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Approaching 65:
A Survey of Baby Boomers
Turning 65 Years Old

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Turning 65 Years Old**

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All media inquiries about this report should contact AARP's Media Relations at (202) 434-2560.

Inquiries about the survey instrument or additional information about the report should be addressed to Jeff Love at (202) 434-6279 or jlove@aarp.org.

Introduction

The baby boom generation is the age cohort of Americans born between 1946 and 1964. At over 76 million people, baby boomers represent the largest single population growth in U.S. history and have had an enormous impact on every institution in the country, as well as lived through some of the most interesting times in American history.

There is a sense among members of the baby boom cohort that they are special or unique. This sense of uniqueness has been reinforced throughout their life cycle by media coverage of baby boomers challenging American institutions, or how boomers were primary witnesses to, or participants in, events such as President Kennedy's assassination, the Viet Nam War, Watergate, and the women's rights movement. Because of this media attention, many members of this generation do share an identity as boomers. While that identity may not be a primary reference in their daily lives, members of this age cohort do recognize themselves as boomers and acknowledge their shared life-references and place in American culture.

The impact of the baby boom generation and of specific baby boomers cannot be underestimated. In every area of American life, from entertainment to politics or to sports, baby boomers are the prime movers. The last three U.S. presidents have been boomers, as are a majority of Senators and members of the House of Representatives. One only needs to look at the number of remade television programs and movies from the 60s and 70s to see how entertainment decisions are being made by boomers or for boomers.

As members of the baby boom continue to age, how will their identity inform their decisions about later life? Will they resemble their parents or will their group identity and unique experiences mean they approach later life in a different manner? We do know that in 2011, 2.5 million boomers will turn 65. On average, this is about 7,000 people turning 65 every day between January 1 and December 31st, 2011. By the end of 2011, there will be 41 million Americans 65 years old and over. The addition of the 2.5 million boomers to that age group will mean that people over the age of 65 will comprise 17 percent of the adult population over 18.¹

As these 2.5 million people face their 65th birthdays, how do they assess their lives so far, and what do they expect the last third of their lives to be like? To find out AARP conducted a survey among a nationally representative sample of 801 individuals who will turn 65 in 2011. This survey is largely a replication of an AARP survey conducted in 2006 among boomers turning 60.

Overall, the survey paints a picture of boomers turning 65 as generally satisfied with their lives and optimistic about the next third of life. Financial security and improving their health are pervasive concerns. Their concerns about finances and health affect their outlook now, how they feel about the future, and what plans they are making. They expect and want more time with family and friends and are concerned about their children's futures. Like their parents before them, boomers turning 65 do not plan to move. Aging in place is desirable since where they live now, is where they have established their lives.

In a few respects, boomers turning 65 have age-related concerns similar to their parents when they were 65. Like their parents, they want to age in place, and have found that aging often presents

¹ U.S. Census Bureau

chronic health conditions and financial responsibilities that influence how they will live the last third of life.

Boomers turning 65 also demonstrate an interesting age-related mindset that was also common among their parents. Surveys of older persons often reveal attitudes and beliefs that indicate what might be called a “measured perspective.” What this means is that while older persons generally have an optimistic view of the future, their experience and knowledge gives them a perspective that includes the possibility that things will not work out as planned. Some might call this realism based on experience or the wisdom of our elders. However we describe it, this perspective shows up in many older persons’ attitudes about work, family, politics, and world affairs.

In one very important respect, boomers turning 65 are different from their parents – the baby boom generation has redefined what retirement means. When their parents entered retirement, it was considered a time that might feature travel, relaxation, enjoyment, but little work outside of an avocation. Baby boomers overall and many of those turning 65 consider work to be part of retirement and a significant percentage would say that they never will consider themselves retired.

Surveys of baby boomers conducted by AARP in 2002, 2003, and 2007, as well as a survey of adults aged 25 and over conducted by Merrill Lynch in 2006, all suggest that the concept of retirement has changed considerably.² In these studies, 7 in 10 baby boomers project that they intend to work past traditional retirement age. While financial need is often mentioned as the reason for remaining in the workforce, these studies also show that the non-financial benefits of work often influence the decision to remain in the labor force. The AARP studies found that among boomers the top non-monetary motivations to remain in the workforce include enjoyment, to have something interesting to do, and to stay physically active. In the Merrill Lynch study, among respondents aged 60 to 70, staying mentally and physically active, and connected with others outranked money as important reasons to continue working.

All of these surveys of baby boomers have predicted that members of this generation will continue to work in what their parents called retirement. Yet the reality is that despite the desire and need to work, many may not be able to do so because of health considerations, age discrimination, or a declining economy. Our new survey of boomers turning 65 indicates that as the moment of truth arrives and boomers are faced with the decision about retirement, about half (54%) already consider themselves retired, while 46% are employed full or part time, not in the labor force for other reasons, or unemployed and looking for work. Of the 31% who are employed full or part time, over one-third say they have retired from a previous career and are still working.

