A large green rectangular block is positioned in the top left corner. A small yellow square is located at the bottom right corner of this green block, where it meets a thin grey horizontal line that extends to the right.

New Mexico Legislative Issues: A Survey of AARP Members

A thin grey horizontal line and a thin grey vertical line intersect at a yellow square. The horizontal line extends to the left from the square, and the vertical line extends upwards from the square.

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New Mexico Legislative Issues: A Survey of AARP Members

Report Prepared by Joanne Binette

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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to making life better for people 50 and over. We provide information and resources; engage in legislative, regulatory and legal advocacy; assist members in serving their communities; and offer a wide range of unique benefits, special products, and services for our members. These include *AARP The Magazine*, published bimonthly; *AARP Bulletin*, our monthly newspaper; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, our bimonthly newspaper in Spanish; *NRTA Live & Learn*, our quarterly newsletter for National Retired Teachers Association members; and our Web site, www.aarp.org. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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Background

The *2004 AARP New Mexico Legislative Issues Survey* explores the attitudes and opinions of 987 New Mexico members on several consumer and legislative issues. More specifically, the survey examines the topics of long-term care services, utilities, identity theft, and the state's budget. In addition, this survey gauges state legislative priorities of AARP members in New Mexico.

This report summarizes the weighted overall findings on all the topics covered in the survey. Throughout the report, statistics representing member responses are reported in percentages.¹ In some instances, percentages are small and may not seem to represent a significant proportion of members, yet when projected to the total New Mexico membership the actual number of people may be substantial. As of September 2004, the number of AARP members in New Mexico was 239,427.

Highlights

- The top legislative priorities of New Mexico members are the availability, cost, and quality of health care (63%), and access to affordable prescription drugs (58%).

Long-term Care Insurance

- Seven in ten New Mexico members say they are very (30%) or somewhat worried (40%) about being able to afford long-term care services for themselves or their family members.
- Nearly eight in ten (79%) members do not own a private long-term care insurance policy.
 - Of these members, nearly six in ten (58%) say they would not consider buying a long-term care insurance policy, primarily because of cost.

Long-term Care

- Nearly all New Mexico members say that it is very (82%) or somewhat important (14%) to have long-term care services that would enable them or their family members to stay at home as long as possible when long-term care is needed.
- Over eight in ten members strongly (55%) or somewhat support (30%) the state of New Mexico increasing funding for home and community-based care services that allow people to remain in their own home as they age instead of going to a nursing home, even if it means an increase in their taxes.

¹ Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

- Nearly half (49%) of members say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who supported maintaining or expanding the delivery of home and community-based health and long-term care services, even it means raising state taxes. Fifteen percent say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported this action.

Identity Theft

- Nearly nine in ten (87%) New Mexico members are concerned about being victims of identity theft.
- Almost all (95%) New Mexico members believe it is important to provide identity theft victims with a formal legal mechanism to clear their names from law enforcement records.
- Over nine in ten (92%) members support the state enacting legislation that permits a person to place a security freeze on their credit reports.
- Nearly nine in ten (88%) New Mexico members believe it is important that the state makes it mandatory for police officers in the identity theft victim's home district to report, process, and prosecute identity theft crimes, regardless of where the crimes occur.

State Budget

- At least three in four New Mexico members oppose cuts in health and long-term care services (81%) and education services (76%) as ways to balance the state budget.
- Over eight in ten (81%) support closing tax loopholes and exemptions and almost as many (78%) support increasing taxes on beer, wine, and liquor as ways to balance the state budget.

Utilities

- About two-thirds of members strongly (32%) or somewhat support (32%) the state of New Mexico creating an office that would advocate on behalf of residential customers to keep rates affordable, even if it means a small surcharge on their monthly utility bill.
- About three-quarters (74%) of New Mexico members support enforcing mandatory water conservation in the state.

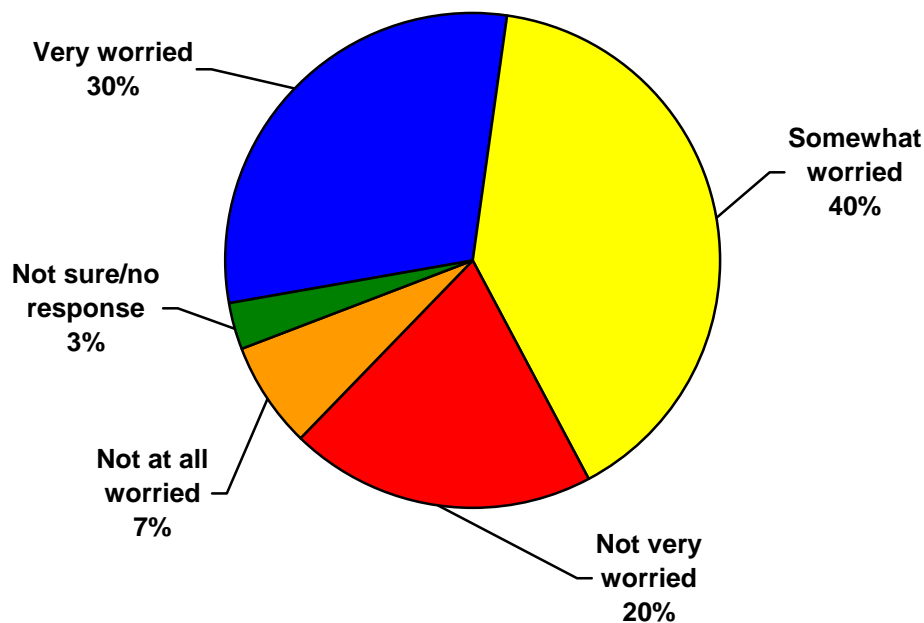
Findings

Long-Term Care Insurance

Seven in ten New Mexico members are worried about being able to afford long-term care services for themselves and their family.

Seven in ten members say they are very (30%) or somewhat worried (40%) about being able to afford long-term care services for themselves or their family members.

**Concern About Being Able to Afford Long-Term Care Services
(N = 987)**



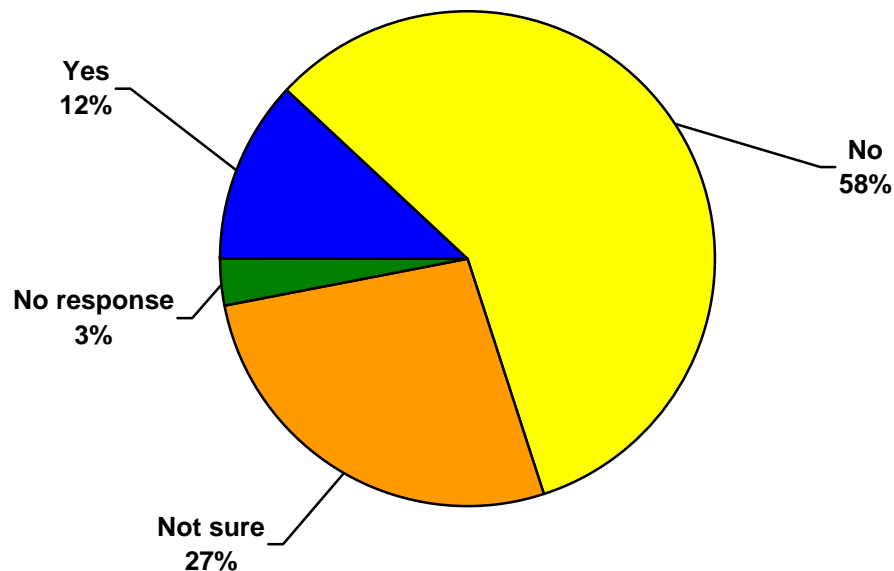
Most New Mexico members do not own private long-term care insurance policies.

New Mexico members were asked if they owned private long-term care insurance policies that would pay for nursing home care, assisted living, or in-home care if it was needed over a long period of time. Nearly eight in ten (79%) members say they do not own a private long-term care insurance policy while sixteen percent say they do. Three percent do not know if they own such a policy.

Of those New Mexico members who do not currently own a long-term care insurance policy, nearly six in ten say they would not consider buying one.

New Mexico members who say they do not currently own a long-term care insurance policy were asked if they would consider buying one. They were told that the average premium cost in 2002 for a comprehensive long-term care insurance plan for a person 50 years old was about \$1,134 per year and for a person 65 years old was about \$2,346 per year. After being given this information about one in ten (12%) say they would consider buying a long-term care insurance policy while nearly six in ten (58%) say they would not. More than one-quarter (27%) is not sure.

