VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact
District of Columbia
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 The District of Columbia- Health Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

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

11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=704)

CARE1. Are you currently providing unpaid help to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? (n=704)

CAREGIVING

One-quarter (29%) of District of Columbia 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=502)

CAREGIVING

More than one-third (44%) of District of Columbia 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

GRP-1. Are you or someone you know in The District of Columbia currently providing primary care and financial support for a grandchild? (Percent 'yes') (n=704)

GRANDPARENTING

Sixteen percent (16%) of District of Columbia residents age 45+ know someone who is providing primary care and financial support for a grandchild.

Percent Providing Primary Care to a Grandchild

GRP-2. Would you support or oppose a change in The District of Columbia 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=704)

GRANDPARENTING

Most (89%) District of Columbia residents age 45+ would support a law that would temporarily give grandparents access to medical and school records of grandchildren for whom they provide care.

Support for Caregiving Grandparents to Access Grandchild's Medical and School Records

■ Strongly support
 ■ Somewhat support
 ■ Somewhat oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know/ refused

CVD-6. How worried are you about getting COVID-19 in the next year? (n=704)

COVID-19

As of October 2021, nearly one-third (31%) of District of Columbia residents age 45+ are extremely or very worried about getting COVID-19 in the next year.

**Worry About Getting COVID-19 in the Next Year
(as of October 2021)**

■ Extremely worried/ very worried ■ Somewhat worried ■ Not very worried/ not at all worried

Survey Results for The District of Columbia- Wealth Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

District of Columbia residents age 45+ find many economic issues important, particularly those related to retirement savings and Social Security.

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=704)

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=704)

UTILITY COSTS

An increase in utility bills would be a major problem for nearly one-third (30%) of District of Columbia residents age 45+.

Burden of an Increase in Utility Costs

UTILITY COSTS

Three-quarters (77%) of District of Columbia residents age 45+ somewhat or strongly oppose utility companies increasing fixed monthly charges.

Support for Utility Companies Raising the Fixed Monthly Customer Charge

GUTIL3. Do you support or oppose the utility companies increasing the fixed monthly charge— the charge you pay before you use the utilities' service? (n=704)

UTILITY COSTS

Half (50%) of District of Columbia residents age 45+ said there should be a full review process on utility company rates and operations every year.

Need for a Full Review of Utility Company Rates

GUTIL6. How often should there be a full review process on utility company rates and operations in DC? (n=704)

LONG-TERM CARE COSTS

District of Columbia residents age 45+ would rely on a variety of sources to pay for nursing home care if needed.

LTCC2. Which of the following do you think you would rely on to pay for nursing home care if you become sick, disabled, or unable to care for yourself?
(Percent 'yes') (n=704)

LTCC1. The cost of nursing home care in The District of Columbia is most often around \$150,000 a year. Knowing this, how confident are you that you would be able to afford nursing home care for one year, if you needed it? (n=704)

LONG-TERM CARE COSTS

One-third (36%) of District of Columbia residents age 45+ are not confident at all that they would be able to afford nursing home care for one year.

Confidence in Being Able to Afford Nursing Home Care

LTCC3. As you may know, Medicare is the national health insurance program for residents of The District of Columbia age 65 and older. To your knowledge, are long-term care services, such as nursing home care and home care services, covered by Medicare? (n=704)

LONG-TERM CARE COSTS

District of Columbia residents age 45+ have mixed perceptions regarding Medicare coverage of long-term care services.

Perceived Medicare Coverage of Long-Term Care Services

- Yes, long-term care services are covered
- No, long-term care services are not covered
- Don't know/ refused

Survey Results for The District of Columbia- Self Questions

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ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Having high quality long-term care in the community is extremely or very important to a majority (84%) of District of Columbia 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=704)

METHODOLOGY

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

704 Interviews

The District of Columbia

Adults Age 45+

Fielded in September-October 2021

ANR completed a total of 704 interviews (384 via landline telephone, 229 via cell phone, and 91 online). Respondents were screened to meet the following criteria:

- Age 45+
- Resident of The District of Columbia

Survey length averaged 18.3 minutes by telephone and 16.6 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 District of Columbia residents age 45 and older, purchased from Aristotle, and online sample provided by Fulcrum. A total of 35,169 records were utilized. The list of 228,792 District of Columbia residents age 45 and older was randomly divided into 229 replicates of 1,000 records for telephone dialing. Initially, 20 replicates were released for calling, with additional replicates being opened as necessary. In all, 35 replicates representing a total of 34,666 records were dialed to complete the telephone portion of this study.

The sample of 704 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 September 30, 2021 and closed on October 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
executed by AARP Research.