

INTRODUCTION: What state legislative issues are priorities for AARP North Dakota members? What are members' views on long-term and in-home care, opinions about transportation, and concerns regarding taxes? AARP's North Dakota State Office, in its commitment to enhance quality of life for all people as they age, commissioned this survey to explore the views of its members on these important issues. Health care and economic security issues top AARP North Dakota members' legislative priorities and personal concerns. It is important to members that there be one place that provides information on long-term and in-home care options in every community.

METHODOLOGY: The results are based on 1,042 responses to a mail survey, among 2,000 AARP North Dakota members, conducted in October and November 2008. The overall response rate for this survey is 52 percent with a ± 3.04 percent sampling error. Data were weighted to represent the actual distribution by age among AARP North Dakota members.

SURVEY-IN-BRIEF

- **Health care, tax issues, and in-home care are the top state legislative priorities for AARP North Dakota members.**
 - ✓ Almost nine in ten members say affordable, accessible health care is a top or high priority; more than seven in ten identify tax issues, including income, property, and sales taxes as a priority; while another seven in ten say affordable accessible in-home care services are their priority.
- **Two-thirds of members say it is important to them to have one place that provides information on long-term and in-home care options in every community. In fact, four in ten members say they are not familiar with long-term and in-home care options in their community.**
 - ✓ Sixty-five percent of AARP North Dakota members say it is important to have one place that provides information on long-term and in-home care options in every community. Thirty-nine percent of members are not familiar with long-term and in-home care options in their communities. Only five percent of members are extremely familiar with options in their communities.
- **Half of AARP North Dakota members say the costs of long-term care should be shared between the individual and the government.**
 - ✓ Forty-eight percent of members believe long-term care (e.g. in-home support, nursing home care, assisted living, or adult foster care) costs should be shared between the individual receiving care and the government.
- **More than four in ten members say they are aware of individuals in their communities who are not receiving in-home care services, but could remain healthier and home longer, if they did receive in-home care.**
 - ✓ Forty-three percent of AARP North Dakota members say there are several or a few individuals in their communities who are not currently receiving in-home care services, but could remain healthier and home longer, if they received in-home care.
 - ✓ Seven in ten members say that information on keeping the person they care for safe at home would be beneficial.

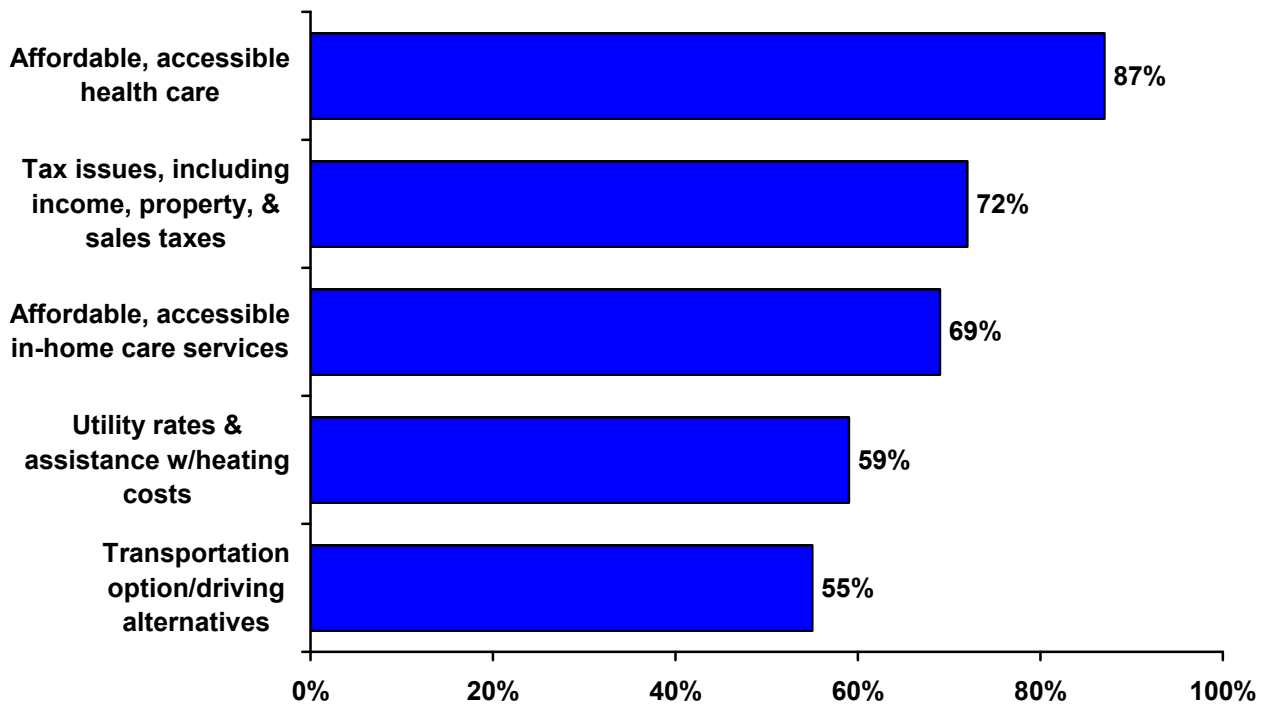
Detailed Findings:

Issues and Concerns

- **Health care, tax issues, and in-home care are the top state legislative priorities for AARP North Dakota members.**

Almost nine in ten members say affordable, accessible health care is a top or high priority; more than seven in ten identify tax issues, including income, property, and sales taxes as a priority; while another seven in ten say affordable accessible in-home care services are their priority. Consumer issues including utility rates round out members' legislative priorities.

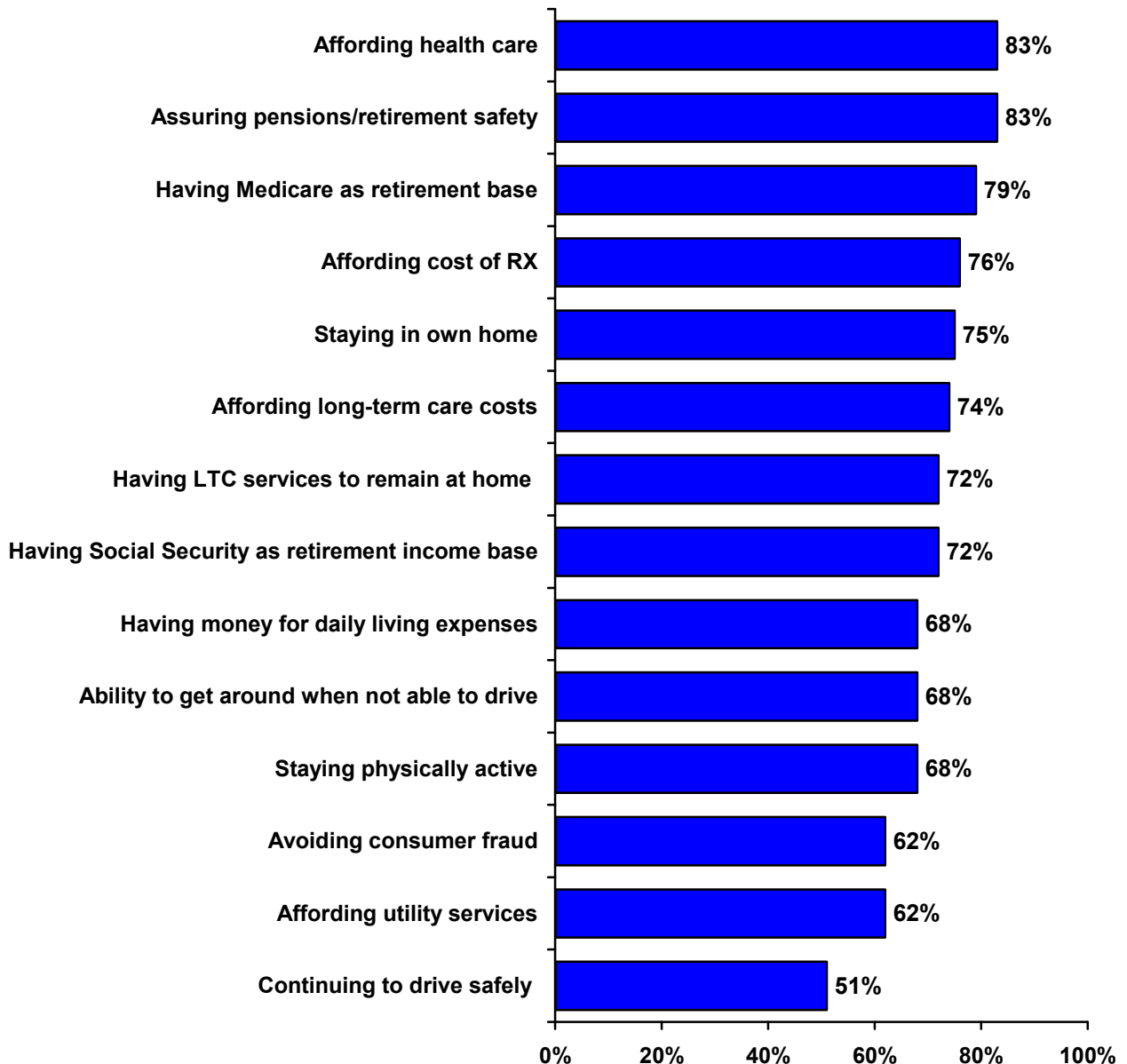
State Legislative Priorities
N=1,042



- **The top four personal concerns of AARP North Dakota members are all related to economic and financial security issues: affording health care, assuring pension benefits and retirement savings are safe, having Medicare as a base for retirement health insurance, and affording the cost of prescription drugs.**