Perhaps we should not be surprised at boomers’ interest in work. As one of the most educated generations in American history, boomers have been said to sometimes define themselves in terms of their careers. It is easy to visualize and anticipate retirement if your job is physically demanding or simply the way you provided for your family. It is much harder to visualize retirement if your job is what you prepared for by spending years in school, spending more years in graduate or professional school, working long hours to advance at work, or practicing what you consider to be your life’s work. Certainly not all boomers fit this scenario but as a generation, they started the trend toward greater college

² Staying Ahead of the Curve. The AARP Work and Career Study, 2002
Staying Ahead of the Curve, 2003. The AARP Working in Retirement Study, 2003
Staying Ahead of the Curve, 2007. The AARP Work and Career Study, 2007
The 2006 Merrill Lynch New Retirement Study

attendance which led to the possibility of regarding employment as more than just a way to earn an income.

Selected Findings

Boomers turning 65 are largely satisfied with their lives. Seventy-eight percent of those turning 65 in 2011 say they are satisfied with the way things are going in their lives today. This is almost identical to the 77% of boomers turning 60 in 2006 who said they were satisfied.

About 4 in 10 respondents feel they are about where they expected to be at this point in terms of their financial security and health. However, more people feel they are worse off than feel they have done well in these same areas. Slight majorities feel they are about where they expected to be in their relationships, at work, and in their spiritual lives.

Overall, 7 in 10 boomers turning 65 say they have achieved all or most of what they wanted out of life, and 26% say they have achieved some of what they wanted. Only 3% say they have achieved little or none of what they wanted out of life.

Boomers turning 65 expect to live about the same number of years as they want to live. On average, boomers turning 65 in 2011 expect to live until they are 85.2 years old. This is only 3 and ½ years short of the average length of time they want to live – 88.7 years.

As they turn 65, the perennial goals of financial security, better health, travel, and time with family/friends are gifts 65 year old boomers want. These items are largely the same gifts requested by boomers turning 60 in 2006.

The twin concerns of financial security (25%) and physical health (35%) are also paramount as items boomers turning 65 want to improve in the next five years. Among other items for possible improvement, work is only mentioned by 1%, relationships by 9%, spiritual life by 10%, and leisure activities by 11%. It is interesting that in 2006, a plurality of boomers turning 60 (34%) said they would like to improve their health. In 2010, as they turn 65, boomers are still making plans to improve their health, but may not be making any more headway than in 2006. Only 17% of people aged 60 to 64 are members of health clubs.³

Boomers turning 65 agree that their feelings about the next five years can be described as exciting, fulfilling, confident, hopeful and optimistic, yet significant percentages also admit to feeling anxious, uncertain, and stressed. Despite the substantial economic differences between 2006 and 2010, how boomers describe their feelings about the next five years has not changed, perhaps illustrating the inherent optimism the sometimes characterizes this generation or perhaps demonstrating the measured perspective that comes with age.

Taking better care of oneself, spending more time with family, traveling, volunteering, and making time for interests and hobbies are most often mentioned when boomers turning 65 are asked what non-employment changes they have planned for the next few years. Consistent with other surveys of near retirees, we see very few respondents planning to relocate. Very small percentages plan to buy a larger or smaller home or move to a different part of the country to be near family or enjoy better weather.

³ Scarborough

While previous AARP surveys of baby boomers indicated that up to 70% of them expect to work past the age of 65, this survey of boomers approaching 65 indicates that over half (54%) are already retired. In addition, among the 31% who are employed full or part time, over one-third (35%) say they have retired from a previous career.

Majorities of boomers turning 65 feel that compared to when they were 60, the government in Washington accomplishes less for the country, that debate in Washington is less civil, and that Democrats and Republicans are less likely to work together.

Approaching 65: Taking Stock

In 2006, when AARP asked a sample of boomers turning 60 how it compared with turning 50, 37% said turning 60 was more significant than turning 50. Five years later a similar 42% say that turning 65 is more significant than turning 60. Also similar to our previous survey are the percentages of respondents saying they are satisfied with the ways things are going in their lives (77% among those turning 60 in 2006, and 78% among those turning 65 in 2011).

Personal finances and health security are two of the most common concerns revealed in surveys conducted among older persons. In this survey, the plurality of respondents feel they are about where they expected to be regarding these two concerns. However, more people feel they are worse off in the areas of personal finance and physical health than feel they have done well.

Slight majorities feel they are about where they expected to be in their relationships, at work, and in their spiritual lives.

