2021 AARP Survey on the Perceptions Related to a Dementia Diagnosis (Attitudes Among Healthcare Providers): Annotated Questionnaire

July 2021

Methods

Survey sponsor	AARP
Survey/Data collection supplier	Ipsos
Population represented	Physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and psychiatrists / psychologists; must evaluate people for the presence of cognitive impairment; approximately 25% or more of patients must be age 50 and over. Achieved a mix of specialties including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family medicine/Internal medicine (n=296)• Geriatrics (n=48)• Neurology (n=84)• Psychiatry/Psychology (n=115)
Sample size	500
Mode of data collection	Online survey via a range of established healthcare panels
Start and end dates of data collection	March 11-17, 2021
Contact for more information	Laura Mehegan, lmehegan@aarp.org Chuck Rainville, grainville@aarp.org For media inquiries, contact media@aarp.org

Vendor

Ipsos Public Affairs has a strong tradition in working with sophisticated academic, government, and commercial researchers to provide high quality research, samples, and analyses. The larger Ipsos offers the fundamental knowledge for governmental agencies, academics, industries, industry, retailers, services companies and the media need to provide exceptional quality in research to make effective decisions. It delivers a comprehensive range of information and consultancy services. Ipsos is one of the leading survey research organizations worldwide, operating in 90 countries with over 16,000 employees. To learn more, visit www.ipsos.com.

Screening Questions

S1. What is your primary profession?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Physician	97
Nurse Practitioner	1
Physician assistant	1
Psychologist	0
Other [TERMINATE]	-

S2. In your role as a healthcare provider, are you ever in a position to evaluate people for the presence of cognitive impairment or dementia and/or provide a diagnosis?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Yes	100
No [TERMINATE]	-

S2_5 Have you ever provided a diagnosis of dementia?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
No	2
Yes, once or a few times	11
Yes, many times	87

S2_75 Do you or someone in your practice regularly conduct screenings for cognitive impairment or dementia?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Yes	91
No	9

S3. Approximately what percentage of your patients are age 50 or older?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
None [TERMINATE]	-
Less than 25% [TERMINATE]	-
25% to less than 50%	33
50% to less than 75%	52
75% or more	15

S4. Among your patients who are age 50 and older approximately what percentage are age 65 or older?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
None	-
Less than 25%	12
25% to less than 50%	37
50% to less than 75%	41
75% or more	10

S5. Among your patients who are age 50 and older approximately what percentage are age 75 or older?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
None	1
Less than 25%	49
25% to less than 50%	30
50% to less than 75%	14
75% or more	6

S6. Please indicate your current specialty or area of practice. (Check all that apply)

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Family medicine	51
Geriatrics	10
Internal medicine	10
Neurology	17
Psychiatry	23
Psychology	1
Emergency medicine	1
Other (please specify)	1

Main

For the following series of questions, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

1. My patients want to know if they are at higher risk than others for developing dementia.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Top 2 Box	87
Strongly agree	29
Agree	59
I don't know	6
Disagree	6
Strongly disagree	0

2. My patients want to know if they have dementia.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Top 2 Box	92
Strongly agree	34
Agree	58
I don't know	4
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree	0

3. My patients want me to examine them every year, so they know if they have developed dementia.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Top 2 Box	61
Strongly agree	15
Agree	46
I don't know	17
Disagree	21
Strongly disagree	1

4. My patients would like me to evaluate their cognitive function to get a baseline measurement so their cognitive function can be tracked over time.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	74
Strongly agree	19
Agree	55
I don't know	12
Disagree	12
Strongly disagree	1

5. My patients want me to examine them every year, so they know if they have developed cancer.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	56
Strongly agree	20
Agree	36
I don't know	9
Disagree	13
Strongly disagree	11
Not applicable	11

6. My patients want me to examine them every year, so they know if they have developed depression.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	43
Strongly agree	11
Agree	33
I don't know	14
Disagree	34
Strongly disagree	6
Not applicable	3