Three-quarters or more of members are concerned about affording health care, ensuring their pensions and retirement savings are safe, having Medicare as a base for retirement health insurance, and affording their prescription drugs. Aging in place, such as being able to remain in their homes as they age and having long-term care services that allow people to remain at home, round out the top ten personal concerns of members along with the economic and financial security issues mentioned previously. Concern about health care is top of mind to AARP North Dakota members; it is the top legislative priority and personal concern.

Personal Concerns
N=1,042



Long- Term and In-Home Care

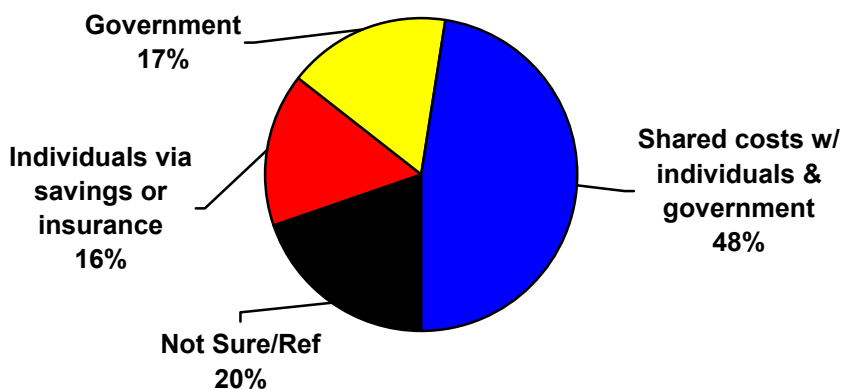
- **Two-thirds of members say it is important to them to have one place that provides information on long-term and in-home care options in every community. In fact, four in ten say they are not familiar with long-term and in-home care options in their community.**

Sixty-five percent of AARP North Dakota members say it is important to have one place that provides information on long-term and in-home care options in every community. Thirty-nine percent of members are not familiar with long-term and in-home care options in their own communities. Only five percent of members are extremely familiar with options in their communities.

- **Half of AARP North Dakota members say the costs of long-term care should be shared between the individual and the government.**

Members were asked which comes closer to their view on how to pay for long-term care (e.g. in-home support, nursing home care, assisted living, or adult foster care). Forty-eight percent of members believe long-term care costs should be shared between the individual receiving care and the government. Only 16 percent of members believe the costs should be paid mostly by the individual.

How to Pay for Long- Term Care Costs?
N=1,042



- **More than half of AARP North Dakota members say it is important for the State to provide funding to make long-term care more widely available, even if it requires an increase in state taxes.**

Fifty-three percent of AARP North Dakota members say it is extremely or very important to provide funding to make long-term care more widely available, even if it requires an increase in state taxes. Less than ten percent of members say it is not very or not at all important.

- **More than four in ten members say they are aware of individuals in their communities who could stay in their homes longer, if they received in-home care services.**

Members were asked how many individuals in their community, who are not currently receiving in-home care services, but could remain healthier and home longer, if they received in-home care. More than four in ten AARP North Dakota members are aware of several or a few individuals in their communities who could stay at home longer, if receiving in-home care services. A third of members responded “not sure.”

Transportation

- **Almost seven in ten AARP North Dakota members are concerned about being able to get where they need and want to go, if they could not drive.**