Table 1 illustrates the consistency between the results of our “Turning 60” survey of 2006 and this survey among boomers turning 65. On almost every measure there are only slight differences between the two surveys. The one area where there are differences is the area of work or career. Clearly, five additional years of work and the prospect of retirement has changed respondents’ assessments of their work lives – fewer today think their work lives turned out better or worse than expected and more consider work or their careers to be about where they expected..

Table 1. Are You Doing Better, Worse, or As Expected in These Life Areas – Surveyed in 2006 and Compared to Baby Boomers Turning 65 in 2011

Life Area:	In 2006 at 60 years old Better Than Expected	Turning 65 years old in 2011 Better Than Expected	In 2006 at 60 years old Worse Than Expected	Turning 65 years old in 2011 Worse Than Expected	In 2006 at 60 years old About Where Expected	Turning 65 years old in 2011 About Where Expected
	%	%	%	%	%	%
personal finances	29	25	31	32	37	41
physical health	28	26	32	31	39	42
relationships with family and friends	44	42	7	6	47	51
work or career	29	22	24	18	41	50
religious/spiritual life	39	38	8	5	49	54
leisure activities	29	31	25	22	45	45

Base= 801 Q4. For each life area I mention, thinking about your current circumstances, would you say you are in a better situation than you expected to be at this point in your life, in a worse situation than you expected, or about where you expected to be at this point in your life?

Overall, 7 in 10 boomers turning 65 say they have achieved all or most of what they wanted out of life, and 26% say they have achieved some of what they wanted. Only 3% say they have achieved little or none of what they wanted out of life.

Among those who say they have achieved some, little or none of what they wanted out of life, financial and health limitations are the major barriers. (Table 2)

Table 2. Barriers to achieving what you really want out of life

	Total %
Having more time	3
Having more money	26
Having better health/age issues	28
Training or education	1
Family obligations/caregiving	5
Job loss	1
Lack of motivation	6
The government	4
Don't know	11
Nothing	11
Others	4

Base = 233 Q10. (among those who say they have achieved some or none of what they wanted out of life) What if anything is keeping you from achieving what you really want out of life?

Boomers turning 65 expect to live about the same number of years as they want to live. On average, boomers turning 65 in 2011 expect to live until they are 85.2 years old. This is only 3 and ½ years short of the average length of time they want to live – 88.7 years.

While most boomers will receive the gift of longevity and live past their desired age, they also are very clear about what they would like as a 65th birthday gift. The perennial goals of financial security, better health, travel, and time with family/friends are gifts 65 year old boomers want. (Table 3)

Table 3. Best Possible 65th Birthday Gift

	Total %
Money/financial security/pay off debts	15
Vacation	9
New car or motorcycle	5
New house	2
Time with grandchildren	2
Better health	10
Time with family and friends	13
Love and affection	3
Free time	2
Peace	3
Party/greetings	1
Gifts	2
Other	11
Nothing	6
Don't know/ref	16

Base = 801 Q19 .What would be the best possible gift someone could give you for your 65th birthday?

Approaching 65: Looking Forward

The twin concerns of financial security (25%) and physical health (35%) are also paramount as items boomers turning 65 want to improve in the next five years. Among other items for possible improvement, work is only mentioned by 1%, relationships by 9%, spiritual life by 10%, and leisure activities by 11%. This is not surprising since financial security and health often decline or are uncertain as one ages, while relationships, spirituality, work, and leisure activities usually become more defined and settled.

Table 4 compares what boomers turning 60 in 2006 listed as areas of improvement and those areas selected by boomers turning 65 in 2011. Again, the differences between the two surveys are minimal except for the area of work which is less of a priority for the 65 year old than for the 60 year old.

Table 4. Life Area Respondents Most Want to Improve Over Next Five Years

	Adults Turning 60 in 2006 %	Adults Turning 65 in 2011 %
personal finances	23	25
physical health	34	35
relationships with family and friends	11	9
work or career	6	1
religious/spiritual life	12	10
leisure activities	10	11
None of these	4	5
DK/ref	2	3

Base= 801 Q5. Which one of these life areas would you most like to improve over the next five years?

