VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Maryland Adults
Age 45 and Older, November 2021

Annotated Questionnaire

VITAL VOICES

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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 Maryland residents age 45 and older between October 29, 2021 and November 10, 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 Maryland. 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 Maryland. 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]
11	45-49
16	50-54
16	55-59
19	60-64
13	65-69
12	70-74
4	75-79
4	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 MARYLAND OR DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK FOR RESIDENT IN HH; TERMINATE IF NO ONE IN HH IS AGE 45+ RESIDENT OF MARYLAND] (Web: TERMINATE IF NOT A MATCH)

S4. Are you registered to vote in Maryland?

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

S5. Did you vote in the November 2020 election?

%	n=658
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=704
8	Self-employed full-time
4	Self-employed part-time
31	Employed full-time
5	Employed part-time
7	Unemployed and looking for work
36	Retired and not working at all
8	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	65	27	6	1	1	0	0
B. Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future	59	30	9	1	1	<1	0
C. Staying mentally sharp	65	29	5	<1	1	0	0
D. Staying physically healthy	61	32	6	1	1	0	0
E. Paying for prescription drugs	47	32	14	4	3	<1	<1
F. Paying for health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays	52	32	11	3	2	1	0

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
28	Yes
72	No
0	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=509
44	Yes
55	No
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

CARE7. [IF CARE1=Yes] Thinking about the person you are providing care to the most, how often are you [ITEM]? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=195	Daily %	Weekly %	Monthly %	Less frequently than monthly %	Not at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Assisting with bathing or dressing	17	7	1	9	66	<1	0
B. Providing transportation to appointments	18	23	25	13	22	0	0
C. Taking them shopping or shopping for them	16	41	25	8	10	1	0
D. Helping them with meals	40	19	13	8	21	0	0
E. Helping them to manage finances	19	16	27	13	25	1	0
F. Aiding with household chores	35	20	12	9	24	0	0
G. Providing social activities or companionship	34	26	11	13	16	<1	0
H. Providing maintenance or upkeep of their property	20	19	16	10	34	0	0
I. Overseeing their medication management	27	10	12	9	41	1	0
J. Being responsible for medical or nursing tasks	23	11	10	14	42	0	0

COVID-19

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

%	n=704
82	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
10	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)

CVD-11a. [IF CVD-11=Yes] Do you plan to get the booster when available?

%	n=599
81	Yes
6	No
13	Not sure
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Long-Term Care

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

n=704	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Not very concerned %	Not concerned at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
B. Paying for long-term care such as nursing home or home health services, etc.	29	25	25	11	9	<1	0
C. Having long-term care or home health services available	29	28	26	11	6	<1	<1
D. Continuing to drive or get around as you get older	25	30	23	13	8	<1	<1
E. Feeling isolated or lonely	14	16	23	21	26	<1	0

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=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	62	27	8	2	1	<1	0
H. Having good employment opportunities in your community	29	33	20	9	8	2	<1
I. Protection from age discrimination	38	32	20	6	4	1	0
J. Maintaining relevant job skills and experience	25	31	25	9	8	1	<1
K. [IF S3=Retired and not working at all] Having enough income or savings to retire (n=447)	70	25	3	1	1	<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=385)	52	28	15	4	1	1	0
M. Protecting yourself against consumer fraud	50	33	12	3	1	1	0
N. Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices	50	34	12	2	1	1	0
O. Having online security	45	34	13	4	4	1	<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=704
27	Retirement/ Social Security/ finances/ cost-of-living
21	Health generally/ health problems
19	Access to healthcare (finding insurance, providers, etc.)
8	Healthcare cost (insurance cost, cost for services)
4	Economy
3	Prescription drug costs
3	Employment
3	Government
2	Assistance/ care at home
2	Housing
1	Not being respected/ accepted
1	Staying involved/ connected/ contributing to society
1	Loneliness/ social isolation
1	COVID-19/ coronavirus/ pandemic
1	Keeping up with technology
1	Climate change/ environment
<1	Racial justice
<1	Transportation
0	Nursing home safety
7	Other
5	Don't know/ refused

Attitudes on Aging

FP14. Do you feel the following statements are true or false? If you are not sure, please just indicate whatever BEST corresponds with your feelings. (And is that definitely (true/false) or somewhat (true/false)?) [RANDOMIZE ORDER] (Web: Do not include “And is that definitely (true/false) or somewhat (true/false)?”)