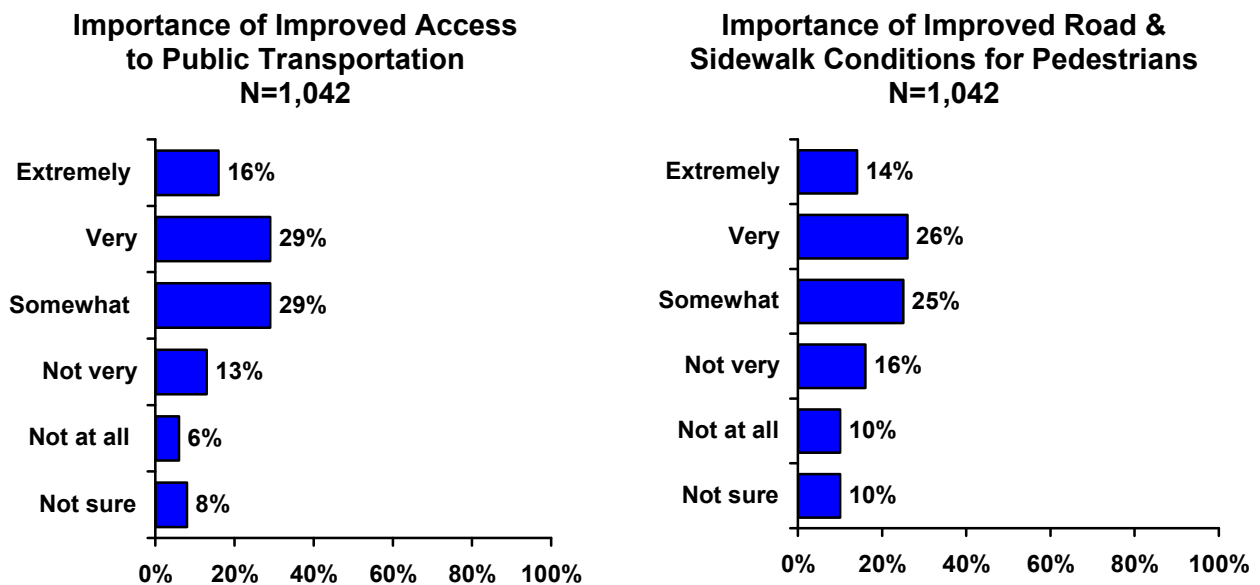
Sixty-eight percent of members say they are extremely or very concerned about being able to get where they need and want to go, if they could no longer drive. Another twenty percent of members are somewhat concerned about this issue. Less than ten percent of members are not very or not at all concerned.

- **Fifty-two percent of members do not believe or are unsure there are adequate transportation options for people in their community.**

Members were asked if they believe there are adequate transportation options for people in their community. Thirty percent of AARP members in North Dakota are not sure and twenty-two percent do not believe there are adequate transportation options.

- **Three-quarters of AARP North Dakota members say improved access to public transportation is important to stay in their present neighborhood as they age. Two-thirds of members say improved road and sidewalk conditions for pedestrians are important for them to stay in their neighborhoods as they age.**

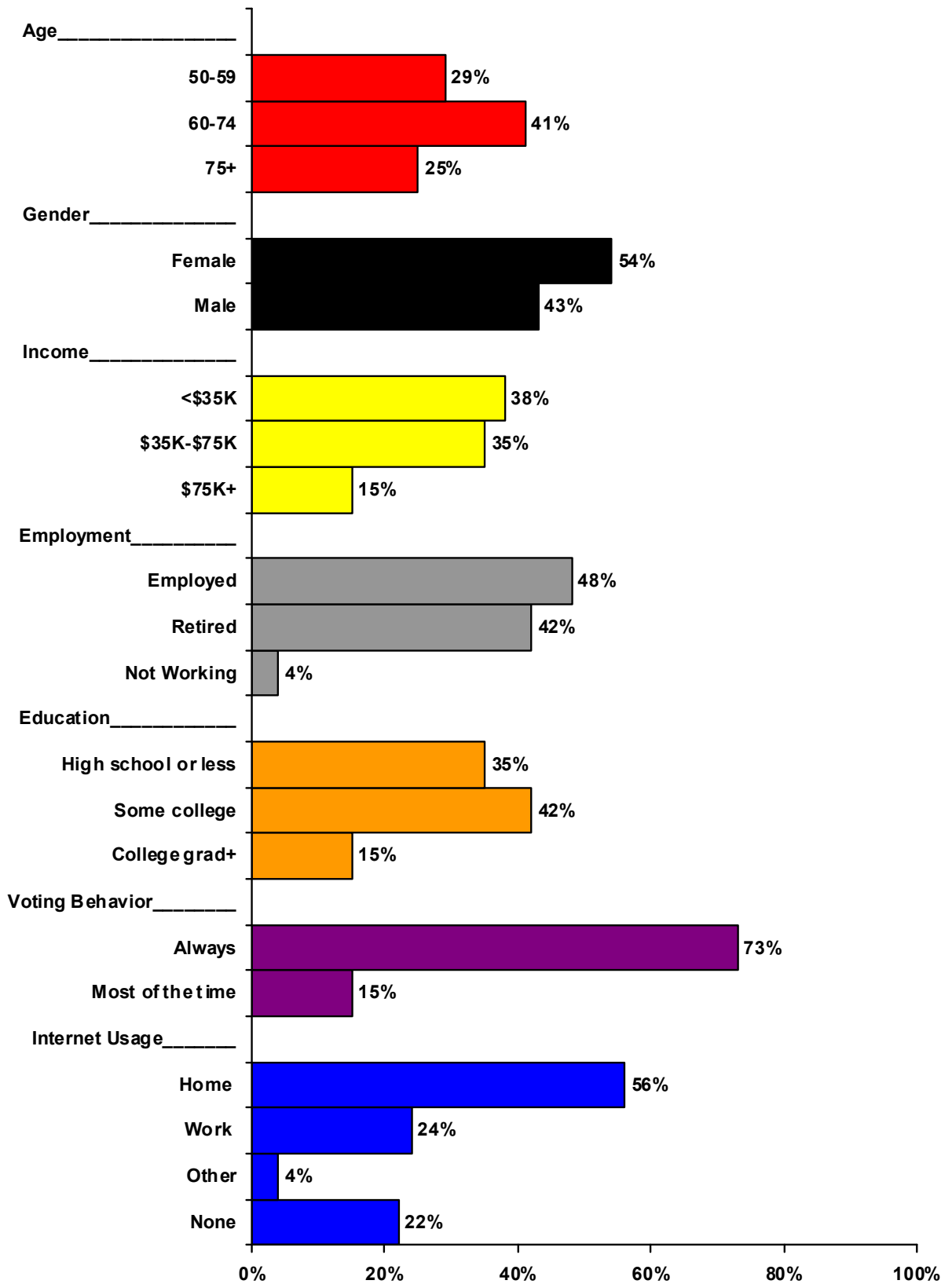
To stay in their present neighborhoods, as they age, majorities of members say improved access to public transportation and improved road and sidewalk conditions for pedestrians are important.