Surveys of older persons often reveal what could be called the older persons “measured perspective.” What this means is that while older persons are often enthusiastic and optimistic about the future, their experience and knowledge gives them a perspective that includes the possibility that things will not work out as planned. This measured perspective is evident in how boomers turning 65 describe the next five years. They agree that their feelings about the next five years can be described as exciting, fulfilling, confident, hopeful and optimistic, yet significant percentages also admit to feeling anxious, uncertain, and stressed. This is less a contradiction than a measured perspective on life that age allows. (Table 5)

Comparisons of the descriptors used in 2006 with those used in 2010 indicate some moderate and perhaps telling changes. Boomers turning 65 are less likely than those turning 60 in 2006 to describe the next five year as boring, anxious, uncertain, and stressful, and more likely to describe the next five years as fulfilling. Given the economic calamity of the past three years, this increasingly positive outlook is surprising. (Table 5)

Table 5. Descriptors of the Next Five Years

	In 2006 at Age 60 Describes Well %	Boomers Turning Age 65 in 2011 Describes Well %	In 2006 at Age 60 Does Not Describe Well %	Boomers Turning Age 65 in 2011 Does Not Describe Well %
a. Boring	30	25	68	72
b. Exciting	70	70	28	27
c. Anxious	47	43	50	54
d. Fulfilling	78	84	18	12
e. Confident	84	84	13	15
f. Uncertain	54	51	42	45
g. Hopeful	86	87	12	10
h. Stressful	51	47	46	50
i. Optimistic	NA	82	NA	16

Base= 801 Q6. When you think about the next five years, how well does....describe your feelings?

The actual ambitions of boomers may not resemble investment company commercials with older persons conquering Everest or windsurfing in Tahiti, but they still reflect an optimistic and active later life. As suggested by earlier survey questions, persons turning 65 want to travel, improve their health and finances, and simply enjoy their lives, friends, and families. And while some mention hobbies, spiritual pursuits, and home projects, few want to relocate. (Table 6)

Table 6. Major ambition or dream for next five years

	Total %
Travel	18
Relocate	2
Retire and enjoy my remaining time	12
Improve health	13
Improve finances	10
Improve housing/living arrangements/home projects	4
Win the lottery	3
Enjoy relationships with family and friends	4
Enjoy grandchildren	5
Spiritual/religious pursuits	3
Pursue hobbies, sports, dance, and writing	5
Don't know	8
Nothing	7
Others	6

Base = 801 Q7. What one major ambition or dream would you like to accomplish over the next five years?

The major barriers to achieving their ambitions or dreams are money, health, time, and family obligations. (Table 7)

Table 7. Barriers to achieving that ambition or dream

	Total %
Having more time	3
Having more money	26
Having better health/age issues	28
Training or education	1
Family obligations/caregiving	5
Job loss	1
Lack of motivation	6
The government	4
Don't know	11
Nothing	11
Others	4

Base = 801 Q8. What one thing will make it difficult to achieve that ambition or dream?

Taking better care of oneself, spending more time with family, traveling, volunteering, and making time for interests and hobbies are most often mentioned when boomers turning 65 are asked what non-employment changes they have planned for the next few years. As we saw in other questions, these responses are very similar to answers to this same question by boomers turning 60 back in 2006.

The only real differences between the 2006 survey and this new poll have to do with expected changes because of the five year age difference. Specifically, as retirement looms for those turning 65, significantly fewer say they plan to save more aggressively for retirement, while perhaps the anticipated greater free time prompts more people to say they plan to volunteer and travel more.

Consistent with other surveys of near retirees, we see very few respondents planning to relocate. Very small percentages plan to buy a larger or second home or move to a different part of the country to be near family or enjoy better weather. (Table 8)

Table 8. Life Changes Planned for “next few years”

	Adults Turning 60 in 2006 %	Adults Turning 65 in 2011 %
a. Moving to a smaller home	18	15
b. Moving to a bigger home	8	3
c. Moving to a different part of the country to be near my family	8	7
d. Moving to a different part of the country to enjoy better weather	10	11
e. Taking better care of my physical health	87	84
f. Spending more time with loved ones	80	81
g. Spending more time on my interests and hobbies	72	76
h. Saving more aggressively for retirement	45	31
i. Making more time to do the things I have always wanted to do	71	74
j. Buy a second home	8	4
k. Volunteering more	47	54
l. Traveling more	56	61
m. Taking classes or learning something new	43	44

n. Going back to work	14	15
o. Retiring from work completely	45	56
p. Changing careers	12	5
q. Cutting back on your work hours	46	55
r. Move to another country	NA	3

Base = 801 Q13. Which if any of the following life changes do you plan to make in the next few years? Do you plan on...?
 Item n among those not working (n = 525); items o, p, and q among those employed (n=255)

Approaching 65: Work and Retirement

Previous AARP surveys of baby boomers indicated that 7 in 10 of them *expect* to work past the age of 65. This survey of boomers approaching 65 indicates that over half (54%) are already retired. In addition, among the 31% who are employed full or part time, over one-third (35%) say they have retired from a previous career.

Among those still employed, almost all have no plans to change careers, but many see themselves retiring or cutting back on their work hours in the next few years. (Table 8)

In response to a different question, almost half (49%) of those respondents still employed say they intend to quit work as soon as they can, but 40% say they will work until they drop!

