VITAL VOICES

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

Annotated Questionnaire

VITAL VOICES

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For more information on the methodology or the survey, contact Aisha Bonner Cozad at ABonner@aarp.org.

Interviews were conducted with 711 New Mexico residents age 45 and older between August 4, 2021 and August 18, 2021. All data have been weighted by age, gender, and race/ethnicity according to 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) statistics. Survey results have a 3.7% 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 New Mexico. 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 New Mexico. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation.")

Screener

Qa. Would you like to continue the survey in English, or would you prefer to continue in Spanish?

%	n=711
98	English
2	Spanish

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=711
0	Under 45 [TERMINATE]
9	45-49
15	50-54
14	55-59
19	60-64
14	65-69
11	70-74
7	75-79
4	80-84
6	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 NEW MEXICO OR DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK FOR RESIDENT IN HH; TERMINATE IF NO ONE IN HH IS AGE 45+ RESIDENT OF NEW MEXICO] (Web: TERMINATE IF NOT A MATCH)

S4. Are you registered to vote in New Mexico?

%	n=711
90	Yes
9	No
1	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

S5. Did you vote in the November 2020 election?

%	n=647
94	Yes
5	No
<1	Don't know (Web: "Don't recall")
1	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=711
7	Self-employed full-time
5	Self-employed part-time
20	Employed full-time
4	Employed part-time
6	Unemployed and looking for work
48	Retired and not working at all
10	Or are you not in the labor force for other reasons
<1	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=711	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Having adequate health insurance coverage	57	35	5	2	1	1	<1
B. Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future	53	35	7	2	2	1	<1
C. Staying mentally sharp	54	40	5	1	<1	1	<1
D. Staying physically healthy	48	43	7	<1	<1	1	<1
E. Paying for prescription drugs	41	34	14	5	4	1	<1
F. Paying for health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays	41	40	12	3	3	1	<1
AI. Developing or maintaining healthy behaviors	37	44	16	1	2	1	<1
AO. Having access to high-quality hospital care	50	37	9	2	1	<1	<1
AR. Being able to access health care providers remotely by computer or phone	22	35	24	11	6	1	<1
AS. Having health care services in your community	49	40	9	1	1	<1	<1

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=711
34	Yes
66	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=472
46	Yes
53	No
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

COVID-19

CVD-11. Have you gotten or do you plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine? (READ LIST AS NEEDED TO CONFIRM)

%	n=711
77	Yes, already got the COVID-19 vaccine (either all shots or 1 shot out of 2)
3	Yes, plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine
15	No, I do not plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine
2	Don't know (VOL)
3	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

Prescription Drugs

PER9. Many people face difficult decisions when buying prescription medications. In the past 12 months, have you [ITEM]? [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=711	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Delayed getting a prescription filled because of the cost	19	81	<1	<1
B. Taken less medicine than prescribed to make it last longer	18	81	<1	<1
C. Cut back on such items as food, fuel, or electricity to afford prescription drugs	13	87	<1	<1
D. Decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost of the drug	18	82	<1	<1
E. Ordered your prescription drugs by mail or Internet from another country because they cost less	7	93	<1	<1
F. Traveled to another country to purchase prescription drugs because they cost less	3	97	<1	<1
G. Decided not to go to a doctor or specialist when needed because of the cost	20	79	<1	<1
H. Gone to the emergency room instead of your primary physician	20	79	1	<1

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

%	n=711
25	Nothing/ \$0
14	More than \$0 but less than \$10 per month
21	\$10 to less than \$50 per month
15	\$50 to less than \$100 per month
11	\$100 to less than \$200 per month
8	\$200 to less than \$500 per month
3	\$500 to less than \$1,000 per month
1	More than \$1,000 per month
1	Don't know (VOL)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

Wealth

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=711	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	56	32	8	2	2	<1	<1
H. Having good employment opportunities in your community	33	36	15	7	7	1	1
I. Protection from age discrimination	35	35	16	8	5	<1	<1
J. Maintaining relevant job skills and experience	22	35	23	10	8	2	<1
K. [IF S3≠Retired and not working at all] Having enough income or savings to retire (n=370)	52	37	9	1	1	<1	<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=298)	36	32	21	7	3	1	<1

(continues...)