- **More than eight in ten AARP North Dakota members say transportation options and alternatives to driving are a priority.**

Transportation options and alternatives to driving are a priority for members (see legislative priorities on page 2). Nineteen percent say it is a top priority, 36 percent say it is a high priority, and 29 percent say it is a medium priority. Less than ten percent of members say it is a not a priority or a low priority.

Respondent Demographics



WEIGHTED ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

2008 AARP North Dakota Member Survey

n=1,042; Response Rate = 52%; Sampling Error = ±3.04%

Personal Concerns

1. Below is a list of concerns that have been expressed by people age 50 and older. Please check the box that most closely matches your level of concern about each item.

	Extremely Concerned ▼	Very Concerned ▼	Somewhat Concerned ▼	Not Very Concerned ▼	Not At All Concerned ▼	No Answer ▼
a. Having Social Security as a base for retirement income	45%	28%	17%	5%	2%	4%
b. Affording the cost of prescription drugs.....	48%	28%	14%	5%	1%	4%
c. Continuing to drive safely	24%	27%	28%	10%	4%	7%
d. Staying physically active	31%	37%	21%	6%	2%	5%
e. Being able to get to where I need and want to go if I could not drive	34%	34%	19%	7%	2%	5%
f. Affording the cost of utility services...	32%	30%	22%	9%	2%	5%
g. Having long-term care services that would allow me or a family member to stay at home as long as possible	40%	32%	17%	5%	2%	5%
h. Having Medicare as a base for retirement health insurance	49%	30%	11%	3%	1%	5%
i. Assuring my pension benefits and retirement savings are safe	61%	21%	8%	3%	2%	5%
j. Affording health care	60%	23%	9%	3%	1%	5%
k. Being able to stay in my own home as I get older	47%	28%	15%	4%	2%	4%
l. Avoiding consumer fraud.....	35%	27%	22%	10%	2%	5%
m. Affording the cost of long-term care...	46%	29%	17%	3%	1%	5%
n. Having enough money to meet daily living expenses.....	42%	26%	18%	8%	2%	4%

AARP Roles and Activities in North Dakota

2. Please rank the following in order of importance (with 1 = most important & 5 = least important). I look to the AARP office in Bismarck, North Dakota to:

%	
2	Provide opportunities to volunteer
13	Advocate and help me impact laws and regulations
5	Help me make my community better
8	Provide information on legislative and regulatory issues
41	Provide information on health care and financial security

3. If AARP has or were to have programs, services, or activities in your community, how would you want to find out about them? (Check ALL that apply)

%	
69	Newspapers
11	Contact an AARP volunteer in your community
11	Attend an AARP meeting
78	Mail (e.g. letter, brochure, flyer)
21	Visit the AARP North Dakota website: www.aarp.org/nd
26	Receive an email notification
26	Receive a phone call
3	No answer

4. Listed below are some opportunities AARP could provide in North Dakota to address your interests and concerns. Please read each one carefully and indicate how likely it is that you, personally, would make use of the opportunity if it were offered in North Dakota.