Clearly, expectations of retirement age increase as one ages. In our 2006 survey, 60 year olds were asked to reflect on what age they expected to retire when they were 50. About four in ten thought they were going to retire before the age of 64, and another 26% said 65 would be their retirement age. When asked to project their retirement age, only 30% of the employed 60 year olds projected their retirement age to be before 64. (Tables 9 and 10)

In 2010, our boomers turning 65 were also asked to reflect on what age they thought they would retire when they were 60. Thirty-two percent thought they were going to retire before the age of 64, and 22% said 65. When asked to project their retirement age only 15% of employed boomers turning 65 say they expect to retire on or before 65, while 27% say between 66 and 69, and 29% say 70 or older. (Tables 11 and 12)

The most startling finding is the percentage of people saying they plan to work to at least their 70th year. The percentage of working persons saying they expect to retire at age 70 or over has risen from 14% among employed respondents aged 60 in 2006 to 29% of working people turning 65 in 2011 – perhaps the result of five more years of experience and a radically changed economy between 2006 and 2010.

Table 9. When you were 50, at what age did you expect to retire and not work at all?

	4/10/06
50 – 55	11%
56 – 64	29
65	26
66+	8
None	4
Don't know	20
Refused	2

Base = total sample (n = 800)

Table 10. Now that you're 60, at what age do you expect to retire and not work at all?

	4/10/06
59 – 64	30%
65	20
66 - 69	12
70+	14
Don't know	22
Refused	2

Base = respondents who are employed (n=462)

Table 11. When you were 60, at what age did you expect to retire and not work at all?

	11/20/10
60 – 64	32%
65	22
66 – 69	11
70+	9
Don't know	20
Refused	8

Base = total sample (n = 801)

Table 12. Now that you're turning 65, at what age do you expect to retire and not work at all?

	11/20/10
64	2%
65	13
66 - 69	27
70+	29
Don't know	24
Refused	3

Base = respondents who are employed (n=255)

Approaching 65: The Oldest Boomers Look at Washington

Because older Americans are the most likely group to vote, to be involved in public debates about issues, and to be active in their communities, we asked boomers turning 65 their impressions of the current state of affairs in Washington, D.C.

Majorities of boomers turning 65 feel that compared to when they were 60, the government in Washington accomplishes less for the country, that debate in Washington is less civil, and that Democrats and Republicans are less likely to work together. In addition, 6 in 10 boomers turning 65 say compared to when they were 60, they have less confidence the government will do the right thing. (Tables 13, 14, 15, and 16.)

Table 13. Compared to when you were 60, the government in Washington today...

	Total
Accomplishes more for the country	12%
Accomplishes less for the country	63
Accomplishes about the same for the country	23
DK/Ref.	3

Base = 801 Q20. Compared to when you were 60, do you think the government in Washington today....

Table 14. Compared to when you were 60, the level of debate in Washington today...

	Total
Is more civil	3%
Is less civil	76
Is about as civil	18
DK/Ref.	3

Base = 801 Q21. Compared to when you were 60, do you think the level of debate in Washington today....

Table 15. Compared to when you were 60, do you think Democrats and Republicans in Washington will...

	Total
Be more likely to work together to get things done	14%
Be less likely to work together to get things done	56
Be as likely to work together to get things done	25
DK/Ref.	5

Base = 801 Q22. Compared to when you were 60, do you think Democrats and Republicans in Washington will.....

Table 16. Compared to when you were 60, do you have...

	Total
More confidence the government will do the right thing	10%
Less confidence the government will do the right thing	60
About the same amount of confidence the government will do the right thing	27
DK/Ref.	3

Base = 801 Q23. Compared to when you were 60, do you have.....

Conclusions

Between January 1 and December 31, 2011, an average of 7,000 people each day will turn 65 years old. When the baby boom started in 1946 and when boomers proceeded to change or challenge many American institutions in the 60s and 70s, few really thought about the impact of the day when boomers started to retire. In the past few years, many have brought up the specter of baby boomers turning 65 as a reason to address issues in America's retirement and health care systems.

In many ways, the later third of life for the baby boomer will resemble that of their parents. They have some of the same hopes and aspirations and have encountered the health and financial issues aging brings. However, because of the sheer size of the baby boom generation, these health and financial issues will be magnified and take on a social relevance the likes of which their parents could not have anticipated.

Fortunately, many boomers will continue to work in retirement bringing with them their expertise, education, and aspirations. In this survey, 31% of people turning 65 are still working full or part time and 40% of those working say they will never retire. But for persons who want to continue to work in what their parents called retirement, they will need a workplace that values their knowledge and experience while accords them the monetary and non-monetary rewards they say they want.