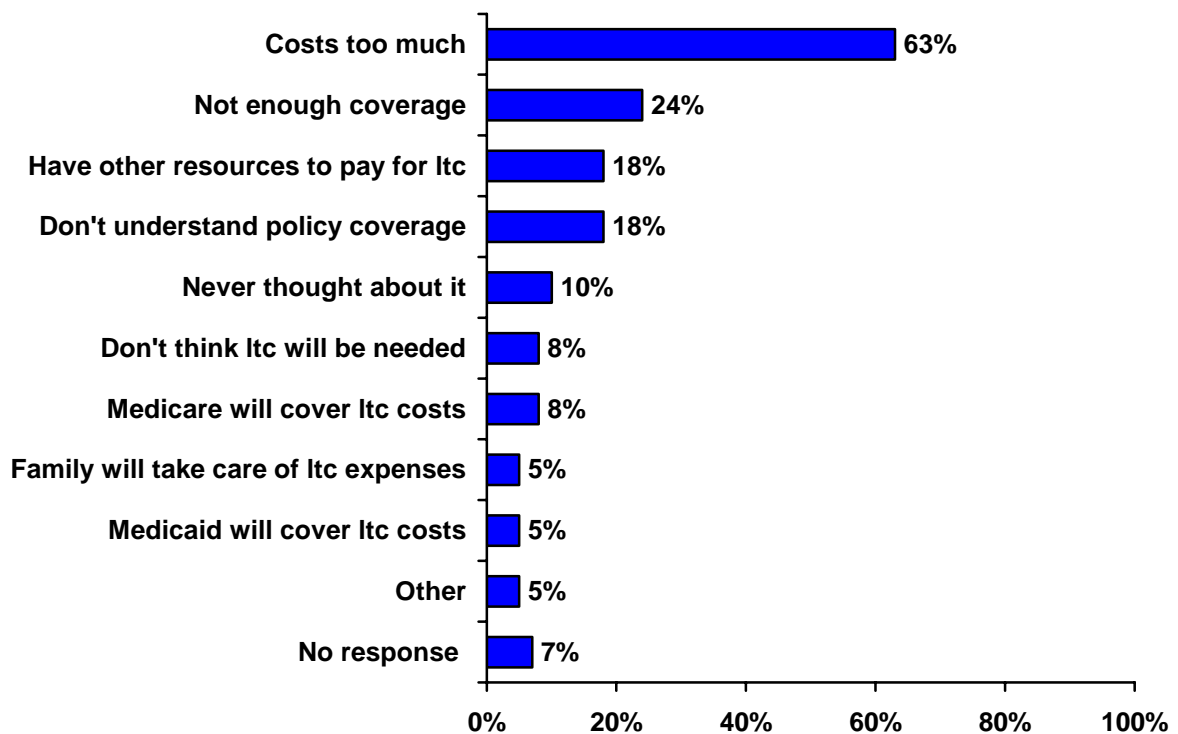
**Would New Mexico members who do not currently own a long-term care insurance policy consider buying one?
(n = 812)**



Of those New Mexico members who do not currently own a long-term care insurance policy and who would not consider buying one, more than six in ten say it is because these policies cost too much.

New Mexico members who say they do not currently own a long-term care insurance policy and who would not consider buying one were asked why they would not consider buying one. More than six in ten (63%) say they would not consider buying a long-term care insurance policy because it costs too much. Almost one-quarter (24%) say they would not consider it because they do not think current long-term care insurance policies cover enough of the long-term care expenses. Nearly one in five say they would not consider it because they have other resources to pay for long-term care (18%) or they do not really understand what the insurance policy covers (18%).

**Reasons for Not Considering Buying a Long-term Care Insurance Policy
Among Members Who Do Not Currently Own a Policy and
Who Would Not Consider Buying One
(n = 692)**

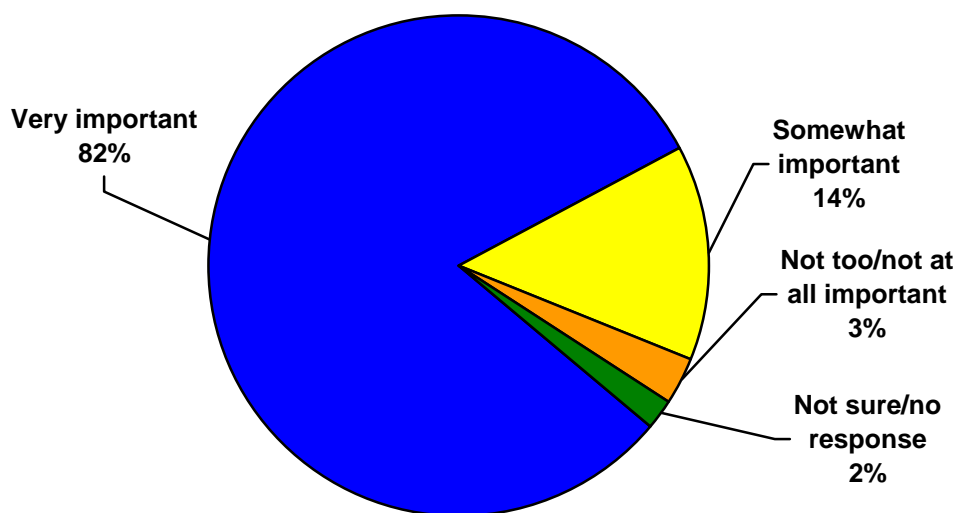


Long-Term Care Services

Nearly all New Mexico members believe it is important to have long-term care services that would enable them or their family members to stay at home as long as possible if long-term care was needed.

More than four in five (82%) New Mexico members say that it is very important to have long-term care services that would enable themselves or their family members to stay at home as long as possible when long-term care is needed, and another 14 percent say it is somewhat important.

Importance of Having Long-term Care Services that Would Enable Members or Their Families to Stay at Home as Long as Possible*
(N = 987)

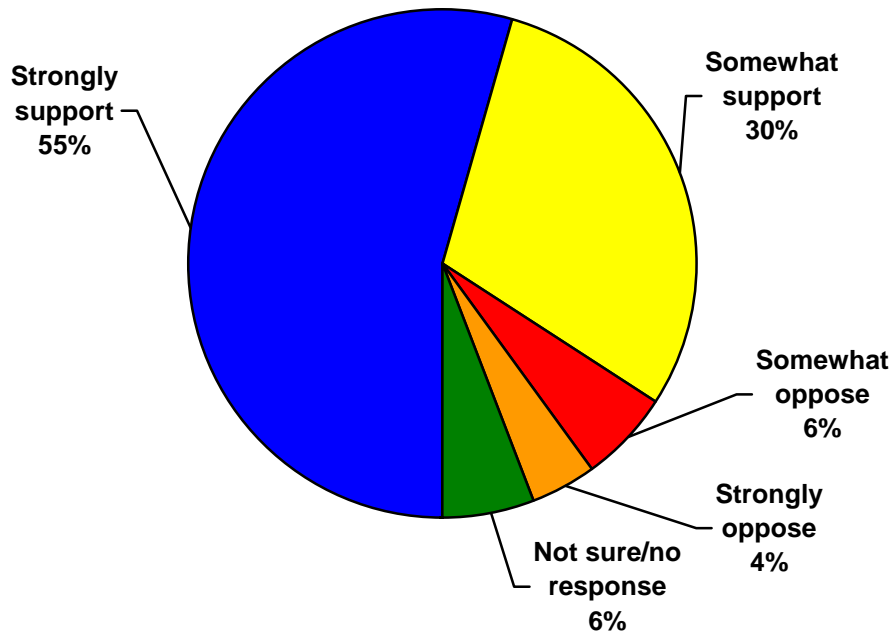


*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

More than eight in ten New Mexico members support the state increasing funding for home and community-based care services that allow people to remain in their own home as they age instead of going to a nursing home, even if it means an increase in their taxes.

Over eight in ten members strongly (55%) or somewhat support (30%) the state of New Mexico increasing funding for home and community-based care services (such as in-home health care or adult day care) that allow people to remain in their own home as they age instead of going to a nursing home, even if it means an increase in their taxes.