The opportunity to.....	Definitely Would Use	Probably Would Use	Might or Might Not Use	Probably Would Not Use	Definitely Would Not Use	No Answer
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. Attend <u>one-time</u> educational events on topics of interest or concern to me .	13%	35%	33%	11%	3%	5%
b. Receive written information on topics of interest or concern to me	28%	46%	17%	3%	1%	4%
c. Contact a key decision maker to improve state law, policy, or regulation that affects me	12%	29%	36%	14%	3%	6%
d. Access a website for information on topics of interest or concern to me	16%	28%	20%	13%	17%	7%
e. Volunteer my time to an AARP activity in my own community	4%	15%	37%	26%	12%	7%
f. Access website for information about upcoming AARP events in North Dakota	9%	24%	23%	17%	19%	7%

State Legislative Issues

5. AARP North Dakota wants to work on the most important issues facing North Dakota members. How much of a priority are each of the following to you?

	Top Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not A Priority	No Answer
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. Affordable, accessible health care..	58%	29%	6%	1%	1%	6%
b. Affordable, accessible in-home care services	31%	38%	20%	3%	2%	6%
c. Supporting nursing homes	19%	36%	30%	4%	2%	9%
d. Transportation options and alternatives to driving	19%	36%	29%	7%	2%	7%
e. Utility rates and assistance with heating costs	28%	30%	22%	9%	3%	8%
f. Consumer protections for cell phone usage.....	19%	23%	28%	15%	7%	9%
g. Tax issues, including income, property, and sales taxes.	42%	30%	14%	4%	2%	8%

Long-Term and In-Home Care

6. If you, a family member, or a loved one needed assistance with personal care, such as bathing or meal preparation, where would you be most likely to find information on choices and types of care available in your community?

Please check your top three choices only.

<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>	
46	Family/friend	37	Physician
12	Aging Services Division	47	County Social Services
31	Senior Center (Senior Service Provider)	21	Hospital Discharge Planner
18	AARP	5	Internet
37	North Dakota Human Services Department	12	Not sure
13	Telephone book	5	No answer

7. How familiar are you with options for long-term and in-home care in your community?

<u>%</u>	
5	Extremely familiar
11	Very familiar
38	Somewhat familiar
26	Not very familiar
13	Not at all familiar
3	Not sure
5	No answer

8. How important is it to you to have one place that provides information on long-term and in-home care options in every community?

<u>%</u>	
23	Extremely important
42	Very important
25	Somewhat important
3	Not very important
<1	Not at all important
2	Not sure
5	No answer

9. In the past five years, have you, a family member, or a friend ever used services such as in-home support, nursing home care, assisted living, or adult foster care, etc. ?

<u>%</u>	
41	Yes
49	No (<i>Skip to question 12</i>)
2	Not sure (<i>Skip to question 12</i>)
8	No answer (<i>Skip to question 12</i>)

**10. What kind of care did you, a family member or a friend use during that time?
(Check ALL that apply) N = 429**

<u>%</u>	
54	Lived in a nursing home
27	Lived in an assisted living facility
38	Lived at home while receiving visits from skilled health professionals
29	Lived at home while receiving help with daily activities or personal care tasks from a health aide
37	Lived at home while receiving help from family or friends
1	Not sure
1	No answer

11. When care was received, how were the services paid for? (Check ALL that apply) N = 429

- %
- 50 Privately
 - 46 By insurance
 - 37 With assistance from state or county programs
 - 11 Not sure
 - 1 No answer

12. Which comes closer to your view of how long-term care (e.g. in-home support, nursing home care, assisted living, or adult foster care) should be paid for?

- %
- 16 The costs of care should be paid mostly by the individual receiving care—either through insurance or savings
 - 17 The costs of care should be paid primarily through government programs
 - 48 The costs of care should be shared between the individual receiving care and the government
 - 14 Not sure
 - 6 No answer

13. How important is it to you for the State of North Dakota to provide funding to make long-term care more widely available, even if it requires an increase in state taxes?

- %
- 16 Extremely important
 - 37 Very important
 - 30 Somewhat important
 - 5 Not very important
 - 2 Not at all important
 - 7 Not sure
 - 3 No answer

14. How many individuals in your community are you aware of who are not currently receiving in-home care services, but could remain healthier and home longer, if they received in-home care?

- %
- 12 Several
 - 31 A few
 - 22 None
 - 33 Not sure

15. How likely are you to consider use of adult day care services for a member of your family?

- %
- 7 Extremely likely
 - 20 Very likely
 - 30 Somewhat likely
 - 19 Not very likely
 - 9 Not at all likely
 - 13 Not sure
 - 2 No answer

Transportation

16. How informed are you about transportation services in your community?

<u>%</u>	
7	Extremely informed
23	Very informed
43	Somewhat informed
18	Not very informed
7	Not at all informed
3	No answer

17. Do you believe there are adequate transportation options for people in your community?

<u>%</u>	
45	Yes
22	No
30	Not sure
3	No answer

18. Do you currently drive?

<u>%</u>	
95	Yes
3	No (<i>Skip to question 20</i>)
<1	Not sure (<i>Skip to question 20</i>)
1	No answer (<i>Skip to question 12</i>)

19. Do you avoid driving during any of the following times? (*Check ALL that apply*)N = 992

<u>%</u>	
13	During the winter
6	When it is raining
23	When it is dark outside
6	Other: _____
61	I do not avoid driving
1	Not sure
8	No answer

20. For each of the following activities, a) indicate how often you make a trip, and b) mark the type of transportation you most frequently use. Each activity must have two responses.