Whether they have to work for economic reasons or simply prefer to stay in the work force, more baby boomers in the workforce will mean an older workforce. An older workforce provides needed expertise and knowledge in an economy that is projected to have fewer workers than positions by 2018, but older employees may also need access to training in order to remain productive, and flexibility in scheduling in order to provide care for loved ones.

The baby boom in America was neither planned nor anticipated. It brought challenges and new ideas to many parts of our culture. It also brought problems. Fortunately, members of the baby boom generation will be around and working in order to be part of the solution.

Methodology

The AARP Turning 65 survey obtained telephone interviews with a sample of 801 respondents who will be turning 65 in 2011 drawn at random from the United States. The interviews were conducted in English by Woelfel Research, Inc. from November 11 to November 15, 2010. The results for the survey were weighted by gender. The margin of sampling error for the random sample of 801 is $\pm 3.5\%$.

Design and Data Collection

The sample of respondents turning 65 was selected from a list of households targeted specifically by age. The household list was developed by compiling records from available sources such as motor vehicle records. The list was provided by Accudata, Inc.

The questionnaire was developed by AARP staff. In order to improve the quality of the data, the questionnaire was pretested with a small number of respondents. The pretest interviews were monitored by WRI and AARP staff and conducted using experienced interviewers who could best judge the quality of the answers given and the degree to which respondents understood the questions.

Contact Procedures

Sample was released for interviewing in replicates, which are representative subsamples of the larger sample. Using replicates to control the release of sample ensures that complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. It also ensures that the geographic distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chance of making contact with potential respondents.

Weighting

The sample was weighted by gender. The tables below contain information about the weighting. The column labeled "Population" shows the actual gender distribution. The column labeled "Sample" shows the gender distribution of the sample. The column labeled "Weighted Sample" shows the gender distribution in the sample after the weights were applied.

	Population*	Sample	Weighted Sample
Male	47.8%	40.0%	47.8%
Female	52.2%	60.0%	52.2%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

Response Rate/Cooperation Rate/Refusal Rate

The response rate for this study was measured using AAPOR's response rate 3 method. The cooperation rate was measured using AAPOR's cooperation rate 3 method. The refusal rate was measured using AAPOR's refusal rate 3 method.

Response Rate	Cooperation Rate	Refusal Rate
20%	89%	8%

Source: AAPOR Outcome Rate Calculator Version 2.1 May 2003

Annotated Questionnaire

National Sample N=801, Sampling Error =±3.5%

Hello my name is _____. I am calling from Woelfel research, a national research company located near Washington DC. We are conducting a survey of people who will have their 65th birthday next year. This is not a sales call and all of your answers to this survey are strictly confidential.

S1. Please tell me, is there anyone in your household who will have their 65th birthday next year in 2011?

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	100
Yes	-
No	-
Don't know	-
Refused	-

S2. May I please speak to the person who will have their 65th birthday next year in 2011? (Record gender)

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	48
Male	52
Female	-
Don't know	-
Refused	-

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. Just to confirm, can you please tell me what year you were born? 1946
[P.N.: TERMINATE IF YEAR IS NOT 1946]

2. Compared to turning 60, do you think turning 65 is more, less, or as significant an event in your life?

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	42
More	10
Less	32
As significant	12
Neither one was significant	4
Don't know	<0.5
Refused	

3. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your life today?

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Satisfied	78
Dissatisfied	19
Don't know	2
Refused	1

4. Now let's talk specifically about some different areas of your life. For each life area I mention, thinking about your current circumstances, would you say you are in a better situation than you expected to be at this point in your life, in a worse situation than you expected, or about where you expected to be at this point in your life? First/Next, how about (SCRAMBLE and INSERT ITEM)?

a. Your personal finances

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Better situation	25
Worse situation	32
About where you expected to be	41
Don't know	1
Refused	1

b. Your physical health

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Better situation	26
Worse situation	31
About where you expected to be	42
Don't know	2
Refused	<0.5

c. Your relationships with family and friends

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Better situation	42
Worse situation	6
About where you expected to be	51
Don't know	1
Refused	-

d. Your work or career

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Better situation	22
Worse situation	18
About where you expected to be	50
Don't know	7
Refused	4

e. Your religious/spiritual life

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Better situation	38
Worse situation	5
About where you expected to be	54
Don't know	2
Refused	1

f. Your leisure activities

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Better situation	31
Worse situation	22
About where you expected to be	45
Don't know	2

5. Which one of these life areas would you most like to improve over the next five years? (ROTATE ITEMS)

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Your personal finances	25
Your physical health	35
Your relationship with family and friends	9
Your work or career	1
Your religious/spiritual life	10
Your leisure activities	11
None of these	5
Don't know	3
Refused	<0.5