**Support for Increasing Funding for Home and Community-Based Services,
Even if It Means an Increase in Taxes*
(N = 987)**

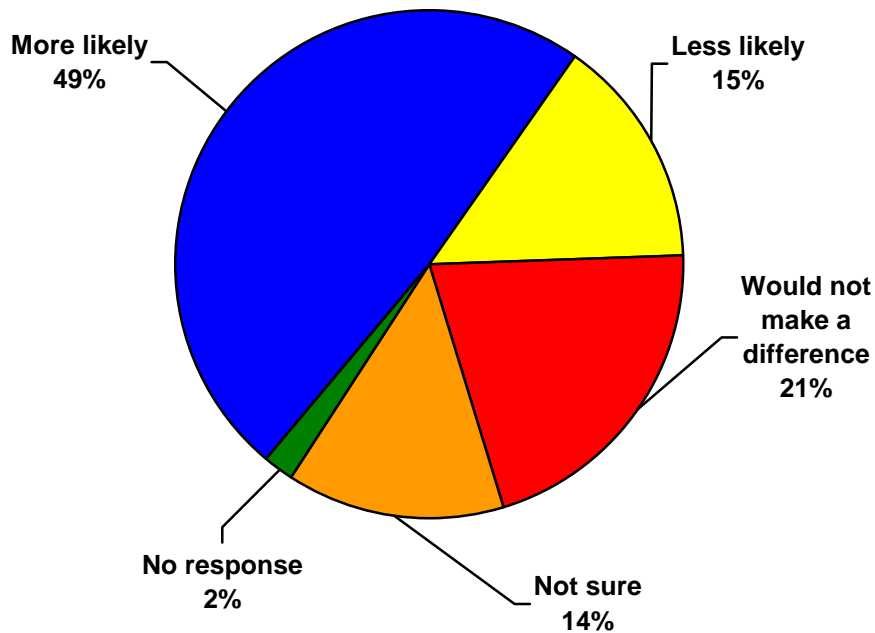


*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Almost half of New Mexico members say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported maintaining or expanding the delivery of home and community-based health and long-term care services, even if it means raising state taxes.

Nearly half (49%) of members say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who supported maintaining or expanding the delivery of home and community-based health and long-term care services, even it means raising taxes. Only 15 percent say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported this action. Just over one in five (21%) say it would not make a difference in their voting behavior.

Likelihood of Voting for a Candidate Who Supported Maintaining or Expanding the Delivery of Home and Community-Based Health and Long-term Care Services, Even if It Means Raising State Taxes*
(N = 987)

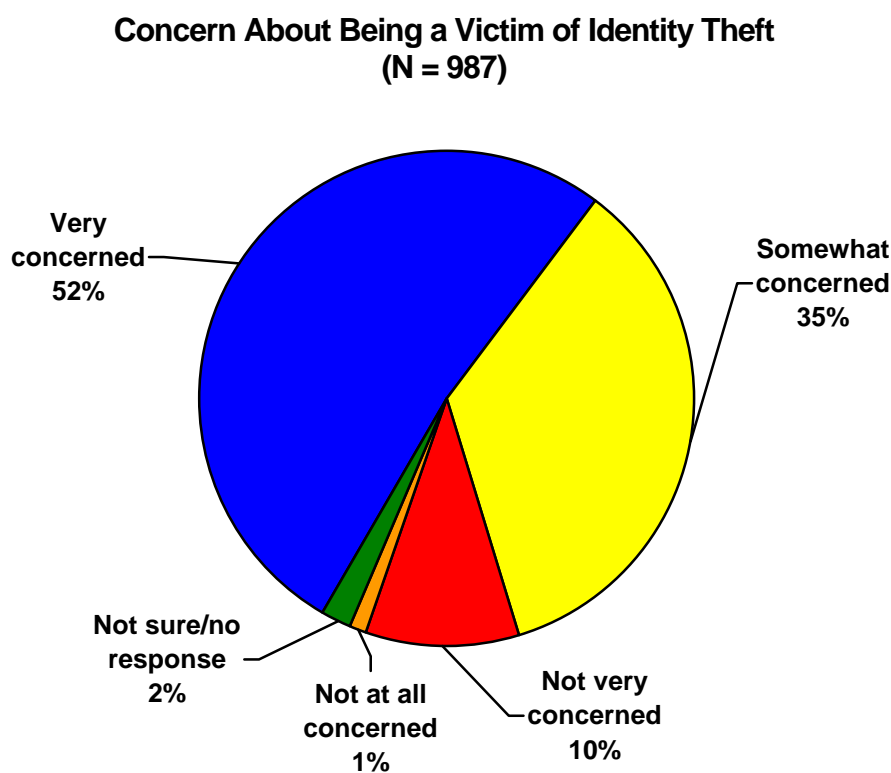


*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Identity Theft

Nearly nine in ten New Mexico members are concerned about being victims of identity theft.

Identity theft can occur when someone gets access to an individual's bank accounts, checking accounts, or credit cards and then uses them fraudulently to run up bills. Identity theft can also occur when someone gets personal information about an individual such as their name, Social Security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name – and uses it to open new bank accounts, open new loans, or make large purchases in their name. Nearly nine in ten New Mexico members are very (52%) or somewhat concerned (35%) about being victims of identity theft.



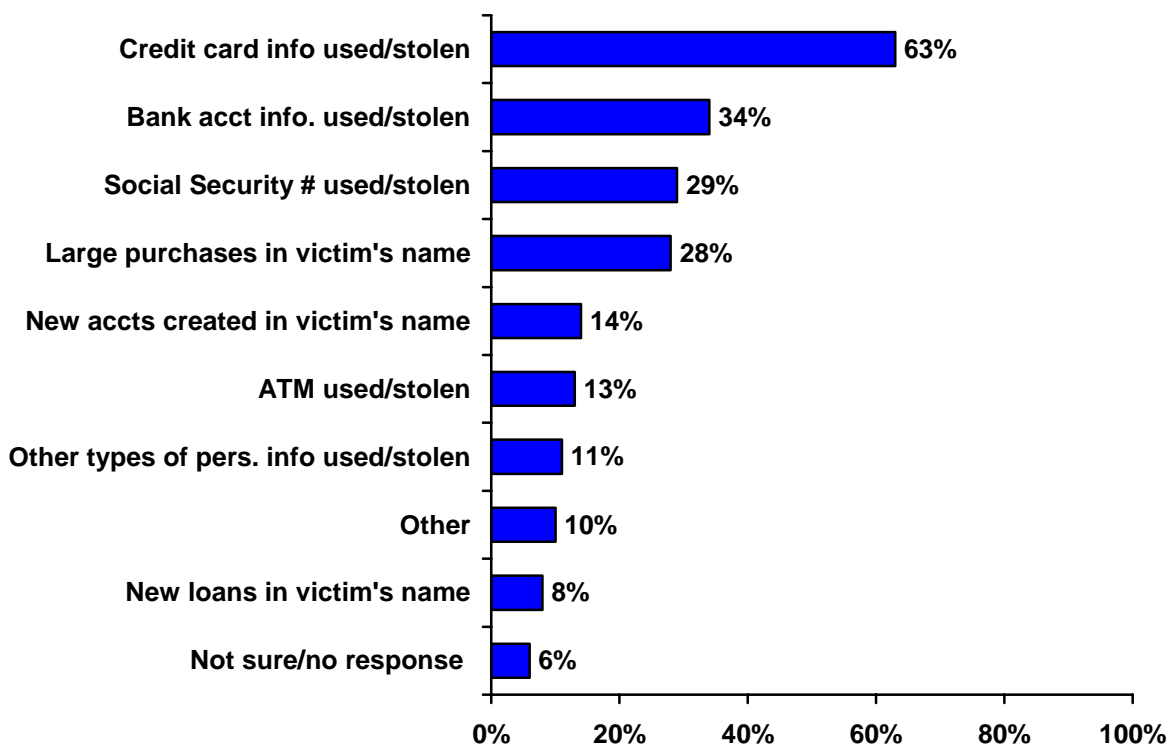
About one-quarter of New Mexico members has been or knows someone who has been a victim of identity theft.

About a quarter says they have been or know someone who has been an identity theft victim. This translates into 62,250 New Mexico members. Six percent of New Mexico members report they have been a victim of identity theft. Nearly one in five (19%) say they know someone who was the victim of identity theft. Two percent report both they and a person they know has been the victim of identity theft. Nearly seven in ten (68%) have not been identity theft victims nor do they know someone who has been a victim. Four percent say they are unsure.

Of those respondents who have been identity theft victims or know a person who has been an identity theft victim, the majority report having their credit card information used or stolen.

More than six in ten (63%) New Mexico members who have been victims of identity theft or who know someone who has been a victim of identity theft report their credit card information has been used or stolen. About a third (34%) report having checking, savings, or other bank information used or stolen. Nearly three in ten report having a Social Security number used or stolen (29%) or having large purchases made in the identity theft victim's name (28%).