(...continued)							
n=711	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
M. Protecting yourself against consumer fraud	41	40	14	3	1	0	<1
N. Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices	42	39	13	3	1	2	1
O. Having online security	33	37	17	5	5	2	1
U. Having financial security throughout your life	52	36	9	1	1	<1	<1
V. Having affordable utilities	43	41	13	2	1	0	<1
W. Being able to afford groceries or other household necessities	56	32	8	2	2	0	<1
AB. Having access to high-speed Internet	25	31	27	8	8	1	<1
AU. Having a way to save for retirement through the workplace	33	36	15	7	8	1	1
AV. Having affordable heating	41	42	13	2	1	<1	<1
AW. Being able to afford healthy food	42	40	14	2	2	<1	<1

Work & Save

RET14. Now I'm going to read a list of some features of a New Mexico retirement savings program being considered and I'd like you to tell me how important each would be to you. After I finish reading each statement, tell me if that feature is very important to you, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important to you. How important is it to you that a New Mexico savings program be...?

(Web: "For the following features being considered for a New Mexico retirement savings program being considered, is the feature very important to you, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all to you?")

n=711	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not important at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Portable, so if you leave one job you can take the money and account with you to your next job	66	16	3	12	2	1
B. Pre-taxed, such that contributions are automatically taken from each paycheck before taxes	42	30	11	15	2	1
C. Voluntary, so participants are not required to make contributions	43	31	11	12	3	1
D. Available to all employees who do not have a way to save for retirement at work, including those who work for small businesses	58	25	4	10	2	1

Social Security

SS1. [IF S3= 1, 2, 3, 4, OR 6] Are you aware 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?

[IF S3=5] Were you aware before you 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
51	Yes
47	No
2	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

SS2. Some New Mexicans may have concerns related to state tax on their Social Security benefits. On average, the state Social Security tax costs recipients in New Mexico approximately \$750. How concerned are you personally about each of the following? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE]

n=711	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Not very concerned %	Not at all concerned %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Social Security alone won't be enough for you to get by on	38	26	12	8	15	1	<1
B. One major health care expense could wipe you out financially	38	25	13	10	13	1	0
C. You won't be able to afford to live independently as you age	31	27	18	10	15	<1	<1
D. You won't have money left over after paying bills	33	23	17	10	17	1	0
E. You won't be able to afford living at your current residence	29	21	15	12	23	<1	0
F. You may need to consider leaving New Mexico for a place that doesn't have state tax on Social Security benefits	22	16	17	15	30	1	<1

SS3. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "New Mexico lawmakers should repeal the state tax on Social Security?" (And is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include "And is that strongly or somewhat?")

%	n=711
72	Strongly agree
13	Somewhat agree
3	Neither agree or disagree
4	Somewhat disagree
5	Strongly disagree
3	Don't know (VOL)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

Broadband

TECH18. Do you have access to high-speed Internet in your home? (IF NEEDED, READ: High-speed Internet service includes cable Internet service, DSL, Fiber Optic, Satellite, and mobile data plans. Companies that provide these high-speed services include Comcast, Time Warner, Charter, Cox, AT&T, CenturyLink, Verizon DSL, Verizon FIOS, Google Fiber, HughesNet, Viasat, Exede, T-Mobile, Sprint, Verizon Wireless, and AT&T Wireless.)

(Web: "Do you have access to high-speed Internet in your home? (High-speed Internet service includes cable Internet service, DSL, Fiber Optic, Satellite, and mobile data plans. Companies that provide these high-speed services include Comcast, Time Warner, Charter, Cox, AT&T, CenturyLink, Verizon DSL, Verizon FIOS, Google Fiber, HughesNet, Viasat, Exede, T-Mobile, Sprint, Verizon Wireless, and AT&T Wireless.)")

