	19	1	<1
B. Sexism	12	13	23	23	28	1	0
E. Ageism	13	11	27	24	24	1	<1

Demographics

D1. Other than a data plan on your cell phone, do you have high-speed Internet service at home such as cable Internet, DSL, FIOS, or satellite Internet service? [IF D16=No, don't know, or refused] Do you have high-speed Internet service at home such as cable Internet, DSL, FIOS, or satellite Internet service?

%	n=729
74	Yes
24	No
2	Don't know
<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=729
16	Yes, I have
37	Yes, a family member has
48	No
<1	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

D14. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you from participating fully in work, school, household, or other activities?

%	n=729
25	Yes
74	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=729
6	0 through 12 th grade (no diploma)
24	High school graduate (or equivalent)
5	Post- high school vocational or technical training
28	Some college (no degree), Associate's degree, 2-year college degree
21	College graduate (4-year degree)
3	Post-graduate study
13	Graduate or professional degrees (Master's degree/ PhD/ Law)
0	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=729
55	Female
45	Male
0	Other gender identity [SPECIFY]
0	Don't know (VOL)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=729
55	Married
3	Living with a partner
13	Widowed
15	Divorced or separated
13	Never married
<1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
2	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=729
28	Yes
70	No
1	Don't know
1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

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=729
43	Conservative
29	Moderate
17	Liberal
1	Other [SPECIFY]
6	Don't know
5	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=729
32	Democrat
40	Republican
17	Independent
1	Progressive
1	Other [SPECIFY] (VOL)
3	Don't know (VOL)
6	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D11. What income range includes your household's total income from all sources in 2019? (READ LIST)

%	n=729
9	Less than \$10,000
16	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000
22	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000
17	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
10	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
8	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000
4	\$150,000 to less than \$200,000
2	\$200,000 or more
12	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=729
2	Yes
95	No
1	Not sure
2	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D18. What is the best way to inform you about events happening in the community? (READ LIST) [SINGLE RESPONSE ONLY; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF 1-6]

%	n=729
31	TV
17	Email
17	Social media like Facebook or Twitter
12	Local newspaper
12	Mail
8	Phone call
1	Other [SPECIFY] (VOL)
1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

D19. What county do you live in? [Phone: CODE TO LIST; Web: Drop-down list of counties, add 'Don't know' response option]

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.