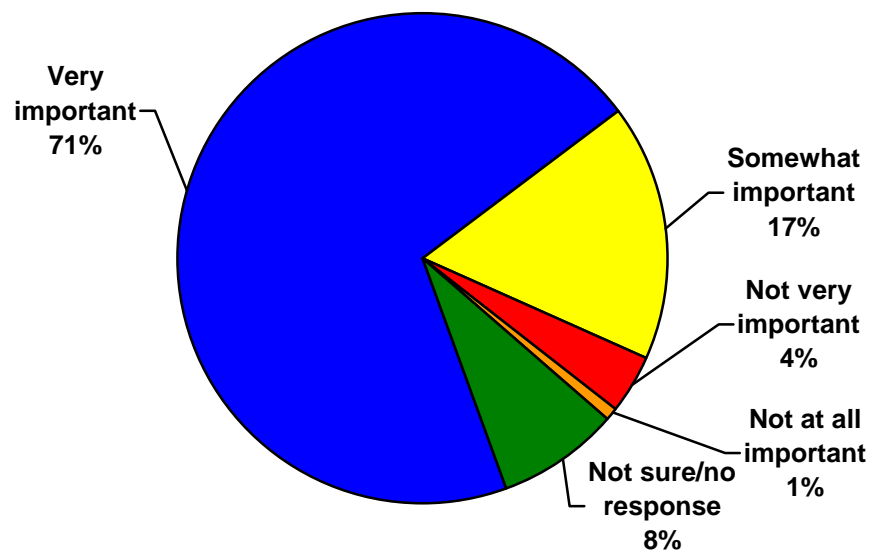
**What kind of identity theft have New Mexico members or someone they know experienced?
(n = 254)**



Nearly nine in ten New Mexico members believe it is important that the state makes it mandatory for police officers in the identity theft victim's home district to report, process, and prosecute identity theft crimes, regardless of where the crimes occur.

Typically, when a crime is committed, the place where the crime occurred determines where it will be reported, processed, and prosecuted. For victims of identity theft, the place where the fraud occurred may not be the place where the victim lives. More than seven in ten (71%) members believe it is very important that New Mexico makes it mandatory for police officers in the identity theft victim's home district to report, process, and prosecute identity theft crimes, regardless of where the crimes took place. Another 17 percent say this action is somewhat important.

Importance of Mandatory Requirements for Reporting, Processing, and Prosecuting Identity Theft Crimes in the Victim's Home District *
(N = 987)

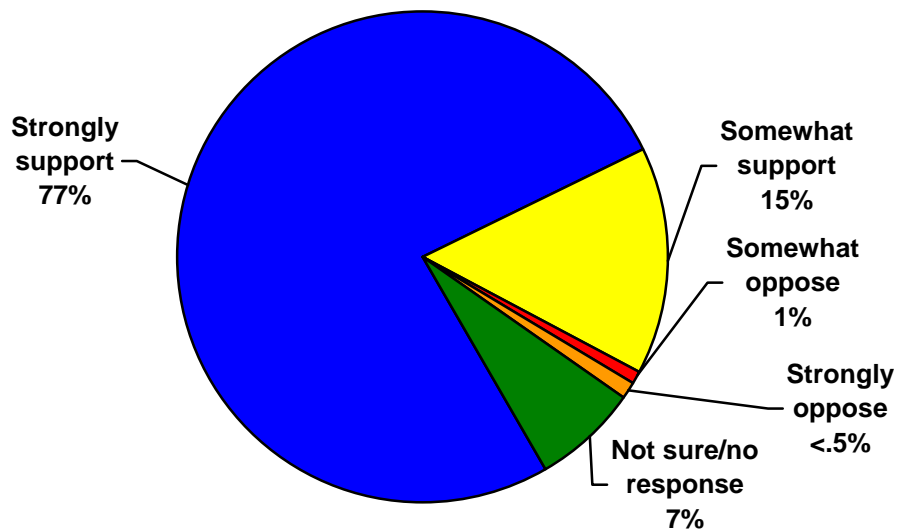


*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

More than nine in ten New Mexico members support the state enacting legislation that permits a person to place a security freeze on their credit reports.

A security freeze allows an individual to add a personal password or P.I.N. (personal identification number) to limit access to his/her credit reports. This assures that no one can access the report without the prior consent of that individual and helps to prevent an identify thief who obtains your personally identifiable information from opening new accounts. More than three-quarters (77%) of members strongly support the state enacting legislation that permits a person to place a security freeze on their credit reports, and another 15 percent somewhat support this action.

Support for Legislation that Permits a Person to Place a Security Freeze on Credit Reports*
(N = 987)

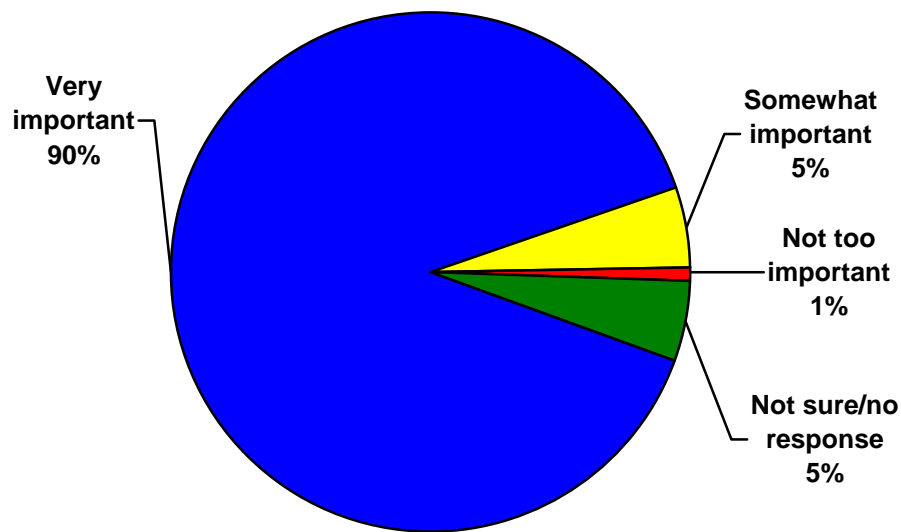


*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Almost all New Mexico members believe it is important to provide identity theft victims with a formal legal mechanism to clear their names from law enforcement records.

Sometimes an identity thief will give the name and identifying information of a victim to law enforcement when caught and charged with a crime. The identity theft victim may later find that there are criminal charges in his or her name as a result of the identity thief's actions. Nine in ten New Mexico members believe it is very important to provide identity theft victims with a formal legal mechanism to clear their names from law enforcement records, and another five percent believe it is somewhat important.

**Importance of a Formal Legal Mechanism for Identity Theft Victims to Clear Their Names from Law Enforcement Records*
(N = 987)**



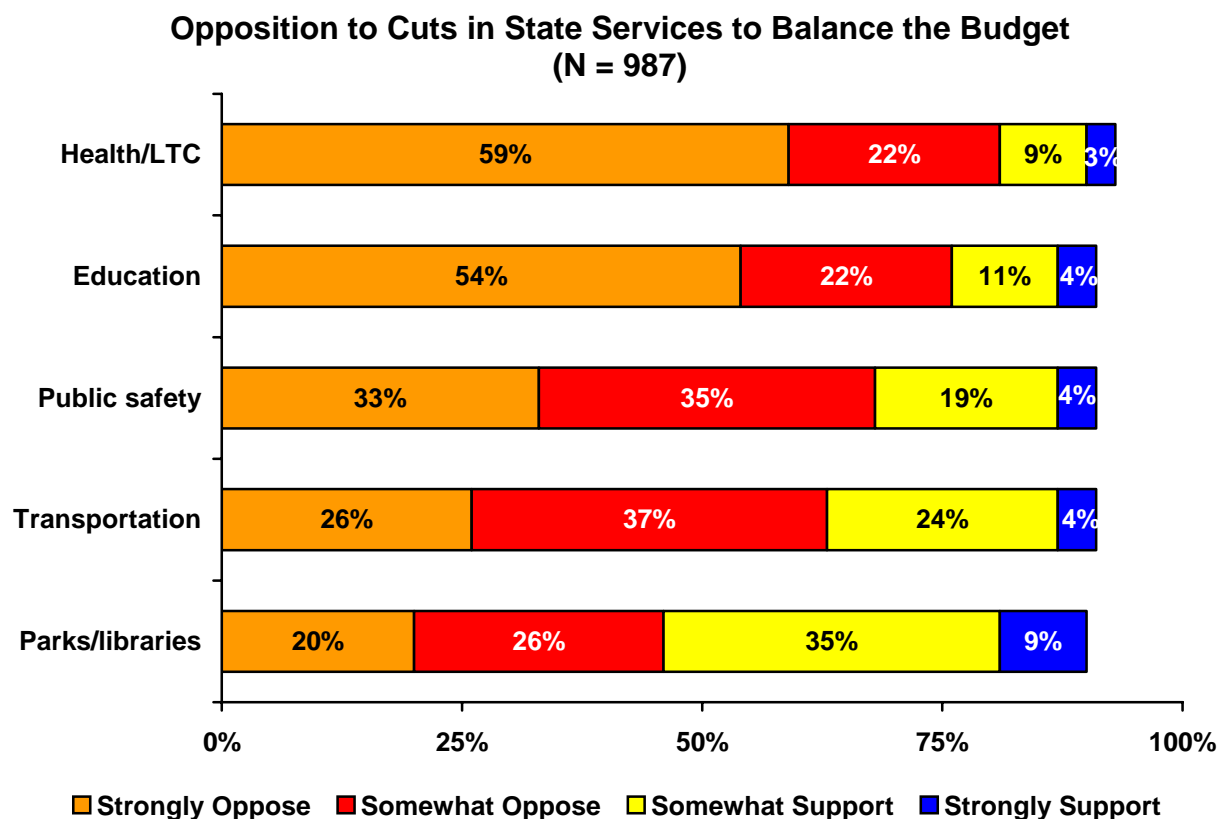
*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

State Budget

New Mexico members oppose cuts to health and long-term care and education as ways to balance the state budget.