[PROGRAMMER: PLEASE ALSO CODE THIS RESPONSE AS A RESPONSE TO D1 THAT ISN'T BEING ASKED LATER IN DEMOS ("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?")]

%	n=711
79	Yes
20	No
1	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

TECH18_1. [IF TECH18=Yes] Do you feel it's affordable? (READ LIST AS NEEDED TO CLARIFY)

[PROGRAMMER: ADD NEW RESPONSE OPTION PUNCH CODE "3" TO THIS QUESTION BUT DISPLAY IN ORDER BELOW]

%	n=560
43	Yes
27	No
27	Yes, it's affordable but you don't think the cost is reasonable (Web: Yes, it's affordable but I don't think the cost is reasonable)
3	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (VOL)(Web: Do not include this response option)

TECH20. [IF TECH 18=Yes] Is your high-speed internet service reliable?

%	n=560
81	Yes
18	No
2	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

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=711
22	Retirement/ Social Security/ finances/ cost-of-living
21	Access to healthcare (finding insurance, providers, etc.)
20	Health generally/ health problems
5	Healthcare cost (insurance cost, cost for services)
5	COVID-19/ coronavirus/ pandemic
5	Government
3	Economy
3	Employment
2	Assistance/ care at home
2	Not being respected/ accepted
2	Prescription drug costs
2	Loneliness/ social isolation
2	Climate change/ environment
1	Staying involved/ connected/ contributing to society
1	Transportation
1	Keeping up with technology
1	Housing
0	Nursing home safety
0	Racial justice
8	Other
5	Don't know/ refused

Livable Communities

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=711	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
AH. Safe streets	43	42	10	2	3	1	<1
AC. Sidewalks	21	37	25	7	9	1	1
AD. Outdoor recreation	19	38	27	7	8	<1	1
AE. Public transportation	18	33	23	10	15	1	<1
AF. Bike lanes	12	20	31	14	21	<1	1
AG. Affordable housing	39	34	13	6	9	0	<1
AM. Affordable recreation	17	28	33	12	9	<1	<1

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=711	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	49	39	7	2	2	<1	<1
Q. Having high quality long-term care in your community	39	38	16	3	2	1	1
R. Getting to the places you need to go independently	39	45	12	2	1	<1	<1
S. Caring for a loved one	49	35	9	3	4	1	<1
T. Having paid time off to care for yourself or a seriously ill family member	32	34	14	7	10	2	1
X. Having flexibility in your schedule to care for a loved one	34	38	15	6	5	1	1
Z. Improvements to New Mexico's long-term care services so residents who need the care stay in the state	37	40	17	3	2	2	<1
AJ. Having alternatives to nursing home care	35	39	17	3	3	1	<1
AK. Being able to afford household expenses	48	40	9	2	1	<1	1

Volunteerism

VOL4. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? (And is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include "And is that strongly or somewhat?") [ROTATE]

n=711	Strongly agree %	Somewhat agree %	Neither agree or disagree %	Somewhat disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. "I feel it is important for individuals to volunteer to help improve the community."	55	36	6	2	1	<1	<1
B. "I feel volunteering is important for the community-at-large."	53	37	6	3	1	<1	<1

VOL5. In the last 12 months, have you volunteered either for an organization, or on your own? [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED FOR 1-2]

%	n=711
36	For an organization (IF NEEDED, READ: “such as for or with a non-profit organization, charity, school, hospital, religious organization, club, political organization, neighborhood association, civic or any other group”) {Web: “For an organization, i.e., for or with a non-profit organization, charity, school, hospital, religious organization, club, political organization, neighborhood association, civic or any other group”}
34	On your own (IF NEEDED, READ: “unpaid help carried out on your own that was not coordinated by an organization, such as helping a neighbor, cooking a meal or cleaning for someone, pet-sitting, etc.”) (Web: “On your own, e.g., unpaid help carried out on your own that was not coordinated by an organization, such as helping a neighbor, cooking a meal or cleaning for someone, pet-sitting, etc.”)
43	(IF NEITHER 1 OR 2, CONFIRM) Have not volunteered in the last 12 months
2	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

