VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Virginia Adults
Age 45 and Older, December 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 395 residents of Virginia age 45 and older between November 29, 2021 and December 6, 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 5.0% 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 Virginia. 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 Virginia. 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] (Web: "Our study is interested in the opinions of certain age groups. What is your age as of your last birthday?")

%	n=379
0	Under 45
15	45-49
17	50-54
14	55-59
18	60-64
11	65-69
10	70-74
8	75-79
5	80-84
3	85+
0	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say") [TERMINATE]

S2. What is your 5-digit zip code? _____ [ENTER ZIP CODE; TERMINATE IF NOT RESIDENT OF VIRGINIA] (Web: TERMINATE IF NOT A MATCH)

S4. Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

%	n=379
96	Yes
3	No
1	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

S5. [IF S4#No] Did you vote in the November 2020 election?

%	n=367
96	Yes
3	No
<1	Don't know (Web: "Don't recall")
1	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

S5VA. [IF S4#No] And did you vote in the November 2021 state elections in Virginia, including the Governor's race?

%	n=367
91	Yes
9	No
0	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=379
9	Self-employed full-time
3	Self-employed part-time
35	Employed full-time
5	Employed part-time
4	Unemployed and looking for work
36	Retired and not working at all
8	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=379	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Having adequate health insurance coverage	55	36	7	1	1	1	0
B. Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future	45	38	12	3	2	1	0
C. Staying mentally sharp	53	41	5	1	1	<1	0
D. Staying physically healthy	47	44	7	<1	1	<1	0
E. Paying for prescription drugs	35	38	16	6	3	2	<1
F. Paying for health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays	40	41	12	3	2	2	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=379
30	Yes
71	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=267
47	Yes
52	No
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

CARE13. [IF CARE1=Yes] As a caregiver, do you ever [ITEM]? [RANDOMIZE]

n=112	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Feel stressed emotionally due to your caregiving responsibilities	53	47	0	0
B. Feel stressed in trying to balance your job and family	42	57	1	0
C. Find it difficult to maintain a healthy diet	39	61	0	0
D. Find it difficult to get enough rest	48	52	0	0
E. Find it difficult to exercise regularly	49	49	2	1
F. Find it difficult to take care of your household responsibilities	47	53	0	0
G. Experience problems with your health	46	54	0	0
H. Find it difficult to make time to visit your doctor	17	83	0	0
I. Feel strained financially due to your caregiving responsibilities	35	64	1	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=379
81	Yes, already got the COVID-19 vaccine (either all shots or 1 shot out of 2)
2	Yes, plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine
12	No, I do not plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine
2	Don't know (VOL)
4	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

Prescription Drugs

PER2. Approximately how many different prescription medications do you take on a regular basis such as daily, weekly, or monthly? (READ LIST)

%	n=379
22	None
15	1 prescription medication
25	2 to 3 prescription medications
19	4 to 5 prescription medications
18	6 or more prescription medications
0	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

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

%	n=379
28	Nothing/ \$0
11	More than \$0 but less than \$10 per month
25	\$10 to less than \$50 per month
17	\$50 to less than \$100 per month
8	\$100 to less than \$200 per month
6	\$200 to less than \$500 per month
2	\$500 to less than \$1,000 per month
1	More than \$1,000 per month
2	Don't know (VOL)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

PER9. [IF PER2=2, 3, 4, or 5 AND PER3=2-8] Many people face difficult decisions when buying prescription medications. In the past 12 months, have you [ITEM]? [RANDOMIZE]