Activity	A. How often Respond for each activity					B. Type of Transportation Respond for each activity					
	5-7 days per week	2-4 days per week	Once a Week	1-2 days per month	No Never Answer	Drive Your Self	Ride (Family or Friend)	Walk	Taxi	Public No Van or Bus Answer	
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	
Medical	1%	3%	5%	62%	14% 16%	79%	6%	<1%	<1	1% 14%	
Pharmacy	<1%	1%	7%	64%	15% 12%	80%	4%	<1%	<1	1% 14%	
Social trip.....	11%	28%	24%	22%	4% 11%	80%	7%	<1%	<1	1% 12%	
Place of worship	2%	9%	52%	15%	11% 11%	75%	7%	3%	--	<1% 15%	
Grocery/ Shopping.....	2%	36%	44%	9%	1% 7%	84%	5%	1%	--	1% 9%	
Eating out.....	3%	19%	30%	34%	6% 9%	77%	10%	<1%	<1	<1% 13%	
Leisure/ Recreation.....	6%	21%	24%	32%	7% 10%	75%	7%	2%	<1	<1% 16%	
Volunteer	2%	5%	9%	29%	40% 16%	59%	3%	1%	--	<1% 37%	
Work	35%	9%	2%	5%	39% 19%	61%	2%	2%	<1	<1% 34%	
Bank.....	1%	6%	20%	56%	4% 13%	79%	5%	2%	--	<1% 14%	
Other (Specify) .. _____ _____	1%	1%	2%	3%	4% 89%	16%	<1%	<1%	--	<1% 83%	

21. Now for those same activities, please indicate a) if you desire more trips and b) is transportation a limiting factor in making these desired trips? Each activity must have two responses.

Activity	A. Desire More Trips			B. Is Transportation a Limiting Factor?		
	Respond to each			Respond to each		
	Yes	No	No Answer	Yes	No	No Answer
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Medical	4%	83%	13%	4%	82%	14%
Pharmacy	2%	83%	15%	2%	82%	16%
Social trip.....	9%	76%	15%	4%	80%	16%
Place of worship	6%	79%	15%	2%	81%	17%
Grocery/Shopping.....	4%	81%	15%	2%	82%	16%
Eating out.....	7%	78%	15%	2%	81%	16%
Leisure/Recreation.....	10%	74%	16%	4%	80%	17%
Volunteer	3%	79%	18%	1%	80%	19 %
Work	2%	78%	20%	1%	79%	20%
Bank.....	3%	81%	17%	2%	82%	16%
Beauty/Barber	3%	79%	17%	2%	81%	18%
Other (Specify).....	1%	31 %	68%	<1%	34%	66%

22. Approximately how many miles do you live from your most frequent travel destinations (e.g. grocery, pharmacy, neighbor, etc.)?

- %
- 22 Less than 1 mile
- 41 1 – 5 miles
- 10 6 – 10 miles
- 8 11 – 20 mile
- 12 More than 20 miles
- 1 Not sure
- 7 No answer

23. How satisfied are you with the transportation options available in your community?

- %
- 26 Very satisfied
- 20 Somewhat satisfied
- 21 Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- 4 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 Very dissatisfied
- 20 Not sure
- 6 No answer

24. For you to stay in your present neighborhood as you age, how important is each of the following?

	Extremely Important ▼	Very Important ▼	Somewhat Important ▼	Not Very Important ▼	Not Important At All ▼	No Answer ▼
a. Improved access to public transportation.....	16%	29%	29%	13%	6%	8%
b. Improved road and sidewalk conditions for pedestrians.....	14%	26%	25%	16%	10%	10%
c. More delivery services (e.g., groceries, prescriptions, etc.)	11%	23%	34%	16%	8%	8%
d. More riding alternatives (e.g., community vans, volunteer drivers, carpooling, etc.)	11%	21%	34%	17%	7%	10%
e. Other (please specify)	2%	1%	2%	2%	5%	87%