Members were asked to consider ways to balance the state budget. One option is possible cuts to a variety of services funded by the state. Members were presented with five different types of state-funded services: health and long-term care; education, including K-12 and higher education; transportation, highways, and roads; public safety, courts, and jails; and parks, libraries and other public amenities.

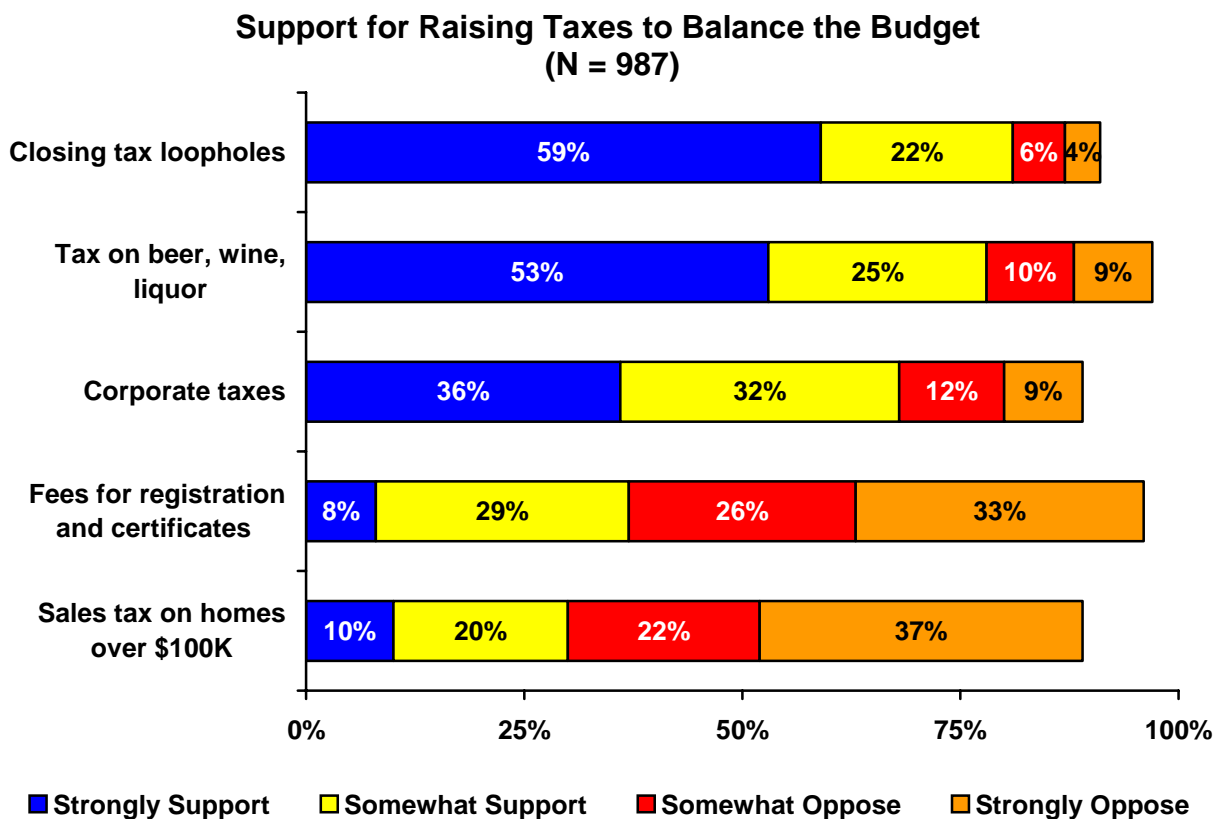
Large majorities of New Mexico members oppose cuts in health and long-term care services (81%) and education services (76%) as a way to balance the state budget. More than six in ten members oppose cuts in public safety and corrections (68%) and transportation services (63%). Less than half oppose reducing the number of hours for parks, libraries, and other amenities (46%).



New Mexico members support closing tax loopholes and exemptions and increasing the tax on beer, wine, and liquor as ways to balance the state budget.

Members also were presented with five different ways to raise revenue: increasing corporate taxes; closing tax loopholes and exemptions; increasing the current tax on beer, wine, and liquor; creating a new sales tax on homes that are valued over \$100,000; and increasing fees for vehicle registration and marriage, birth, and death certificates.

More than eight in ten (81%) support closing tax loopholes and exemptions, and almost as many (78%) support increasing taxes on beer, wine, and liquor. Nearly seven in ten (68%) support increasing corporate taxes. In contrast, the majority oppose increasing fees for vehicle registration, and marriage, birth, and death certificates (59%) and creating a sales tax on homes valued over \$100,000 (59%).

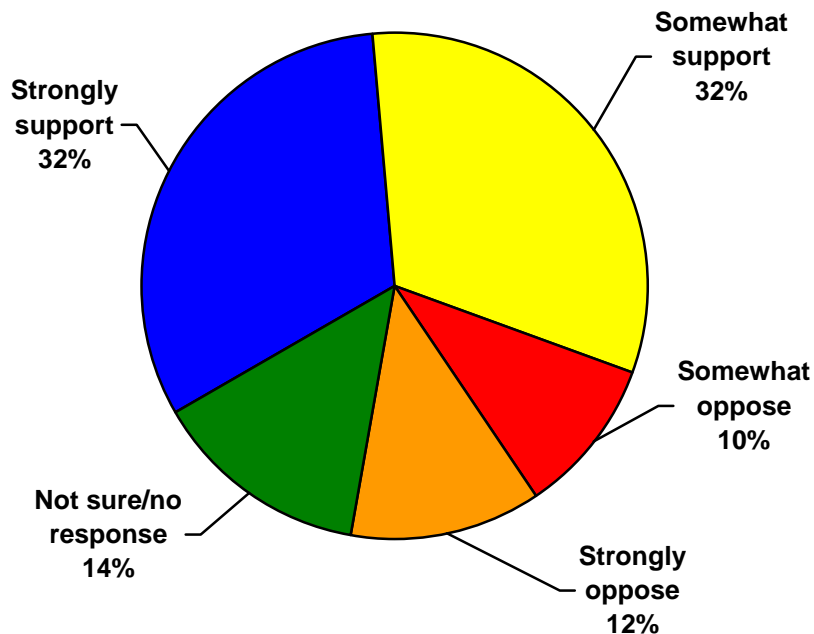


Utilities

New Mexico members support the creation of an office that would exclusively advocate on behalf of residential customers to keep rates affordable, even if it means a small surcharge on their utility bill.

Nearly two-thirds of members strongly (32%) or somewhat support (32%) the state of New Mexico creating an office that would advocate on behalf of residential customers to keep rates affordable, even if it means a small surcharge, such as 20 cents per every \$100 or one-fifth of one percent, on their utility bill.

**Support for Creating an Office Advocating Affordable Utility Rates
(N = 987)**



At least one in five New Mexico members oppose limiting the power of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission to determine and set utility rates; to oversee utility services to ensure reliable and high quality service; and to monitor the earnings of regulated utilities doing business within the state.