7. I do not believe there are currently any treatments available for dementia.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Top 2 Box	20
Strongly agree	3
Agree	17
I don't know	3
Disagree	57
Strongly disagree	20

8. I believe that finding out in the early stage of dementia increases the chance to treat the disease better.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Top 2 Box	84
Strongly agree	29
Agree	55
I don't know	9
Disagree	7
Strongly disagree	1

9. If my patients found out they had dementia at an early stage, they would have more time to plan for their future care.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Top 2 Box	95
Strongly agree	44
Agree	51
I don't know	3
Disagree	1
Strongly disagree	1

10. If my patients found out they had dementia at an early stage, they would have more time to plan their finances.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	96
Strongly agree	48
Agree	48
I don't know	3
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0

11. If my patients found out they had dementia at an early stage, they would prepare their advance directive or their living-will.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	92
Strongly agree	45
Agree	47
I don't know	7
Disagree	1
Strongly disagree	0

12. If my patients found out they had dementia at an early stage, they would be motivated to have a healthier lifestyle to potentially slow the progression of the disease.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	76
Strongly agree	29
Agree	48
I don't know	18
Disagree	5
Strongly disagree	0

13. If my patients found out they had dementia at an early stage, they would be more willing to participate in research about this disease.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	61
Strongly agree	17
Agree	44
I don't know	34
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree	0

14. If my patient had dementia, they would not want to know.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	21
Strongly agree	5
Agree	18
I don't know	12
Disagree	53
Strongly disagree	13

15. If my patient had dementia, they would not want their family to know.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	21
Strongly agree	2
Agree	19
I don't know	19
Disagree	51
Strongly disagree	9

16. If my patient had dementia, they may think they will be mistreated.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	26
Strongly agree	1
Agree	25
I don't know	31
Disagree	38
Strongly disagree	6

17. If my patient had dementia, they may think they will no longer be taken seriously.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	46
Strongly agree	2
Agree	44
I don't know	21
Disagree	29
Strongly disagree	4

18. If my patient had dementia, they may think they will be considered incompetent.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	69
Strongly agree	5
Agree	63
I don't know	16
Disagree	13
Strongly disagree	2

19. If my patient had dementia, they may think they will feel ashamed or embarrassed.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	69
Strongly agree	8
Agree	60
I don't know	16
Disagree	13
Strongly disagree	2

20. If my patient had dementia, they may want to give up on life.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	32
Strongly agree	1
Agree	31
I don't know	33
Disagree	31
Strongly disagree	4

21. If my patient had dementia, they may think they will not receive the best care for their other medical problems.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	28
Strongly agree	2
Agree	27
I don't know	23
Disagree	42
Strongly disagree	6

22. If my patient had dementia, they may think that they will no longer be listened to by me and other health professionals.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	33
Strongly agree	1
Agree	33
I don't know	20
Disagree	39
Strongly disagree	8

23. If my patient had dementia, they may be concerned their employer will find out.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	67
Strongly agree	13
Agree	54
I don't know	20
Disagree	11
Strongly disagree	2

24. If my patient had dementia, they would be afraid they could not afford health insurance.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	46
Strongly agree	6
Agree	40
I don't know	23
Disagree	26
Strongly disagree	4

25. If my patient had dementia, they would be afraid they could not get life insurance.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	69
Strongly agree	19
Agree	51
I don't know	23
Disagree	7
Strongly disagree	1

26. If my patient had dementia, they would be afraid they could not get long-term care insurance.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	75
Strongly agree	28
Agree	47
I don't know	19
Disagree	6
Strongly disagree	1

27. If my patient had dementia, they would be afraid they would lose their home.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	54
Strongly agree	10
Agree	43
I don't know	28
Disagree	18
Strongly disagree	1

28. If my patient had dementia, they would be afraid they would have to live in a nursing home.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	88
Strongly agree	33
Agree	55
I don't know	7
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree	1

29. If my patient had dementia, they would be afraid they would lose their driver's license and other privileges.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	89
Strongly agree	39
Agree	50
I don't know	8
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1