VOL6. [IF VOL5=1 OR 2] When you volunteer, do you prefer a...? (READ LIST)

[IF VOL5≠1 OR 2] If you volunteered, would you prefer a...? (READ LIST)

%	n=711
13	Set volunteer schedule
83	Flexible volunteer schedule
1	Other (VOL) [SPECIFY]
2	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

VOL7. What barriers make it difficult or prevent you from volunteering? (Code to list below, read list as needed to clarify) (Web: “Check all that apply.”) [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED FOR 1-8]

%	n=711
40	Lack of time
29	Health problems
9	Not being asked
8	Lack of interest
8	Cannot afford to work without pay
7	Lack of transportation
7	Unsure if your skills can help
11	Other [SPECIFY]
5	Don't know (VOL)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

VOL8. [IF VOL5=1 OR 2] What motivates you to volunteer? (READ LIST) (Web: "Check all that apply.") [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES FOR 1-5]

%	n=390
66	Sense of giving something back
32	Making connections with people
26	Sense of social justice
7	Recognition for your time
15	Other [SPECIFY]
<1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

VOL9. [IF VOL5=1 OR 2] How important do you feel each of the following are to you as a volunteer?
[IF VOL5=3] If you were to volunteer, how important do you feel each of the following would be to you as a volunteer? [RANDOMIZE]

n=697	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Matching volunteer skills with appropriate assignments	28	42	25	2	3	1	<1
B. Recognizing the contributions of volunteers	19	32	34	8	7	1	<1
C. Providing volunteers with training and professional development	21	41	28	5	4	1	<1

VOL10. [IF VOL5=3] What would motivate you to start volunteering? [ENTER VERBATIM RESPONSE; DO NOT PROBE] (Web: Large text box, open-end)

Demographics

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=711
17	Yes, I have
48	Yes, a family member has
39	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=711
31	Yes
69	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=711
5	0 through 12 th grade (no diploma)
21	High school graduate (or equivalent)
4	Post- high school vocational or technical training
27	Some college (no degree), Associate's degree, 2-year college degree
21	College graduate (4-year degree)
2	Post-graduate study
20	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=711
55	Female
45	Male
<1	Another gender identity [SPECIFY]
<1	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=711
55	Married
5	Living with a partner
13	Widowed
17	Divorced or separated
10	Never married
0	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	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=711
34	Yes
64	No
2	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

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

%	n=711
56	White
37	Hispanic/Latino
2	Black or African American
2	American Indian or Alaska Native
1	Asian
<1	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
<1	Some other race [SPECIFY]
<1	Multi-race [SPECIFY]
0	Don't know (VOL)
2	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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=711
37	Moderate
34	Conservative
22	Liberal
1	Other [SPECIFY]
3	Don't know
3	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D10. Which political party do you belong to? (READ LIST) [ROTATE ORDER]

%	n=711
47	Democratic
30	Republican
1	Working Families
1	Green
2	Libertarian
<1	Better for America
<1	Constitution
<1	Socialism and Liberation
11	Other [SPECIFY] (VOL)
3	Don't know (VOL)
5	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D11. What income range includes your household's total income from all sources in 2020? (READ LIST)

%	n=711
5	Less than \$10,000
16	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000
22	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000
19	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
14	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
11	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000
3	\$150,000 to less than \$200,000
3	\$200,000 or more
8	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D17. What is your primary source of news? (READ LIST) [SINGLE RESPONSE ONLY; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF 1-5]

%	n=711
61	TV
16	Websites
7	Print newspaper
6	Social media like Facebook or Twitter
6	Radio
1	Other [SPECIFY] (VOL)
2	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

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=711
26	TV
20	Email
17	Local newspaper
15	Social media like Facebook or Twitter
10	Mail
7	Phone call
4	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)

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.