n=234	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Delayed getting a prescription filled because of the cost	20	80	0	0
B. Taken less medicine than prescribed to make it last longer	18	82	0	0
C. Cut back on such items as food, fuel, or electricity to afford prescription drugs	15	85	<1	0
D. Decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost of the drug	20	80	0	0
I. Decided not to fill a prescription to use the money for a living expense	13	86	<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=379	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	48	36	13	2	2	0	0
H. Having good employment opportunities in your community	22	36	23	9	7	2	1
I. Protection from age discrimination	22	38	26	9	4	1	0
J. Maintaining relevant job skills and experience	18	31	32	11	8	2	<1
K. [IF S3=Retired and not working at all] Having enough income or savings to retire (n=242)	57	33	6	2	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=209)	33	37	22	5	3	<1	0
M. Protecting yourself against consumer fraud	43	37	16	3	1	0	0
N. Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices	36	43	15	4	1	1	<1
O. Having online security	34	37	17	5	5	1	<1

Fraud

FRA4_1. How concerned are you, personally, about each of the following? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE]

n=379	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Not very concerned %	Not concerned at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Becoming the target or victim of a phone scam or fraud over the phone	19	15	18	27	22	0	0
B. Becoming the target or victim of an internet scam or fraud	16	23	21	22	17	<1	0
C. Having your identity stolen by someone who uses your name and other identifying information to open new credit accounts	25	30	29	9	8	0	0
D. Having hackers get access to your identifying information from companies that you have done business with	23	30	30	11	6	0	0
E. Losing money due to unfair or fraudulent financial practices	18	23	27	20	12	0	0

FRA19. In the last 12 months, have you or a loved one been a victim of a scam or fraud? (READ LIST AS NEEDED TO CLARIFY) [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED FOR 1 & 3]

%	n=379
13	Yes, I (phone: "you") have been a victim
9	Yes, a loved one has been a victim
79	No
2	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Economic Issues

ECON2. In the past 12 months, that is since November 2020 until now, have you [ITEM]? [RANDOMIZE]

n=379	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Found it more difficult to pay for essential items such as food, gas, and medicine	27	72	1	0
B. Found it more difficult to pay for utilities such as heating, cooling, or phone service	24	75	1	0
C. Found it more difficult to pay your mortgage or rent	15	84	1	0
D. Found it more difficult to pay your credit cards	18	82	<1	0
E. Found it more difficult to pay for education expenses	9	89	2	0
F. Postponed paying some bills	20	80	0	0
G. Started a new job	10	89	1	0
H. [IF AGE 45+ AND S3≠Retired and not working at all] Postponed plans to retire (n=242)	21	76	3	0
I. [IF AGE 45+ AND S3≠Retired and not working at all] Prematurely withdrew funds from your 401(k), IRA, or other investments (n=242)	11	87	2	0
J. Moved to a smaller house or apartment	4	95	1	0
K. [IF AGE 45+ AND S3≠Retired and not working at all] Stopped putting money into a 401(k), IRA, or other retirement account (n=242)	19	79	3	0
L. [IF AGE 45+] Made changes to your home so you could live there longer (n=378)	26	73	1	0
M. Bought a new house	2	98	<1	0
N. Lost your job	8	92	<1	0

Retirement Issues

RET1. How concerned are you about the following? (READ LIST) [RANDOMIZE]

