VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact North Carolina Adults
Age 45 and Older, November 2021

Annotated Questionnaire

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For more information on the methodology or the survey, contact Cassandra Cantave at CCantave@aarp.org.

Interviews were conducted with 802 North Carolina residents age 45 and older between November 15, 2021 and November 30, 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 3.5% 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 North Carolina. 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 North Carolina. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation.")

Screener

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=802
0	Under 45 [TERMINATE]
14	45-49
15	50-54
16	55-59
15	60-64
12	65-69
13	70-74
6	75-79
5	80-84
4	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 NORTH CAROLINA OR DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK FOR RESIDENT IN HH; TERMINATE IF NO ONE IN HH IS AGE 45+ RESIDENT OF NORTH CAROLINA] (Web: TERMINATE IF NOT A MATCH)

S4. Are you registered to vote in North Carolina?

%	n=802
97	Yes
3	No
<1	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

S5. Did you vote in the November 2020 election?

%	n=782
94	Yes
6	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=802
7	Self-employed full-time
3	Self-employed part-time
25	Employed full-time
4	Employed part-time
5	Unemployed and looking for work
46	Retired and not working at all
10	Or are you not in the labor force for other reasons
0	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=802	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Having adequate health insurance coverage	59	35	5	<1	1	0	0
B. Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future	55	34	9	1	1	<1	<1
C. Staying mentally sharp	59	36	4	<1	1	<1	0
D. Staying physically healthy	56	37	6	1	<1	0	<1
E. Paying for prescription drugs	44	35	11	5	4	1	<1
F. Paying for health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays	50	35	10	3	2	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=802
31	Yes
69	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=553
41	Yes
58	No
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Long-Term Care

GLTC1. How concerned are you about the following? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=802	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Not very concerned %	Not at all concerned %	Don't know %	Refused %
C. Having long-term care or home health services available	36	33	19	7	5	<1	<1
D. Continuing to drive or get around as you get older	37	30	17	9	7	1	<1
F. Providing support, help, or caregiving for a loved one	37	31	19	7	6	1	<1

LTCC1. The cost of nursing home care in North Carolina is 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? (READ LIST)

%	n=802
15	Very confident
17	Somewhat confident
16	Not very confident
49	Not confident at all
3	Don't know (VOL)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

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? Would you rely on [ITEM]? (Web: "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?") [RANDOMIZE]

n=802	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Medicaid	59	37	4	<1
B. Long-term care insurance	44	54	2	1
C. Your savings	53	46	1	1
D. Assistance from family members	39	60	1	1
E. Your income	51	46	2	2
F. State government programs	62	34	4	1

COVID-19

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

%	n=802
79	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)
2	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

CVD-11a. [IF CVD-11=Yes] Have you gotten, or do you plan to get the booster when available?

%	n=660
42	Yes, already got the booster
40	Yes, plan to get the booster
9	No, I do not plan to get the booster
9	Not sure (VOL)
0	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

Wealth

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=802	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	61	29	8	1	1	0	<1
H. Having good employment opportunities in your community	29	37	17	8	8	1	<1
I. Protection from age discrimination	36	33	17	8	5	1	<1
J. Maintaining relevant job skills and experience	22	31	25	11	10	2	<1
K. [IF S3≠Retired and not working at all] Having enough income or savings to retire (n=434)	63	27	7	1	1	0	<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=350)	44	34	15	2	4	1	<1
M. Protecting yourself against consumer fraud	49	37	10	2	2	<1	0
N. Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices	49	36	10	3	1	<1	<1
O. Having online security	39	35	17	5	4	1	<1

Retirement

RET23. [IF S3≠Retired and not working at all] Has the COVID pandemic caused you to make any changes to your retirement plans, like...? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE]

n=434	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Delayed retirement	16	81	3	0
B. Stopped contributions to investments	21	76	4	0
C. Tapped into savings or a 401(k) since March 2020	23	75	2	0
D. Put off buying or selling your home	10	88	2	<1

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=802
27	Retirement/ Social Security/ finances/ cost-of-living
21	Access to healthcare (finding insurance, providers, etc.)
17	Health generally/ health problems
8	Economy
6	Healthcare cost (insurance cost, cost for services)
3	Government
3	Prescription drug costs
2	Employment
2	Transportation
1	Staying involved/ connected/ contributing to society
1	Not being respected/ accepted
1	Assistance/ care at home
1	Housing
1	COVID-19/ coronavirus/ pandemic
1	Keeping up with technology
1	Loneliness/ social isolation
<1	Racial justice
<1	Climate change/ environment
0	Nursing home safety
9	Other
6	Don't know/ refused

Independent Living

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=802	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	52	34	10	2	2	<1	<1
Q. Having high quality long-term care in your community	40	41	15	2	2	<1	0
R. Getting to the places you need to go independently	46	41	10	2	2	<1	<1
AA. Staying in your own community as you get older	35	37	20	5	3	1	<1
BD. Living in a community that meets your needs as you get older	41	35	17	4	3	1	<1
S. Caring for a loved one	51	34	8	3	2	1	<1