n=704	Definitely true %	Somewhat true %	Somewhat false %	Definitely false %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Having more aches and pains is an accepted part of aging.	41	44	9	5	<1	<1
D. I expect that as I get older, I will become more forgetful.	25	51	16	8	1	0
F. Every year that people age, their energy levels go down a little more.	31	48	16	5	<1	0
G. Quality of life declines as people age.	25	44	21	9	1	<1
I. Being lonely is just something that happens when people get old.	12	31	28	28	1	<1
K. I expect that as I get older, I will spend less time with friends and family.	17	30	26	26	1	<1
L. It's normal to be depressed when you are old.	10	28	29	32	1	<1

Isolation and Mental Health Issues

ISO33. The following list includes some ways you may have felt or behaved. How often you have felt this way in the past week? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=704	Rarely or none of the time (less than 1 day) %	Some or a little of the time (1-2 days) %	Occasionally or a moderate amount of time (3-4 days) %	Most or all of the time (5-7 days) %	Don't know %	Refused %
F. I felt depressed	62	18	13	7	<1	<1
H. I felt hopeful about the future	16	17	26	39	1	<1
K. My sleep was restless	38	26	18	18	<1	<1
P. I enjoyed life	6	14	19	61	<1	<1
R. I felt sad	55	23	14	7	<1	<1

ISO36. Are you currently seeing a mental health professional, or are you in group therapy for issues related to [ITEM]? [ROTATE ORDER OF ISO36_A AND ISO36_B]

n=704	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Depression	10	90	<1	1
B. Anxiety	9	90	0	1

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

n=704	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Personal finances, such as money management, saving, or investing	46	53	<1	0
B. Health or wellness, such as diet and exercise	53	47	<1	<1
D. Personal safety or security, such as avoiding fraud or scams	48	52	1	0
K. Media or entertainment, such as shows or movies	58	41	1	<1
L. Culture, such as music, art, books, or theater	60	39	<1	<1
N. Food or cooking	50	50	<1	<1
S. Issue or policy areas, such as Social Security, Medicare, or prescription drugs	49	50	1	0

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	52	32	11	3	1	1	0
Q. Having high quality long-term care in your community	43	37	16	2	1	2	0
R. Getting to the places you need to go independently	46	40	12	1	1	0	<1
S. Caring for a loved one	51	32	11	3	2	1	<1

Livable Communities

LIVCOMM1. How concerned are you about the following? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE]

n=704	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Not very concerned %	Not concerned at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Being able to afford to remain in your home as you age	46	26	13	9	6	0	<1
B. Being able to get around your community to get the things you need and do the things you want to do as you age	40	31	17	8	4	<1	0
C. Being connected with others in your community and having opportunities to socialize as you age	26	25	27	15	7	<1	0
D. Being able to afford groceries or household necessities	46	23	14	11	6	0	0
E. Having access to transportation if you are unable to drive	42	30	18	5	4	0	1
F. Being able to find affordable housing if you needed to downsize or move to another community	40	24	17	12	7	<1	0
CONSUM1_B. Affording the cost of your utilities	40	24	17	12	7	<1	0

REP2. For each of the following, would you rate your community as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?
(READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE]

n=704	Excellent %	Very good %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Don't know %	Refused %
H. Streets and paths that allow people of all ages and ability levels to walk safely	16	22	24	21	13	4	0
I. Separate protected bike lanes for bicyclists	7	14	22	21	27	8	1
G. Enforced speed limits	13	21	29	17	16	4	<1
K. Public bus service	9	19	21	19	19	11	1
L. Accessible and well-maintained bus stops	10	18	24	16	19	12	1
J. Affordable housing options that are in walking distance to your downtown or village center	7	13	21	26	23	8	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
89	Yes
10	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
16	Yes, I have
39	Yes, a family member has
48	No
<1	Don't know
<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=704
4	0 through 12 th grade (no diploma)
16	High school graduate (or equivalent)
3	Post- high school vocational or technical training
28	Some college (no degree), Associate's degree, 2-year college degree
23	College graduate (4-year degree)
4	Post-graduate study
22	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
54	Female
46	Male
<1	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
51	Married
5	Living with a partner
10	Widowed
18	Divorced or separated
15	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
41	Yes
59	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
96	No
<1	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=704
59	White
32	Black or African American
7	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")

D14. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you from participating fully in work, school, household, or other activities?

%	n=702
26	Yes
74	No
<1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

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
38	Moderate
28	Conservative
23	Liberal
<1	Other [SPECIFY]
6	Don't know
4	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=704
50	Democrat
22	Republican
20	Independent
1	Progressive
<1	Other [SPECIFY] (VOL)
2	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=704
4	Less than \$10,000
10	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000
18	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000
14	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
14	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
16	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000
8	\$150,000 to less than \$200,000
8	\$200,000 or more
9	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=704
3	Yes
95	No
1	Not sure
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.