30. If my patient had dementia, they think they could not afford the cost of care.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	53
Strongly agree	9
Agree	43
I don't know	30
Disagree	15
Strongly disagree	2

31. If my patient had dementia, they think their family will suffer financially.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	70
Strongly agree	11
Agree	59
I don't know	22
Disagree	7
Strongly disagree	1

32. If my patient had dementia, they think their family will suffer emotionally.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	85
Strongly agree	19
Agree	66
I don't know	12
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1

33. If my patient had dementia, they think they would be depressed.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	73
Strongly agree	11
Agree	62
I don't know	21
Disagree	5
Strongly disagree	1

34. If my patient had dementia, they think they would be anxious.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Top 2 Box	67
Strongly agree	9
Agree	58
I don't know	23
Disagree	10
Strongly disagree	1

35. If my patient had dementia, they think they would be a burden to others.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Top 2 Box	88
Strongly agree	35
Agree	53
I don't know	8
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	2

For the following series of questions, please check all responses that apply.

36. How often do you feel patients should have their cognitive function assessed? (check all that apply)

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
When I feel it is necessary	49
When the patient requests it	46
When a family member requests it for the patient	43
Every year starting at age 65	39
Every few years starting at age 65	23
Every few years starting at age 50	22
Every year starting at age 50	16
Other	1

37. In your opinion, which of the following help with the symptoms of dementia? (check all that apply)

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Getting regular exercise	92
Engaging in cognitively stimulating activities	91
Engaging socially with others	89
Limiting alcohol consumption	83
Quitting smoking	79
Getting 7 to 8 hours of sleep per night	79
Eating a proper diet	78
Getting hearing aids if hearing loss is an issue	77
Managing stress effectively	74
Losing weight	43
Taking dietary supplements	26
Avoiding metals	16
Other	1

38. Which of the following actions do you take after you have diagnosed someone with dementia? (check all that apply)

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Advise them of the lifestyle changes that may slow the progression of the disease	75
Prescribe medication to relieve symptoms	74
Provide them with informational literature about dementia	56
Evaluate for hearing loss	49
Refer them to the online resources or informational websites	43
Refer them to a memory disorders clinic	35
Refer the family to counseling	29
Refer them to another healthcare provider with more experience with dementia	27
Refer the individual with the diagnosis to counseling	25
Order a PET scan	12
Enroll them in a clinical trial	10
Refer them to community resources	5
Order a lumbar puncture	4
Other	3
Not applicable	1
None of the above	0

For the following series of questions, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

39. There are things that can be done to improve the quality of life for people diagnosed with dementia.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	94
Strongly agree	34
Agree	60
I don't know	4
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1

40. There is no benefit to diagnosing a cognitive impairment in the early stages.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	10
Strongly agree	2
Agree	8
I don't know	7
Disagree	48
Strongly disagree	35

41. I am reluctant to diagnose my patients with dementia because the diagnosis impacts their independence.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	16
Strongly agree	1
Agree	15
I don't know	9
Disagree	55
Strongly disagree	20

42. I am reluctant to diagnose my patients with dementia because there is nothing that can be done to help them.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	9
Strongly agree	2
Agree	7
I don't know	6
Disagree	55
Strongly disagree	30

43. I do not always tell my patients when I suspect they have dementia.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	18
Strongly agree	1
Agree	17
I don't know	9
Disagree	48
Strongly disagree	25

44. Even if I think my patient has dementia, I am reluctant to tell them because I do not want to scare them.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	14
Strongly agree	0
Agree	13
I don't know	6
Disagree	53
Strongly disagree	28

45. I am reluctant to tell my patient they have dementia when it is still in a mild stage, so instead I tell them they are experiencing a cognitive decline.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	30
Strongly agree	1
Agree	28
I don't know	10
Disagree	43
Strongly disagree	17

46. No matter how difficult it is for someone to hear they have dementia I always tell them the truth.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	78
Strongly agree	26
Agree	52
I don't know	11
Disagree	11
Strongly disagree	1

47. Until there is a drug that can modify the diseases that cause dementia, there is nothing that can be done to help people with dementia.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	14
Strongly agree	3
Agree	11
I don't know	10
Disagree	58
Strongly disagree	19

48. I would rather tell a patient that they have “dementia” than tell them they have “Alzheimer’s Disease.”

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	38
Strongly agree	4
Agree	34
I don't know	21
Disagree	34
Strongly disagree	6

48a. My patients do not believe there are currently any medical treatments available for dementia.