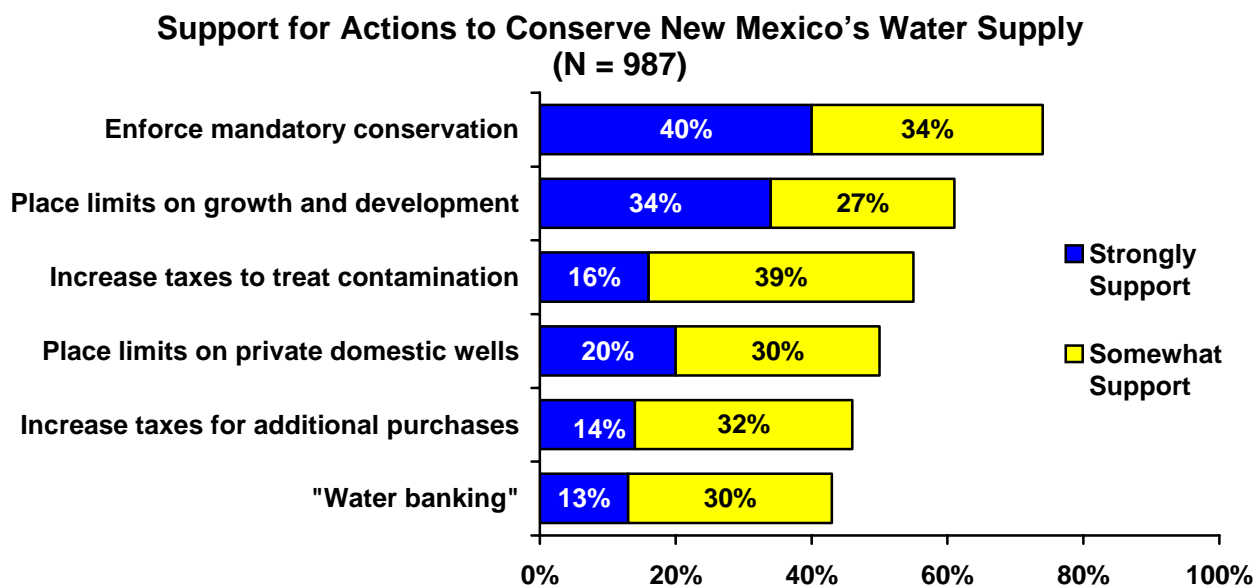
New Mexico members were asked whether they support or oppose limiting the power of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) to regulate utilities in the state. Specifically they were asked about limiting the power of the NMPRC to determine and set utility rates; to oversee utility services to ensure reliable and high quality service; and to monitor the earnings of regulated utilities doing business within New Mexico.

More than three in ten (31%) oppose limiting the power of the NMPRC to determine and set utility rates. More than one in five opposes limiting the power of the NMPRC to oversee utility services to ensure reliable and high quality service (22%); and to monitor the earnings of regulated utilities doing business in the state (22%).

More than half support limiting the power of the NMPRC to monitor the earnings of regulated utilities doing business in New Mexico (66%); to oversee utility service to ensure reliable and high quality service (65%); and to determine and set utility rates (54%).

Nearly three-quarters of New Mexico members support enforcing mandatory water conservation in the state.

New Mexico members support actions to conserve the state's water supply. Approximately three in four (74%) strongly or somewhat support enforcing mandatory water conservation. About six in ten (61%) strongly or somewhat support placing limits on growth and development. Half or more support increasing taxes to treat contaminated water sources (55%) and placing limits on private domestic wells (50%). In addition, more than four in ten strongly or somewhat support increasing taxes for purchase of additional public wells, water rights, storage, and water lines (45%) and "water banking" to more freely buy and sell water rights (44%).



In the 2002 New Mexico Legislative Priorities survey members were asked about their support for these same actions to conserve water. Member support for placing limits on private domestic wells, water banking, and increasing taxes to treat contaminated water sources have significantly increased from 2002 to 2004. Support for enforcing mandatory water conservation, increasing taxes for the purchase of additional wells, and placing limits on growth and development have remained fairly stable.

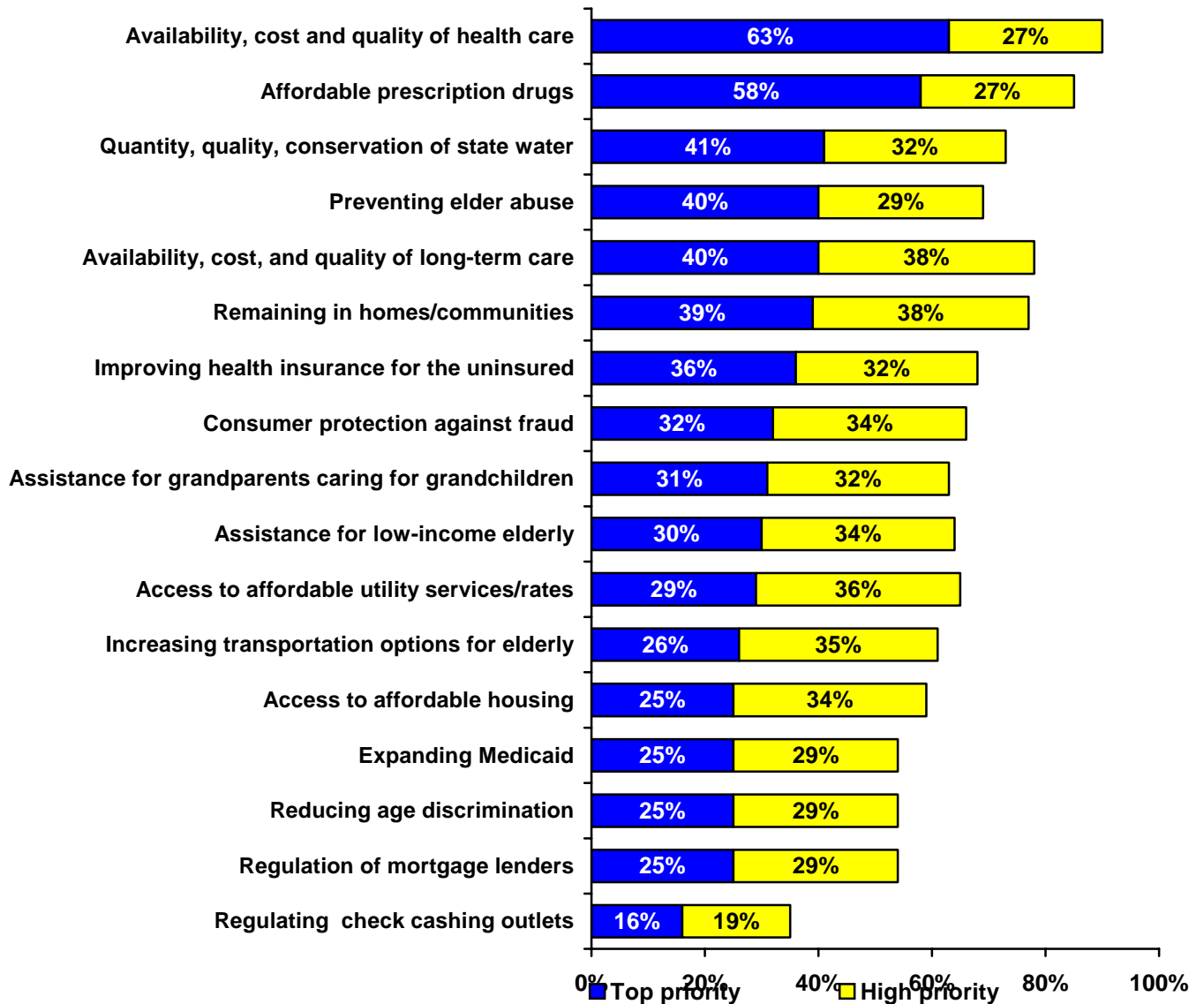
Members' Support for Water Conservation Actions in 2002 and 2004			
	2002	2004	% Difference
Enforcing mandatory water conservation	71%	74%	+3
Placing limits on growth and development	61%	61%	0
Increasing taxes to treat contaminated water sources	50%	55%	+5
Placing limits on private domestic wells	44%	50%	+6
Increasing taxes for purchase of additional wells	44%	45%	+1
Water banking	38%	44%	+6

Legislative Priorities

Members list the availability, cost, and quality of health care; and access to affordable prescription drugs as their top priorities for AARP New Mexico.

Members were asked to indicate how much of a priority it should be for AARP New Mexico to work on various legislative issues. Members were given a list of 17 different issues. More than six in ten (63%) members say that the availability, cost, and quality of health care should be a top priority for AARP New Mexico. Nearly six in ten (58%) say access to affordable prescription drugs should be a top legislative priority. About four in ten believe the quantity, quality, and conservation of state water (41%); preventing elder abuse (40%); the availability, cost, and quality of long-term care (40%); and remaining in their own homes and communities (40%) should be top legislative priorities for AARP New Mexico.

**Top and High Priority Legislative Issues for New Mexico Members
(N=987)**



The 2002 AARP New Mexico Legislative Priorities Survey asked members to rate the legislative priority of twelve issues compared to seventeen issues in 2004. The table below shows the members' top priority ratings of the same issues asked in 2002 and 2004.

