VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact
Georgia Adults
Age 45 and Older,
May 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 Georgia- Health Questions

Issues That Impact
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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Georgia 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=816)

CARE1. Are you currently providing unpaid help to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? (n=816)

CAREGIVING ISSUES

One-third (36%) of Georgia 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=525)

CAREGIVING ISSUES

Over one-third (43%) of Georgia 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

CARE44. The several states that have enacted paid family and medical leave laws pay for the programs through a small payroll deduction from employees, employers, or both— on average for 2 to 3 dollars a week. If Georgia enacted a paid leave law, how likely would you be to contribute through your paycheck \$2 to \$3 a week for paid time off to care for yourself or your family member, or to have or adopt a child? (n=350)

CAREGIVING ISSUES

Half (50%) of Georgia workers age 45+ would be extremely or very likely to take a payroll deduction for paid leave.

Likelihood of Taking Deduction for Paid Leave

HEALTHCARE

A majority (87%) of Georgia residents age 45+ would support a proposal that allows nurse practitioners to serve as a patient's primary or acute care provider on record.

**Support for Nurse Practitioners to Serve as
Primary or Acute Care Provider on Record**

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 Georgia? (n=816)

CVD-7a. Generally speaking,
how safe are vaccines?
(n=816)

COVID-19

As of May 2021, nearly half (48%) of Georgia residents age 45+ think that in general, vaccines are very safe.

Safety of Vaccines Generally

■ Very safe ■ Somewhat safe ■ Not very safe
■ Not at all safe ■ Don't know/ refused

CVD-11. Have you gotten or do you plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine? (n=816)

COVID-19

As of May 2021, about three-quarters (74%) of Georgia residents age 45+ have already received at least one COVID-19 vaccine injection or plan to get the vaccine.

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

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

COVID-19

As of May 2021, Georgia residents age 45+ who are not planning to get the COVID-19 vaccine (or are unsure if they will get it) are worried about side effects (66%) and if the vaccines have been tested enough (62%).

Reasons for Not Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine

CVD-12. What are some reasons why you [do not plan to/are unsure if you will] get the COVID-19 vaccine? (n=210)

COVID-19

As of May 2021, Georgia residents age 45+ trust their doctor's recommendations about getting the COVID-19 vaccine more than they trust other sources such as the CDC and public health officials.

Trust Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

CVD-13. The following list of people and organizations could make recommendations about whether people should get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please indicate how much you trust each one when it comes to their recommendation about getting the COVID-19 vaccine. (Percent 'a lot') (n=816)

COVID-19

As of May 2021, Georgia residents age 45+ have been impacted by COVID-19 in a variety of ways, including working from home (if not retired) (39%) and having a difficult time worrying about the coronavirus (35%).

Ways Impacted by COVID-19 (as of May 2021)

CVD-1. Have you been affected by the coronavirus in any of the following ways? (Percent 'yes') (n=816)

Survey Results for Georgia- Wealth Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Georgia residents age 45+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to financial security, retirement, and being able to afford necessities.

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=816)

RETIREMENT ISSUES

Nearly three-quarters (74%) of Georgia workers age 45+ are extremely concerned or very concerned about having enough money to take care of their health expenses during retirement.

Retirement Concerns

RET1. How concerned are you about the following? (Percent 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned') (n=816)

RET10. Does your employer provide a way for you to save for retirement? (n=257)

RETIREMENT ISSUES

A majority (84%) of Georgia workers age 45+ reported that their employer offers a way to save for retirement.

Access to Employer-Provided Retirement Options

RET10a. Which of the following ways to save for retirement does your current employer provide? (Percent 'yes') (n=215)

RETIREMENT ISSUES

Among Georgia workers age 45+ whose employer offers a way to save for retirement, an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b) defined contribution plan is most common (81%).

Employer-Provided Retirement Saving Options

TECHNOLOGY

Georgia residents age 45+ think that investing in development of high-speed Internet across Georgia is important for a variety of reasons.

Reasons for Investing in Developing High-Speed Internet Across Georgia

TECH15. The following are reasons why some people believe that high-speed Internet should be available to everyone. For each, please tell me whether you personally feel it's an important reason or not an important reason to invest in developing high-speed Internet across Georgia. (Percent 'important reason') (n=816)

Survey Results for Georgia- Self Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Getting around independently is extremely important or very important to a majority (88%) of Georgia 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=816)

ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Safe streets are extremely important or very important to a majority (86%) of Georgia residents age 45+.

Important Livable Community Features

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=816)

METHODOLOGY

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

816 Interviews

Georgia Adults Age 45+

Fielded in April/May 2021

ANR completed a total of 816 interviews (396 via landline telephone, 219 via cell phone, and 201 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- Resident of Georgia

Survey length averaged 21.0 minutes by telephone and 19.4 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 Georgia residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 44,729 records were utilized. The list of 3,893,000 Georgia residents age 45 and older was randomly divided into 20 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 41 replicates representing a total of 40,563 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The sample of 816 respondents yields a maximum statistical error of $\pm 3.4\%$ 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 ± 3.4 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed.)

Interview Methodology

The survey was launched on April 30, 2021 and closed on May 12, 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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