6. When you think about the next five years how well does (INSERT) describe your feelings: very well, somewhat well, not too well or not well at all? (ROTATE ITEMS)

a. boring

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Very well	8
Somewhat well	17
Not too well	19
Not well at all	53
Don't know	3
Refused	<0.5

b. exciting	
Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Very well	31
Somewhat well	39
Not too well	16
Not well at all	11
Don't know	3
Refused	<0.5

c. anxious	
Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Very well	14
Somewhat well	29
Not too well	20
Not well at all	34
Don't know	2
Refused	<0.5

d. fulfilling	
Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Very well	42
Somewhat well	42
Not too well	6
Not well at all	6
Don't know	4
Refused	<0.5

e. confident	
Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Very well	47
Somewhat well	37
Not too well	10
Not well at all	5
Don't know	1
Refused	<0.5

f. uncertain	
Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Very well	17
Somewhat well	34
Not too well	18
Not well at all	27
Don't know	4
Refused	<0.5

g. hopeful	
Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Very well	50
Somewhat well	37
Not too well	5
Not well at all	5
Don't know	2
Refused	<0.5

h. stressful	
Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Very well	16
Somewhat well	31
Not too well	20
Not well at all	30
Don't know	2
Refused	1

i. optimistic	
Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Very well	47
Somewhat well	35
Not too well	10
Not well at all	6
Don't know	2
Refused	<0.5

7. What one major ambition or dream would you like to accomplish over the next five years? (INTERVIEWER NOTE: PROBE IF NECESSARY)

_____ (RECORD RESPONSE VERBATIM)
 DD (DO NOT READ) Don't know
 RR (DO NOT READ) Refused

8. What one thing will make it difficult to achieve that ambition or dream?

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Having more time	3
Having more money	26
Having better health/age issues	28
Training or education	1
Family obligations/caregiving	5
Job loss	1
Lack of motivation	6
The government	4

9. Looking back on your life, would you say you.....

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Achieved all that you wanted out of life	11
Achieved most of what you wanted out of life	60
Achieved some of what you wanted out of life	26
Achieved little or none of what you wanted out of life	3
Don't know	<0.5
Refused	<0.5

10. (IF answered "c" or "d" to Q. 9, ASK) What if anything is keeping you from achieving what you really want out of life?

(INTERVIEWER NOTE: PROBE IF NECESSARY)

_____ (RECORD RESPONSE VERBATIM)

DD (DO NOT READ) Don't know
RR (DO NOT READ) Refused

11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status--are you (READ LIST; ACCEPT ONE ANSWER)?

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Self employed, part time	4
Self employed, full time	5
Employed, part time	9
Employed, full time	13
Retired	54
Not in labor force for other reasons (student, homemaker, disabled, etc)	12
Unemployed, looking for work	3
Don't know	<0.5
Refused	<0.5

(ASK if Q11=1, 2, 3 or 4 or dk/refused)

12. Have you retired from a previous career?

	National (N=255)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Employed respondents	
Yes	35
No	65
Don't know	1
Refused	-

(ASK Q.13n ONLY IF Q.11 = 5, 6 or 7 or dk/refused)

(ASK Q.13o, 13p and 13q ONLY IF Q.11=1, 2, 3 or 4 or dk/refused)

13. Which if any of the following life changes do you plan to make in the next few years? Do you plan on (INSERT)?

a. Moving to a smaller home

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	%
Yes	15
No	82
Don't know	3
Refused	-

b. Moving to a bigger home

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	%
Yes	3
No	96
Don't know	<0.5
Refused	-

c. Moving to a different part of the country to be near my family

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	%
Yes	7
No	91
Don't know	2
Refused	-

d. Moving to a different part of the country to enjoy better weather

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	%
Yes	11
No	87
Don't know	2
Refused	-

e. Taking better care of my physical health

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	%
Yes	84
No	15
Don't know	1
Refused	<0.5

f. Spending more time with loved ones

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	81
No	18
Don't know	2
Refused	-

g. Spending more time on my interests and hobbies

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	76
No	23
Don't know	1
Refused	<0.5

h. Saving more aggressively for retirement

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	31
No	64
Don't know	4
Refused	1

i. Making more time to do the things I have always wanted to do

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	74
No	24
Don't know	2
Refused	<0.5

j. Buy a second home

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	4
No	95
Don't know	1
Refused	-

k. Volunteering more

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	54
No	44
Don't know	2
Refused	-

I. Traveling more

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	61
No	38
Don't know	2
Refused	-

m. Taking classes or learning something new

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	44
No	54
Don't know	2
Refused	<0.5

n. Going back to work

Base: Not employed respondents	National (N=547)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	15
No	83
Don't know	2
Refused	-

o. Retiring from work completely

Base: Employed respondents	National (N=255)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	56
No	40
Don't know	4
Refused	-

p. Changing careers

Base: Employed respondents	National (N=255)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	5
No	95
Don't know	1
Refused	-

q. Cutting back on your work hours

Base: Employed respondents	National (N=255)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	55
No	44
Don't know	<0.5
Refused	-

r. Moving to a different country

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Yes	3
No	97
Don't know	1
Refused	-