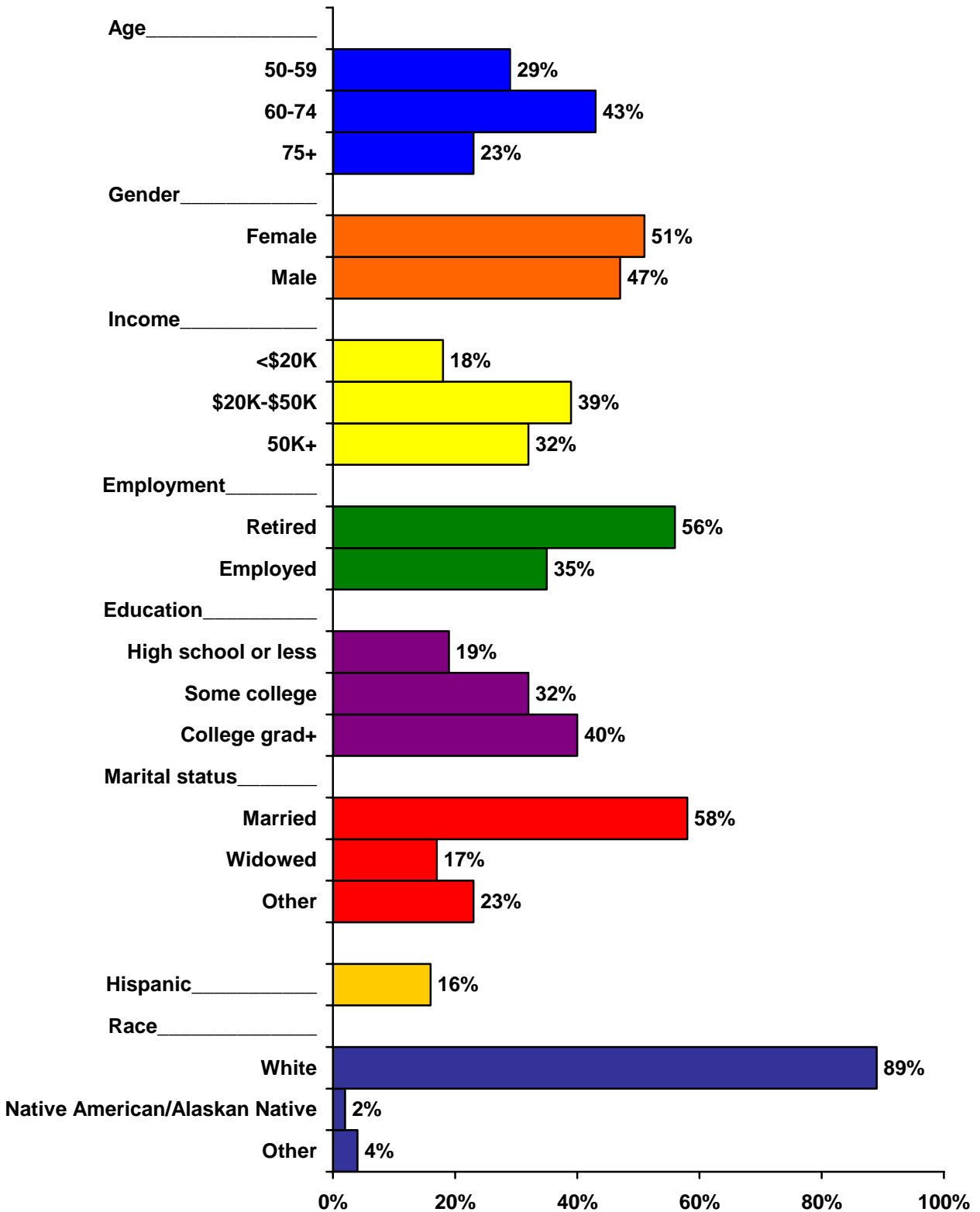
Members' Top Priority Rating of Common Issues in 2002 and 2004			
	2002	2004	% Difference
Availability, cost, and quality of health care	57%	63%	+6
Access to affordable prescription drugs	63%	58%	-5
Long-term care services (cost, quality, and availability)	48%	40%	-8
Remaining in their own homes or communities as they age	49%	39%	-10
Improving health insurance for the uninsured	30%	36%	+6
Consumer protection against fraud	45%	32%	-13
Utility rates and services ²	27%	29%	-2
Transportation for the elderly/disabled ³	21%	26%	+5
Expanding Medicaid	30%	25%	-5

Legislative priority ratings decreased for most of the common issues from 2002 to 2004. The largest decreases were in consumer protection against fraud, remaining in their own homes or communities as they age, and the cost, quality, and availability of long-term care services. The largest increases in priority ratings from 2002 to 2004 were in the availability, cost, and quality of health care, improving health insurance for the uninsured, and transportation for the elderly and disabled.

² This question was stated differently from 2002 to 2004. In 2004, we ask about the “access to affordable utility services/rates” rather than just “utility services and rates.”

³ This question was stated differently from 2002 to 2004. In 2004, we ask about the “increasing transportation options for elderly” rather than “transportation services for the elderly or disabled.”

Demographic Characteristics (N = 987)



Conclusions

In general, members' legislative priorities are consistent with AARP's strategic priorities in New Mexico. In particular, members believe AARP should focus its legislative efforts toward availability, cost, and quality of health care; access to affordable prescription drugs; availability of adequate water sources; preventing elder abuse; availability, cost, and quality of long-term care services; and remaining in their own homes and communities as they age.

Long-term care is a salient issue with New Mexico members. Members feel it is very important to be able to stay in their own home as they age. Over four in five support increasing funds for home and community-based care services that would allow persons to stay in their own home, even if it meant an increase in taxes. Moreover, almost half of members say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports maintaining or expanding the delivery of home and community-based health and long-term care services, even if it means raising state taxes. More than three-quarters of New Mexico members believe that the ability to remain in their own homes as they age and long-term care should be top or high legislative priorities for AARP.

New Mexico members are also worried about being able to afford long-term care services for themselves or their family members. Nearly eight in ten say they do not own long-term care insurance policies, and almost six in ten of these members say they would not consider purchasing such a policy. When asked why they would not consider purchasing a long-term care insurance policy, more than six in ten members say it is because these policies cost too much.

New Mexico members are concerned about being victims of identity theft. About one quarter have been a victim or know victims of identity theft. New Mexico members believe it is important to have protections in place for victims of identity theft crimes. Specifically, almost all members say it is important to provide identity theft victims with a formal legal mechanism to clear their names from law enforcement records. Nearly nine in ten believe it is important that the state makes it mandatory for police officers in the identity theft victim's home district to report, process, and prosecute identity theft crimes, regardless of where the crimes occur. More than nine in ten support enacting legislation that permits an individual to place a security freeze on their credit reports.

New Mexico members are largely opposed to cuts in state services but are willing to consider some revenue increases to help balance the state budget. New Mexico members are most opposed to cuts in health and long-term care services and education services. Many members also oppose cuts in public safety and corrections and transportation services. Fewer oppose reducing the number of hours for parks, libraries, and other amenities. New Mexico members are most supportive of closing tax loopholes and exemptions; increasing taxes on beer, wine, and liquor; and increasing corporate taxes to generate state revenue. Most oppose increasing fees for vehicle registration, and marriage, birth, and death certificates; and creating a sales tax on homes valued over \$100,000.

Nearly two-thirds of members believe that utility services and rates should be a top or high priority for AARP New Mexico. Members want consumer protection in this area. More than six in ten members support the state creating an office to advocate on behalf of residential consumers to keep utility rates affordable, even if it means a small surcharge on their monthly utility bills.

The issue of water conservation is prominent for New Mexico members. Many support actions to conserve New Mexico's water supply, specifically enforcing mandatory water conservation, placing limits on growth and development, and increasing taxes to treat contaminated water sources. Quantity, quality and conservation of state water sources is rated as a top or high legislative priority by nearly three in four members.

Methodology

AARP conducted the *2004 AARP New Mexico Legislative Issues Survey* from June 25 through July 23, 2004. A sample of 2,000 AARP members in New Mexico, proportionally stratified by three age segments, 50 to 59, 60 to 74, and 75+, was selected from AARP's membership database. Each sampled member was contacted about the survey in four ways: a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey. Fifty percent of the sampled New Mexico members returned surveys by the cut-off date, providing 987 useable surveys for analysis. Thus, the survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.2 percent.⁴ Survey responses were weighted to reflect the distribution of the age segments in the member population of New Mexico. As of September 2004, the number of AARP members in New Mexico was 239,427.

References

Hyvarinen, A. (2002). *2002 AARP New Mexico Legislative Priorities Survey*. Washington, DC: AARP.

⁴ This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of 3 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every AARP member in New Mexico age 50 or older had been surveyed.

Annotated Questionnaire

2004 AARP New Mexico Legislative Issues Survey

AARP Members n = 987; Response Rate = 50%; Sampling Error = ± 3.2 %
(Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. A “*” means less than 1%.)