Isolation

ISO2. How often do you feel the following? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE]

n=802	Very Often %	Often %	Sometimes %	Rarely %	Never %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Lacking companionship	12	6	20	17	45	<1	<1
B. Feeling left out	8	7	22	21	41	1	1
C. Feeling isolated from others	8	7	23	19	43	<1	<1

ISO6. Would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor on having the following?
[RANDOMIZE]

n=802	Excellent %	Very good %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Don't know %	Refused %
B. Activities geared specifically toward older adults	10	18	27	20	17	8	<1
C. Activities that offer senior discounts	9	19	27	19	14	12	<1
E. Activities that involve both younger and older people	10	19	27	19	17	8	<1
F. A variety of cultural activities for diverse populations	10	20	26	20	16	8	<1
H. Continuing education classes or social clubs to pursue new interests, hobbies, or passions	11	22	28	18	14	7	<1

ISO11. Have you experienced any of the following in the past year, since November 2020? (READ LIST)
[RANDOMIZE; ANCHOR ISO11-F]

n=802	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Money problems not related to loss of income or a new expense. Money is just tight.	40	59	1	<1
B. Stress related to your job	25	74	1	1
C. Major family conflict	20	79	1	1
D. A major personal injury, illness, or disease diagnosis or personal health problem—not including a disability	28	71	1	<1
E. Went from living with someone to living on your own	11	88	1	<1
F. Another major life stressor in the last year [SPECIFY]	20	79	<1	1

ISO51. Different people have different passions in life, or topics that interest them. How about you? Would you be interested in attending events or workshops on the following? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE]

n=802	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Personal finances, such as money management, saving, or investing	40	59	1	<1
B. Health or wellness, such as diet and exercise	59	40	1	<1
C. Connecting with others in person or via online social networks	42	56	1	<1
E. Learning and staying mentally sharp	71	28	1	<1
F. Technology, such as understanding or using technology	49	50	1	<1
H. Employment trends, job opportunities, or career growth	24	75	1	<1
I. What's going on in your local community, such as news or initiatives	48	49	2	1
K. Media or entertainment, such as shows or movies	52	47	1	<1
L. Culture, such as music, art, books, or theater	57	42	<1	<1
M. Politics or current affairs, such as national politics or current affairs, or international relations	41	58	1	<1
N. Food or cooking	51	48	1	<1
O. Environmental issues, such as preservation or living a "green" lifestyle	41	58	1	<1
P. Lifestyle, such as fashion, shopping, or sports	36	64	1	<1
R. Parenting, family, children, or grandchildren	37	62	1	<1
S. Issue or policy areas, such as Social Security, Medicare, or prescription drugs	54	45	1	<1

Aging

FP7. To what degree do each of the following statements describe your personal view? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=802	Describes my view...					Don't know %	Refused %
	Perfectly %	Very well %	Somewhat %	Not very well %	Not at all %		
A. Having a purpose in life keeps you engaged and fulfilled.	43	41	14	2	1	<1	0
B. People should not let age define how they live.	46	34	15	2	3	0	<1
C. People should feel good about their age.	43	36	17	3	2	0	<1
D. Aging isn't good or bad, it's just a normal part of life.	43	38	14	2	2	<1	<1
E. It is a privilege to grow old.	39	35	15	4	7	<1	<1
F. Old age is a depressing stage of life.	8	10	21	20	41	1	<1

Demographics

D1. 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=802
84	Yes
15	No
1	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

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=802
19	Yes, I have
46	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=802
30	Yes
68	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=802
6	0 through 12 th grade (no diploma)
16	High school graduate (or equivalent)
5	Post- high school vocational or technical training
34	Some college (no degree), Associate's degree, 2-year college degree
21	College graduate (4-year degree)
3	Post-graduate study
15	Graduate or professional degrees (Master's degree/ PhD/ Law)
<1	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=802
54	Female
46	Male
0	Other 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=802
55	Married
3	Living with a partner
13	Widowed
17	Divorced or separated
11	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=802
33	Yes
65	No
1	Don't know
1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

D7. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino background?

%	n=802
5	Yes
94	No
1	Don't know
1	Refused (Web: 'Prefer not to say')

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

%	n=802
73	White
21	Black or African American
3	American Indian or Alaska Native
1	Asian
0	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=802
39	Conservative
32	Moderate
23	Liberal
<1	Other [SPECIFY]
3	Don't know
3	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D10. Are you...? (READ LIST) [ROTATE ORDER]

%	n=802
36	Democrat
32	Republican
26	Independent
<1	Other [SPECIFY] (VOL)
1	Don't know (VOL)
4	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=802
6	Less than \$10,000
14	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000
23	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000
19	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
13	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
10	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000
3	\$150,000 to less than \$200,000
3	\$200,000 or more
10	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D4a. Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer?

%	n=802
4	Yes
94	No
0	Not sure
2	Refused (VOL) (Web: 'Prefer not to say")

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.