25. If you use or were to use public transportation, how much of a problem is each of the following?

	Major Problem ▼	Minor Problem ▼	Not a Problem ▼	No Answer ▼
a. Difficulty boarding	5%	18%	65%	12%
b. Being able to get to a seat	3%	16%	68%	13%
c. Being worried about crime	4%	22%	63%	11%
d. The cost of public transportation	8%	31%	50%	11%
e. Having a place to sit while waiting.....	15%	32%	41%	12%
f. Going where I need to go.....	14%	33%	41%	12%
g. Adequate shelter from the weather while waiting	24%	31%	33%	12%
h. Getting information about fares, routes, and schedules.....	12%	34%	41%	13%
i. Inconvenient schedules, such as no weekend or evening services.....	23%	34%	31%	12%
j. The condition of public transportation vehicles and bus stops.....	11%	28%	48%	13%
k. The time it takes to use public transportation, such as, numerous stops, and transferring	11%	39%	38%	12%
l. Difficulty getting to the stop, such as distance, no or poor sidewalks, high curbs, or roads to cross.....	13%	28%	46%	13%

26. In your view, who do you think public transportation serves? (*Check ALL that apply*)

<u>%</u>	
47	It serves the elderly
45	It serves people with disabilities
41	It serves low-income people
72	It serves everyone in the community
6	No answer

Consumer Protection for Cell Phones

27. How strongly do you agree or disagree that cell phone customers should be protected from signing long term contracts (typically 1 to 2 years) without knowing if the service fits their needs?

<u>%</u>	
64	Strongly agree
12	Somewhat agree
7	Neither agree nor disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
2	Strongly disagree
7	Not sure
6	No answer

28. How strongly do you agree or disagree that cell phone companies should be required to disclose fee, surcharges, estimates of total monthly bills, and detailed coverage maps to allow consumers to make informed choices?

<u>%</u>	
76	Strongly agree
9	Somewhat agree
3	Neither agree nor disagree
<1	Somewhat disagree
1	Strongly disagree
5	Not sure
5	No answer

29. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the Public Service Commission should be given the power to have oversight over the cellular telephone industry?

<u>%</u>	
47	Strongly agree
25	Somewhat agree
10	Neither agree nor disagree
2	Somewhat disagree
2	Strongly disagree
9	Not sure
5	No answer

About You

The following questions are for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.

D1. Are you male or female?

<u>%</u>	
43	Male
54	Female
3	No answer

D2. What is your age as of your last birthday? _____ (in years)

<u>%</u>	
29	50-59
41	60-74
25	75+
5	No answer

D3. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

<u>%</u>	
9	0-12 th grade (no diploma)
26	High school graduate (or equivalent)
18	Post-high school education (no degree)
11	2-year college degree
13	4-year college degree
4	Post-graduate study (no degree)
11	Graduate or professional degree
9	No answer

D4. In the last 30 DAYS, have you accessed the Internet?

<u>%</u>	
56	Yes, from home
24	Yes, from work
4	Yes, from another source (e.g. library or community center)
22	Not accessed in the last 30 days
5	Not sure
9	No answer

D5. Thinking about your state elections for North Dakota Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, how often would you say you vote?

<u>%</u>	
73	Always
15	Most of the time
2	About half of the time
4	Seldom
2	Never
3	No answer

D6. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

<u>%</u>	
30	Employed full-time
11	Employed part-time
3	Self-employed full-time
4	Self employed part-time
42	Retired and not working
3	Not in the workforce for some other reason
1	Unemployed, but looking for work
6	No answer

D7. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

<u>%</u>	
30	Democrat
23	Republican
32	Independent
3	Other [Specify: _____]
6	Not sure
7	No answer

D8. Which of the following describes you? (Check ALL that apply)

<u>%</u>	
4	Homebound
1	Receiving homecare
11	Have a physical disability
1	Have a mentally disability
83	None of the above
3	No answer

D9. What is your 5-digit Zip Code? (WRITE IN YOUR ZIP CODE.) _____

D10. Within the last 5 years, in which of the following activities have you participated? (Check ALL that apply)

- | <u>%</u> | |
|----------|--|
| 34 | Phoned, written, or sent e-mail to a public official to make your views known on an issue |
| 39 | Attended an informational event |
| 12 | Written a letter or e-mail to a newspaper or called a radio or TV show to make your views known on an issue |
| 10 | Volunteered with a group working to influence legislation/regulation on a local, state, or national government |
| 41 | No answer |

D11. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2007?

- | <u>%</u> | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 5 | Less than \$10,000 |
| 13 | \$10,000 to less than \$20,000 |
| 20 | \$20,000 to less than \$35,000 |
| 17 | \$35,000 to less than \$50,000 |
| 10 | \$50,000 to less than \$60,000 |
| 8 | \$60,000 to less than \$75,000 |
| 15 | \$75,000 or more |
| 13 | No answer |

**Thank you very much for completing this survey.
Please return your completed survey by November 19, 2008
in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to:
AARP State Research
601 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20049**

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over **34.5** million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's **40** million members and Americans 50+; AARP Segunda Juventud, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



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