VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact
Oklahoma Adults
Age 45 and Older,
October 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.

Survey Results for Oklahoma- Health Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

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

Important Healthcare Issues

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=706)

CARE1. Are you currently providing unpaid help to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? (n=706)

CARE1-2. [IF CARE1=Yes] Is the person you provide care for a veteran? (n=241)

CAREGIVING

One-third (34%) of Oklahoma residents age 45+ are currently providing unpaid help to an adult relative or friend (17% providing care to a veteran).

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care

CARE1_A. Have you ever provided this type of unpaid help in the past? (n=466)
CARE1-3. [IF CARE1_A=Yes] Is the person you provided care for a veteran? (n=186)

CAREGIVING

Over four in ten (40%) Oklahoma residents age 45+ who are not currently unpaid caregivers have provided this type of care in the past (30% providing care to a veteran).

Percent Providing Unpaid Adult Care in The Past

CVD-11. Have you gotten or do you plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine? (n=706)

COVID-19

As of October 2021, nearly three-quarters (74%) of Oklahoma residents age 45+ have gotten the COVID-19 vaccine (or plan to get it).

COVID-19 Vaccination Status
(as of October 2021)

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

Survey Results for Oklahoma- Wealth Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Oklahoma residents age 45+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to Social Security and retirement.

Important Economic Issues

I1. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=706)

FRA4. How concerned are you, personally, about becoming the target or victim of a scam or fraud? (n=706)

FRAUD

Half (50%) of Oklahoma residents age 45+ are extremely or very concerned about becoming the target or victim of a scam or fraud.

Concern About Becoming the Target of a Scam or Fraud

- Extremely concerned/ very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not very concerned/ not concerned at all

FRAUD

Oklahoma residents age 45+ concerned about becoming the target of fraud are also concerned about a variety of scams and fraud.

Concern About Fraud and Scams

FRA4_1. How concerned are you, personally, about each of the following? (Percent 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned') (n=659)

FRA6. In the past 12 months, have you ordered a free copy of your credit report? (n=706)

FRAUD

Nearly one-quarter (23%) of Oklahoma residents age 45+ ordered a free copy of their credit report in the past 12 months.

Ordered Credit Report in Past Year

FRAUD

Thirteen percent (13%) of Oklahoma residents age 45+ have been a victim of a scam or fraud in the past 12 months (and half of them reported it).

Victim of a Scam or Fraud in the Past Year

FRA19. In the last 12 months, have you been a victim of a scam or fraud? (n=706)

FRA19_A. Did you report it to the police or to appropriate local or state authorities? (n=95)

FRA20. Do you know of a family member or close friend who may have been victims of a scam or fraud? (n=706)

FRAUD

One-third (35%) of Oklahoma residents age 45+ know of a family member or friend who may have been victims of a scam or fraud.

Know Family or a Friend Who May Be Victim of a Scam or Fraud

FRA21. In the past year, have you received automated telephone calls, such as a pre-recorded message, claiming that you need to return a call because you owe income taxes, have outstanding credit card debt, or need your computer fixed by Microsoft? (n=706)

FRAUD

In the past year, nearly three-quarters (72%) of Oklahoma residents age 45+ have received automated telephone calls that may have been fraudulent.

Received Fraudulent Automated Calls in the Past Year

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=706)

UTILITIES

An increase in a utility bill would be a major problem for four in ten (41%) Oklahoma residents age 45+.

Impact of an Increase in a Utility Bill

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

GUTIL2. Do you believe that your state elected officials are doing enough to keep your utilities affordable? (n=706)

UTILITIES

Only one-quarter (25%) of Oklahoma's residents age 45+ think state elected officials are doing enough to keep utilities affordable.

State Officials Are Doing Enough to Keep Utilities Affordable

UTILITIES

Six in ten (60%) Oklahoma residents age 45+ strongly or somewhat oppose allowing utility companies to raise rates to pay for infrastructure modifications.

Support for Utility Companies to Raise Rates to Pay for Infrastructure

- Strongly support/ somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose/ strongly oppose
- Don't know

GUTIL7. Do you support or oppose allowing utility companies to raise your rates to pay for infrastructure modification to meet future demand? (n=706)

EGUTIL6. Do you support or oppose Oklahoma requiring utilities to use and sell more renewable energy options?
(n=706)

UTILITIES

Six in ten (60%) Oklahoma residents age 45+ support the state requiring more renewable energy options.

Support for State Requirements to Use and Sell More Renewable Energy Options

- Strongly support/ somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose/ strongly oppose
- Neither support nor oppose
- Don't know

EGUTIL7. Would you support more renewable energy options, even if it meant all customers would pay more every month? (n=706)

UTILITIES

Nearly one-third (31%) of Oklahoma residents age 45+ would support more renewable energy options, even if it meant customers would pay more.

Support for More Renewable Energy Options

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/ refused

EGUTIL10. Do you support regulators requiring utility companies to share in the costs of the winter storm? (n=706)

UTILITIES

Seven in ten (71%) Oklahoma residents age 45+ support regulators requiring utility companies to share in the costs of winter storms.

Support for Regulators Requiring Utility Companies to Share Storm Costs

Survey Results for Oklahoma- Self Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Aging in place is extremely or very important to a majority (89%) of Oklahoma 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=706)

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Six in ten (63%) Oklahoma residents age 45+ are extremely or very concerned about being able to afford to age in place.

Community Concerns

LIVCOMM1. How concerned are you about the following? (Percent 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned') (n=706)

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

A variety of factors would impact the ability of Oklahoma residents age 45+ to remain at home as they age.

Factors Impacting Ability to Age in Place

HOME-1. How much do you think each of the following would impact your ability to remain in your home as you age? (Percent 'a lot') (n=706)

LIVCOMM4. How important it is it to you personally to have activities specifically geared towards adults with dementia in your community right now?
(n=706)

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

More than four in ten (44%) Oklahoma residents age 45+ agree that having activities geared toward adults with dementia is extremely or very important.

Importance of Activities Geared Toward Adults with Dementia

- Extremely important/ very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important/ not at all important
- Don't know/ refused

METHODOLOGY

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

706 Interviews

Oklahoma Adults Age 45+

Fielded in October 2021

ANR completed a total of 706 interviews (354 via landline telephone, 176 via cell phone, and 176 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- Resident of Oklahoma

Survey length averaged 21.4 minutes by telephone and 17.6 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 Oklahoma residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 34,712 records were utilized. The list of 1,571,226 Oklahoma residents age 45 and older was randomly divided into 1,572 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 32 replicates representing a total of 31,585 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The study's sample of 706 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 October 6, 2021 and closed on October 20, 2021.

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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