VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact District of Columbia Adults
Age 45 and Older, October 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 704 District of Columbia residents age 45 and older between September 30, 2021 and October 12, 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 District of Columbia. 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 District of Columbia. 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=704
0	Under 45 [TERMINATE]
15	45-49
15	50-54
13	55-59
14	60-64
14	65-69
11	70-74
7	75-79
5	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 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OR DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK FOR RESIDENT IN HH; TERMINATE IF NO ONE IN HH IS AGE 45+ RESIDENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA] (Web: TERMINATE IF NOT A MATCH)

S4. Are you registered to vote in The District of Columbia?

%	n=704
96	Yes
4	No
<1	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

S5. [IF S4=Yes] And did you vote in the November 2020 election?

%	n=675
95	Yes
4	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=704
7	Self-employed full-time
3	Self-employed part-time
30	Employed full-time
3	Employed part-time
8	Unemployed and looking for work
43	Retired and not working at all
5	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=704	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Having adequate health insurance coverage	62	32	3	1	2	<1	0
B. Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future	56	32	8	2	2	1	<1
C. Staying mentally sharp	63	33	3	1	1	<1	0
D. Staying physically healthy	61	33	4	<1	1	<1	0
E. Paying for prescription drugs	38	38	14	4	4	2	<1
F. Paying for health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays	49	34	9	3	4	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=704
29	Yes
71	No
<1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	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=502
44	Yes
56	No
<1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Grandparenting

GRP-1. Are you or someone you know in The District of Columbia providing primary care and financial support for a grandchild? (Web: Add 'Select all that apply.') [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES FOR 1-2]

%	n=704
8	Yes, I am
16	Yes, someone I know is
77	No
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

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? (And is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include "And is that strongly or somewhat?")

%	n=704
69	Strongly support
20	Somewhat support
3	Somewhat oppose
2	Strongly oppose
4	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

COVID-19

CVD-6. How worried are you about getting COVID-19 in the next year? (READ LIST)

%	n=704
17	Extremely worried
14	Very worried
32	Somewhat worried
23	Not very worried
14	Not at all worried
<1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<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=704	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	55	31	8	2	4	<1	<1
H. Having good employment opportunities in your community	36	31	17	5	10	1	<1
I. Protection from age discrimination	38	36	16	6	4	1	0
J. Maintaining relevant job skills and experience	26	33	21	8	10	2	1
K. [IF S3=Retired and not working at all] Having enough income or savings to retire (n=405)	63	29	4	1	3	<1	0
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=365)	48	31	14	3	4	1	<1
M. Protecting yourself against consumer fraud	44	37	14	3	2	<1	0
N. Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices	48	34	12	4	2	1	0
O. Having online security	35	36	19	4	5	2	<1

Utilities

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
30	Major problem
33	Minor problem
35	Not a problem
1	Don't know
1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

GUTIL3. Some utility companies are proposing to raise the fixed monthly customer charge. This charge is usually a fixed amount that customers pay before they use any gas or electricity. Do you support or oppose the utility companies increasing the fixed monthly charge— the charge you pay before you use the utilities' service? (And is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include "And is that strongly or somewhat?")

%	n=704
4	Strongly support
8	Somewhat support
5	Neither support nor oppose (VOL)
19	Somewhat oppose
58	Strongly oppose
5	Don't know
1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

GUTIL6. Utility companies have the ability to change how electric rates are set, and some states have a review process that occurs before these changes are made. How often should there be a full review process on utility company rates and operations in DC? [CODE RESPONSE]

%	n=704
50	Every year
18	Every 2 years
13	Every 5 years
6	Something else [SPECIFY]
13	Don't know
1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Long-Term Care Costs

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? (READ LIST)

%	n=704
21	Very confident
24	Somewhat confident
17	Not very confident
36	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?")

n=704	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Medicaid	59	39	3	<1
B. Long-term care insurance	50	46	3	<1
C. Your savings	60	39	1	<1
D. Assistance from family members	35	63	2	<1
E. Your income	53	44	2	1
F. Government programs	63	32	5	<1

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? (READ LIST)

%	n=704
34	Long-term care services are <u>not</u> covered
31	Long-term care services are covered
34	Don't know (VOL)
1	Refused (VOL) (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=704
24	Retirement/ Social Security/ finances/ cost-of-living
19	Health generally/ health problems
19	Access to healthcare (finding insurance, providers, etc.)
5	Housing
5	Employment
4	Healthcare cost (insurance cost, cost for services)
4	Assistance/ care at home
2	Economy
2	COVID-19/ coronavirus/ pandemic
1	Loneliness/ social isolation
1	Not being respected/ accepted
1	Climate change/ environment
1	Transportation
1	Prescription drug costs
1	Staying involved/ connected/ contributing to society
1	Government
1	Keeping up with technology
<1	Racial justice
<1	Nursing home safety
9	Other
9	Don't know/ refused

Independent Living and Long-Term Care

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=704	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	44	35	14	4	3	1	0
Q. Having high quality long-term care in your community	45	39	9	2	3	2	<1
R. Getting to the places you need to go independently	43	41	12	2	2	<1	<1
S. Caring for a loved one	49	32	10	2	5	2	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=704
83	Yes
16	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=704
10	Yes, I have
42	Yes, a family member has
49	No
<1	Don't know
0	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=704
5	0 through 12 th grade (no diploma)
12	High school graduate (or equivalent)
3	Post- high school vocational or technical training
21	Some college (no degree), Associate's degree, 2-year college degree
21	College graduate (4-year degree)
5	Post-graduate study
33	Graduate or professional degrees (Master's degree/ PhD/ Law)
<1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

D4. How do you identify your gender? (CODE BELOW; READ TO CLARIFY IF NEEDED)

%	n=704
55	Female
45	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=704
35	Married
3	Living with a partner
10	Widowed
15	Divorced or separated
37	Never married
<1	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=704
43	Yes
56	No
1	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

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

%	n=704
3	Yes
97	No
<1	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: 'Prefer not to say')

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

%	n=704
57	Black or African American
38	White
2	Asian
1	American Indian or Alaska Native
<1	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
<1	Some other race [SPECIFY]
1	Multi-race [SPECIFY]
<1	Don't know (VOL)
<1	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=704
42	Liberal
34	Moderate
16	Conservative
2	Other [SPECIFY]
3	Don't know
3	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=704
66	Democrat
21	Independent
6	Republican
<1	Other [SPECIFY] (VOL)
1	Don't know (VOL)
3	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=704
10	Less than \$10,000
10	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000
13	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000
12	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
10	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
11	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000
8	\$150,000 to less than \$200,000
15	\$200,000 or more
10	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=704
5	Yes
92	No
<1	Don't know
3	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.