VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact
New Mexico Adults
Age 45 and Older,
August 2021

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INTRODUCTION

There are currently about 117 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 is a new and exciting program of research undertaken by AARP. Through this research program, we are launching a new initiative that will deliver critical, current, and state-specific data to 53 states on a rolling three-year schedule between 2019 and 2021. We are making this data available to the public to assist with the development of programs, products, and policies for older adults. This data will allow those in leadership positions to:

- Predict the need for a specific program or interest in a particular 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 launched 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 wide-angle landscape photograph showing a river winding through a desert valley. The river is light brown and flows from the upper left towards the lower right. The valley floor is covered with green shrubs and small trees. In the background, there are rugged mountains with some flat-topped peaks. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning, with some warm tones on the distant mountain ridges.

Survey Results for New Mexico- Health Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

New Mexico residents age 45+ think many healthcare issues are important, with staying mentally sharp topping the list.

I1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=711)

CARE1. Are you currently providing unpaid help to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? (n=711)

CAREGIVING ISSUES

One-third (34%) of New Mexico residents age 45+ are currently providing unpaid help to an adult relative or friend.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care

CARE1_A. Have you ever provided this type of unpaid help in the past? (n=472)

CAREGIVING ISSUES

Nearly half (46%) of New Mexico residents age 45+ who are not currently unpaid caregivers have provided this type of care in the past.

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care in The Past

CVD-11. Have you gotten or do you plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine? (n=711)

COVID-19

As of August 2021, over three-quarters (80%) of New Mexico residents age 45+ have gotten the COVID-19 vaccine or plan to get it.

Plans To Get The COVID-19 Vaccine
(as of August 2021)

■ Yes (already got) ■ Yes (plan to) ■ No ■ Don't know/ refused

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

New Mexico residents age 45+ face many difficult decisions as a result of prescription drug costs.

Actions Taken in the Past 12 Months

PER9. Many people face difficult decisions when buying prescription medications. In the past 12 months, have you...? (Percent 'yes') (n=711)

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs varies among New Mexico residents age 45+, with over one-third (38%) spending at least \$50 per month.

PER3. In the past 12 months, approximately how much have you spent out of your own pocket for prescription drugs? (n=711)

*Not all charts equal one-hundred percent due to removal of small cells; see annotation for all categories

Survey Results for New Mexico- Wealth Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

New Mexico residents age 45+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to financial security and retirement.

Important Economic Issues

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=711)

RETIREMENT

New Mexico residents age 45+ largely agree (84%) that it is important for a state retirement savings program to be available to all employees who do not have a way to save for retirement at work.

Importance of Retirement Savings Plan Features

RET14. How important is it to you that a New Mexico savings program be...? (Percent 'very important' or 'somewhat important') (n=711)

SS1. Are you aware (were you aware before your retired) that New Mexico is one of 13 states that add state taxes on your Social Security benefits in addition to what the Federal government taxes? (n=640)

RETIREMENT

Of New Mexico residents age 45+ still in the labor force or retired, nearly half (47%) were not aware that New Mexico adds state tax to Social Security benefits.

Aware that New Mexico Adds State Taxes on Social Security Benefits

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/ refused

RETIREMENT

Many New Mexico residents age 45+ are extremely or very concerned that Social Security won't be enough for them to get by on in retirement (64%) and that one major health care expense could wipe them out financially (63%).

Financial Concerns

SS2. How concerned are you personally about each of the following? (Percent 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned') (n=711)

SS3. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: “New Mexico lawmakers should repeal the state tax on Social Security?” (n=711)

RETIREMENT

Most (85%) New Mexico residents age 45+ strongly or somewhat agree that the state tax on Social Security should be repealed.

Agreement that New Mexico Should Repeal State Social Security Tax

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know/ refused

TECH18. Do you have access to high-speed Internet in your home? (n=711)

TECHNOLOGY

Three-quarters (79%) of New Mexico residents age 45+ have high-speed Internet at home.

Home Internet Access

TECH18_1. Do you feel [your home high-speed internet service] is affordable? (n=560)

TECHNOLOGY

Over one-quarter (27%) of New Mexico residents age 45+ with high-speed Internet at home do not think it is affordable.

Home Internet Affordability

- Yes
- Yes, it's affordable but you don't think the cost is reasonable
- No
- Don't know

TECH20. Is your high-speed internet service reliable?
(n=560)

TECHNOLOGY

Among New Mexico residents age 45+ who have high-speed Internet at home, 18% said that their service is unreliable.

Survey Results for New Mexico- Self Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Being able to afford household expenses and aging in place are extremely important or very important to a majority (88%) of New Mexico residents age 45+.

Important Independent Living Issues

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=711)

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Safe streets are extremely important or very important to a majority (85%) of New Mexico residents age 45+.

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=711)

VOLUNTEERISM

Nine in ten New Mexico residents age 45+ agree that volunteering is important and helps improve communities.

Perspective on Volunteerism

VOL4. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? (Percent 'strongly agree' or 'somewhat agree') (n=711)

VOLUNTEERISM

More than half (55%) of New Mexico residents age 45+ have volunteered within the past 12 months, for an organization (21%), on their own (19%) or both for an organization and on their own (15%).

Volunteered in the Past 12 Months

VOL5. In the last 12 months, have you volunteered either for an organization, or on your own? (n=711)

VOL6. When you volunteer (if you volunteered), do (would) you prefer a...? (n=711)

VOLUNTEERISM

Most (83%) New Mexico residents age 45+ would prefer a flexible schedule for volunteering.

Volunteer Preferences

■ Set volunteer schedule
■ Other

■ Flexible volunteer schedule
■ Don't know/ refused

VOLUNTEERISM

New Mexico residents age 45+ most commonly cite lack of time (40%) as preventing them from volunteering.

VOL7. What barriers make it difficult or prevent you from volunteering? (Percent 'yes') (n=711)

VOLUNTEERISM

Two-thirds (66%) of New Mexico volunteers age 45+ are motivated to volunteer by their sense of giving something back.

VOL8. What motivates you to volunteer? (Percent 'yes') (n=390)

VOLUNTEERISM

Two-thirds (69%) of New Mexico residents age 45+ agree that matching volunteer skills with appropriate assignments is extremely important or very important.

Important Factors When Volunteering

VOL9. How important do you feel each of the following are to you (would be to you) as a volunteer? (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=697)

METHODOLOGY

In August 2021, AARP engaged ANR Market Research Consultants to conduct a quantitative research study among New Mexico residents age 45 and older. Topics included healthcare, the economy, financial issues, independent living, long-term care, caregiving, and retirement issues.

711 Interviews

New Mexico Adults Age 45+

Fielded in August 2021

ANR completed a total of 711 interviews (377 via landline telephone, 190 via cell phone, and 144 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- Resident of New Mexico

Survey length averaged 26.4 minutes by telephone and 18.7 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 New Mexico residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 24,091 records were utilized to achieve a sample of 711 respondents. The list of 856,474 residents was randomly divided into 857 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 22 replicates representing a total of 21,975 resident records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The study's sample of 711 respondents yields a maximum statistical error of $\pm 3.7\%$ 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 ± 3.7 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed.)

Interview Methodology

The survey was launched on August 4, 2021 and closed on August 18, 2021, offered in English and Spanish.

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, gender, and race/ethnicity according to 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) statistics.

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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