14. When you were 60, at what age did you expect to retire and not work at all?

Base: Total respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
60	11
61	1
62	17
63	1
64	2
65	22
66	6
67	3
68	1
69	1
70	7
72	<0.5
75	<0.5
76+	1
Don't know	20
Refused	8
Mean age	64.7

(ASK IF Q11=1, 2, 3 or 4 or dk/refused)

15. Now that you're turning 65, at what age do you expect to retire and not work at all?

Base: Employed respondents	National (N=255)
	<u>%</u>
64	2
65	13
66	13
67	6
68	5
69	3
70	16
71	<0.5
72	3
75	4
76+	6
Don't know	24
Refused	3
Mean age	69.9

(ASK IF Q11=1, 2, 3 or 4 or dk/refused) (ROTATE 1-2/2-1)

16. Which statement better represents your attitudes toward work and retirement?
(READ ITEMS)

Base: Employed respondents	National (N=255)
	<u>%</u>
I plan to work until I drop	40
I plan to quit working as soon as I can	49
Don't know	9
Refused	1

17. How long do you expect to live (to what age)?

Base: Totaled respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
65 – 70	5
71 – 75	10
76 – 80	19
81 – 85	14
86 – 90	17
91 – 100	10
Longer than 100	4
Don't know	20
Refused	1
Mean age	85.2

18. How long do you want to live (to what age)?

Base: Totaled respondents	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
65 – 70	3
71 – 75	4
76 – 80	13
81 – 85	14
86 – 90	17
91 – 100	15
Longer than 100	5
Don't know	27
Refused	3
Mean age	88.7

19. What would be the best possible gift someone could give you for your 65th birthday?

(INTERVIEWER NOTE: PROBE IF NECESSARY)

Now I have just a few questions about how Washington works.

20. Compared to when you were 60, do you think the government in Washington today...

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Accomplishes more for the country	12
Accomplishes less for the country	63
Accomplishes about the same for the country	23
Don't know	2
Refused	1

21. Compared to when you were 60, do you think the level of debate in Washington today...

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Is more civil	3
Is less civil	76
Is about as civil	18
Don't know	2
Refused	1

22. Compared to when you were 60, do you think Democrats and Republicans in Washington will.....

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Be more likely to work together to get things done	14
Be less likely to work together to get things done	56
Be as likely as before to work together to get things done	25
Don't know	4
Refused	1

23. Compared to when you were 60, do you have....

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
More confidence the government will do the right thing	10
Less confidence the government will do the right thing	60
About the same amount of confidence the government will do the right thing	27
Don't know	2
Refused	1

DEMOGRAPHICS

READ: And finally we have just a few questions to help classify your answers...

24. How would you describe your current health? Is it excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Excellent	17
Very good	30
Good	29
Fair	16
Poor	8
Don't know	<0.5
Refused	-

25. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

(READ LIST; ENTER ONE ONLY)

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
0 through 12 th grade (no diploma)	5
High school graduate (or equivalent)	24
Post high school vocational or technical training	5
Some college (no degree)	17
College graduate (2 year degree)	10
College graduate (4 year degree)	17
Post-graduate study	8
Graduate or professional degree(s)	12
Don't know	<0.5
Refused	<0.5

26. What is your current marital status? Are you...?

(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Now married/living with partner	70
Widowed	9
Divorced	13
Separated	<0.5
Never married	7
Don't know	-
Refused	1

(INSERT OR YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER IF Q26=1)

27. Are you (or your spouse or partner) currently a member of AARP?

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Yes	54
No	45
Don't know	1
Refused	<0.5

28. Are you Hispanic, of Spanish descent, or Latino?

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Yes	2
No	98
Don't know	<0.5
Refused	<0.5

29. What best describes your race? Would you say you are...?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
White or Caucasian	89
Black or African American	5
Asian American	1
Native American	2
Other	3
Don't know	<0.5
Refused	1

30. Households are sometimes grouped according to income. Please indicate which group best estimates your annual household income before taxes.
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

	National (N=801)
	<u>%</u>
Base: Total respondents	
Less than \$10,000	3
\$10,000 to \$19,999	8
\$20,000 to \$29,999	13
\$30,000 to \$39,999	11
\$40,000 to \$49,999	11
\$50,000 to \$74,999	17
\$75,000 or more	21
Don't know	2
Refused	15

THANK YOU for your participation! Have a pleasant DAY/EVENING.