n=379	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Not very concerned %	Not concerned at all %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. [IF S3≠Retired and not working at all] Having enough income or savings to retire (n=242)	22	25	19	15	19	1	0
B. Ensuring the solvency and security of your retirement plans	16	20	24	15	22	3	<1
C. [IF S3≠Retired and not working at all] Having to postpone retirement (n=242)	15	15	18	20	28	3	0
E. Having enough income to live independently to not need a loved one to provide caregiving	19	21	20	15	23	1	<1
F. [IF S3≠Retired and not working at all] Being able to retire when you are ready to do so (n=242)	18	23	18	12	27	2	1
G. Having to go back to work after you retire	11	12	18	20	37	3	<1
H. You may have to reduce your standard of living in retirement	12	18	26	17	25	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=379
25	Retirement/ Social Security/ finances/ cost-of-living
21	Access to healthcare (finding insurance, providers, etc.)
19	Health generally/ health problems
10	Economy
4	Government
4	Healthcare cost (insurance cost, cost for services)
3	Prescription drug costs
2	Assistance/ care at home
2	Employment
2	COVID-19/ coronavirus/ pandemic
1	Not being respected/ accepted
1	Staying involved/ connected/ contributing to society
1	Housing
1	Keeping up with technology
1	Loneliness/ social isolation
1	Racial justice
1	Climate change/ environment
<1	Transportation
0	Nursing home safety
6	Other
6	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=379	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	37	40	16	4	2	1	0
Q. Having high quality long-term care in your community	30	41	21	3	2	2	<1
R. Getting to the places you need to go independently	33	46	18	2	2	0	0
AA. Staying in your own community as you get older	22	36	28	7	6	1	0
BD. Living in a community that meets your needs as you get older	23	43	23	7	2	2	0
S. Caring for a loved one	45	39	10	3	2	2	<1
LIVCOMM1C. Being connected with others in your community and having opportunities to socialize as you age	20	34	33	9	4	1	0
LIVCOMM1E. Having access to transportation if you are unable to drive	35	39	20	4	1	0	<1

Isolation and Mental Health

ISO8. How is your overall health at this point in time? (READ LIST)

%	n=379
14	Excellent
35	Very Good
31	Good
14	Fair
6	Poor
0	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

ISO9. How is your brain health or mental sharpness at this point in time? (READ LIST)

%	n=379
30	Excellent
40	Very Good
22	Good
6	Fair
1	Poor
<1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

FP20. Do you think that you have more problems with memory than others your age?

%	n=379
9	Yes
87	No
5	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

FP19. People do different things for mental sharpness. As part of your regular routine, do you [ITEM]?
[RANDOMIZE]

n=379	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Eat nutritious and well-balanced meals	79	20	1	0
B. Exercise	70	30	0	<1
C. Manage stress effectively	78	21	1	0
D. Get enough restful sleep	65	35	0	0
E. Engage in mentally stimulating activities	83	16	1	0

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

n=379	Very often %	Often %	Sometimes %	Rarely %	Never %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Lacking companionship	7	7	15	26	46	0	0
B. Feeling left out	5	6	17	30	43	0	0
C. Feeling isolated from others	5	6	21	27	41	0	<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=379	Yes %	No %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Personal finances, such as money management, saving, or investing	36	64	1	0
B. Health or wellness, such as diet and exercise	42	57	1	0
E. Learning and staying mentally sharp	53	45	2	0
F. Technology, such as understanding or using technology	40	59	1	0
H. Employment trends, job opportunities, or career growth	20	79	1	0
I. What's going on in your local community, such as news or initiatives	49	49	2	0
R. Parenting, family, children, or grandchildren	26	73	1	0
S. Issue or policy areas, such as Social Security, Medicare, or prescription drugs	43	56	1	0

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=379
83	Yes
14	No
3	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=379
22	Yes, I have
36	Yes, a family member has
46	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=379
22	Yes
77	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=379
5	0 through 12 th grade (no diploma)
17	High school graduate (or equivalent)
5	Post- high school vocational or technical training
23	Some college (no degree), Associate's degree, 2-year college degree
25	College graduate (4-year degree)
3	Post-graduate study
23	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=379
51	Female
48	Male
0	Another gender identity [SPECIFY]
0	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=379
61	Married
2	Living with a partner
10	Widowed
15	Divorced or separated
12	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=379
35	Yes
63	No
2	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

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

%	n=379
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=379
81	White
13	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)
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=379
37	Conservative
34	Moderate
19	Liberal
1	Other [SPECIFY]
5	Don't know
3	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=379
34	Independent
33	Republican
28	Democrat
<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=379
2	Less than \$10,000
9	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000
16	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000
16	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
13	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
13	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000
9	\$150,000 to less than \$200,000
9	\$200,000 or more
12	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

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

%	n=379
2	Yes
95	No
<1	Not sure
2	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.