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Top 2 Box	33
Strongly agree	2
Agree	31
I don't know	31
Disagree	33
Strongly disagree	4

For the following series of questions, please check all responses that apply.

49. In your opinion, which of the following help with the symptoms of dementia? (check all that apply)

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Cognitive assessments	93
Their medical history	92
Current medical conditions	90
Elimination of any underlying conditions that are causing cognitive symptoms	88
Family medical history	86
Diagnostic imaging tests (e.g., MRI, CT scan, PET scan)	69
Psychiatric evaluations	63
Other	3

50. [PN: POPULATE WITH ITEMS CHECKED in Q49] In general, how useful are each of the following tools in evaluating a patient for dementia?

a. Family medical history

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>432</i>
Top 2 Box	55
Extremely useful	22
Very useful	33
Somewhat useful	40
Not very useful	4
Not at all useful	0

b. Their medical history

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	460
Top 2 Box	82
Extremely useful	41
Very useful	41
Somewhat useful	17
Not very useful	1
Not at all useful	0

c. Current medical conditions

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	450
Top 2 Box	86
Extremely useful	42
Very useful	43
Somewhat useful	13
Not very useful	1
Not at all useful	0

d. Elimination of any underlying conditions that are causing cognitive symptoms

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	440
Top 2 Box	91
Extremely useful	55
Very useful	36
Somewhat useful	9
Not very useful	0
Not at all useful	0

e. Cognitive assessments

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	465
Top 2 Box	90
Extremely useful	56
Very useful	34
Somewhat useful	9
Not very useful	0
Not at all useful	0

f. Psychiatric evaluations

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	314
Top 2 Box	78
Extremely useful	36
Very useful	42
Somewhat useful	20
Not very useful	1
Not at all useful	1

g. Diagnostic imaging tests (e.g., MRI, CT scan, PET scan)

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	344
Top 2 Box	66
Extremely useful	28
Very useful	38
Somewhat useful	28
Not very useful	5
Not at all useful	1

h. Other

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	16
Top 2 Box	75
Extremely useful	50
Very useful	25
Somewhat useful	25
Not very useful	0
Not at all useful	0

51. In general, after an evaluation suggests a dementia diagnosis, how confident are you that the diagnosis is definitive?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
Extremely confident	10
Very confident	53
Somewhat confident	34
Not very confident	2
Not at all confident	0

52. In general, after an evaluation suggests a dementia diagnosis, what do you communicate to your patients? I tell my patients... (check all that apply)

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	<i>500</i>
What to expect as the disease progresses	77
The importance of healthcare planning	69
The cause of their dementia if known (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, Lewy Body dementia, vascular dementia, etc.)	68
The importance of financial planning	57
The stage of dementia they are in	54
What their likely prognosis is	53
The importance of keeping appointments	46
How long they can expect to live with dementia	24
Other	1

Demographics

D1. How many years have you been in practice?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Less than 10 years	5
10 to 19 years	27
20 to 29 years	42
30 to 39 years	21
40 years or more	1
Mean	23.5
Median	24

D2. Which of the following best describes your main practice setting?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
District/regional/community hospital	5
Teaching/university hospital	9
Standalone cancer/oncology/hematology center	0
Private clinic/office based	84
Other	1

D3. How would you best describe the location in which you practice?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Rural	17
Suburban	52
Urban	30

D3. Are you...?

	Total (%)
<i>Unweighted n</i>	500
Male	77
Female	23