State Legislative Issues

1. To be effective, AARP New Mexico wants to work on the most important issues facing New Mexico AARP members. Keeping in mind what is most important to you, how much of a priority should it be for AARP to work on the following legislative issues in New Mexico?

	Top Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority	Not Sure	No Answer
a. Availability, cost, and quality of health care	63%	27%	6%	1%	1%	2%	*
b. Consumer protection against fraud	32%	34%	24%	6%	2%	3%	1%
c. How older persons can remain in their own homes or communities as they age	39%	38%	16%	4%	2%	2%	*
d. Availability, cost, and quality of long-term care services	40%	38%	15%	3%	2%	2%	1%
e. Assistance programs for older, low-income state residents	30%	34%	25%	5%	3%	2%	1%
f. Access to affordable prescription drugs	58%	27%	8%	2%	2%	2%	1%
g. Quantity, quality, and conservation of state water resources	41%	32%	17%	5%	2%	2%	*
h. Expanding Medicaid, the government health insurance program for low income people	25%	29%	27%	10%	5%	2%	2%
i. Preventing elder abuse	40%	29%	19%	7%	2%	2%	1%
j. Access to affordable utility services and rates	29%	36%	24%	6%	3%	2%	1%
k. Regulation of mortgage lenders to prevent abusive practices	25%	29%	25%	12%	5%	2%	3%
l. Regulating the fees charged by check-cashing outlets and pay day lenders	16%	19%	25%	18%	18%	2%	3%

1. (Continued) To be effective, AARP New Mexico wants to work on the most important issues facing New Mexico AARP members. Keeping in mind what is most important to you, how much of a priority should it be for AARP to work on the following legislative issues in New Mexico?

	Top Priority	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority	Not Sure	No Answer
m. Enabling grandparents who are caring for grandchildren to obtain the necessary financial, medical, educational, and legal services for these children	31%	32%	22%	7%	5%	2%	1%
n. Increasing transportation options for the elderly and disabled	26%	35%	29%	5%	3%	*	1%
o. Reducing age discrimination	25%	29%	26%	10%	6%	1%	2%
p. Access to affordable housing	25%	34%	25%	7%	6%	1%	2%
q. Improving health insurance coverage for the uninsured	36%	32%	20%	5%	4%	1%	2%

Long-Term Care Insurance

Long-term care refers to care provided over an extended period of time at home, in a community setting, or in a nursing home. People of all ages who are frail, ill, or disabled who need assistance with regular daily activities, such as getting dressed, bathing, preparing meals, or eating may receive long-term care services.

2. Some people 50 and older express worry about being able to afford long-term care services for themselves and their family. How worried are you about it?

<u>%</u>	
30	Very worried
40	Somewhat worried
20	Not very worried
7	Not at all worried
1	Not sure
2	No answer

3. Do you currently own a private long-term care insurance policy (not Medicare or Medigap) which would pay for nursing home care, assisted living, or in-home care if it was needed over a long period of time?

<u>%</u>	
16	Yes [Skip to Question 6]
79	No
3	Not sure
2	No Answer

4. Would you consider buying a long-term care insurance policy? (Just for your information, the average yearly premium cost in 2002 for a comprehensive long-term care insurance plan for a person 50 years old was about \$1,134 per year and for a person 65 years old was about \$2,346 per year). (n=812 Respondents who currently do not own a private long-term care insurance policy or are not sure)

<u>%</u>	
12	Yes [Skip to Question 6]
58	No
27	Not sure
3	No Answer

5. Why would you not consider purchasing long-term care insurance? (Check all that apply.) (n=692 Respondents who currently do not own a private long-term care insurance policy and who would not consider buying one or are not sure)

<u>%</u>	
18	You have other resources to pay for long-term care
24	You do not think current long-term care insurance policies cover enough of the expenses
5	Your family will take care of your long-term care costs
8	Medicare will cover your long-term care costs
63	Long-term care insurance policies cost too much
5	Medicaid will cover your long-term care costs
10	It is not something you have ever thought about
8	You don't think you will need long-term care
18	You don't really understand what the insurance policy covers
5	Other; please specify:_____
7	No Answer

State Budget

New Mexico is facing difficult economic choices in the coming months as the governor and state legislators try to balance the state budget. There are a number of approaches to balancing the budget: cutting current services, increasing state tax revenues, or combining both cuts in services and increases in tax revenues.

6. To balance the state budget, would you support or oppose....

	Strongly Support Cuts	Somewhat Support Cuts	Somewhat Oppose Cuts	Strongly Oppose Cuts	Not Sure	No Answer
a. Cuts to health and long-term care services for children, older persons, and people with disabilities	3%	9%	22%	59%	4%	3%
b. Cuts to education including K-12 and higher education	4%	11%	22%	54%	5%	4%
c. Cuts to transportation, highways, road maintenance, and construction	4%	24%	37%	26%	5%	4%
d. Cuts to public safety, courts, and jails	4%	19%	35%	33%	6%	4%
e. Reducing hours for parks, libraries, or other public amenities	9%	35%	26%	20%	8%	3%

7. Another approach to balance the state budget is to look for new ways to raise revenue.

To balance the state budget, would you support or oppose....

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure	No Answer
a. Increasing corporate taxes. Currently corporate income taxes make up 10% of the total income tax revenue	36%	32%	12%	9%	8%	3%
b. Closing tax loopholes and exemptions	59%	22%	6%	4%	6%	3%
c. Creating a new tax on the sale of homes that are valued over \$100,000	10%	20%	22%	37%	7%	3%
d. Increasing the tax on beer, wine, and liquor	53%	25%	10%	9%	2%	2%
e. Increased fees for vehicle registration and certificates of marriage, birth, death, etc.	8%	29%	26%	33%	3%	2%

Long-Term Care Services

- 8. If you or any member of your family needed long-term care services, how important would it be to you to have services that would enable you or your family member to stay at home as long as possible?**

<u>%</u>	
82	Very important
14	Somewhat important
2	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	Not sure
1	No answer

- 9. How strongly would you support or oppose the state of New Mexico increasing funding for home and community-based care services (such as in-home health care or adult day care) that allow people to remain in their own home as they age instead of going to a nursing home, even if it meant an increase in your taxes?**

<u>%</u>	
55	Strongly support
30	Somewhat support
6	Somewhat oppose
4	Strongly oppose
5	Not sure
1	No answer

- 10. If a candidate for state office in New Mexico supported maintaining or expanding the delivery of home and community-based health and long-term care services even if it means raising state taxes, would you be more likely to vote for that candidate, less likely to vote for him or her, or would it not make any difference?**

<u>%</u>	
49	More likely
15	Less likely
21	Would not make a difference
14	Not sure
2	No answer

Utilities

There is discussion in New Mexico to limit the power of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC). The NMPRC has three primary powers in New Mexico: 1) to determine and set utility rates; 2) to oversee utility services to ensure reliable and high quality service; and 3) to monitor the earnings of regulated utilities doing business within the state.

11. How strongly do you support or oppose limiting the power of the NMPRC to do each of the following?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure	No Answer
a. Determine and set utility rates	24%	29%	13%	18%	12%	4%
b. Oversee utility service to ensure reliable and high quality service	38%	28%	7%	15%	8%	5%
c. Monitor the earnings of regulated utilities doing business in New Mexico	43%	24%	7%	14%	9%	4%

12. In some states, there are independent advocates who represent the interests of residential customers on utility rates and services. How strongly would you support or oppose the state of New Mexico creating an office that would exclusively advocate on behalf of residential customers to keep rates affordable, even if it meant a small surcharge [such as 20 cents per every \$100, or one-fifth of 1%] on your utility bill?

<u>%</u>	
32	Strongly support
32	Somewhat support
10	Somewhat oppose
12	Strongly oppose
11	Not sure
3	No Answer

13. How strongly would you support or oppose the following actions to conserve the water supply in New Mexico?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure	No Answer
a. Placing limits on private domestic wells	20%	30%	19%	17%	12%	3%
b. “Water Banking” to more freely buy and sell water rights	13%	30%	16%	13%	24%	4%
c. Increasing taxes for purchase of additional public wells, water rights, storage, and water lines	14%	32%	21%	19%	12%	3%
d. Placing limits on growth and development	34%	27%	17%	10%	8%	3%
e. Enforcing mandatory water conservation	40%	34%	12%	7%	6%	2%
f. Increasing taxes to treat contaminated water sources	16%	39%	18%	16%	9%	3%

Identity Theft

Identity theft can occur when someone gets access to your bank accounts, checking accounts, or credit cards and then uses them fraudulently to run up bills. Identity theft can also occur when someone gets personal information about you – such as your name, Social Security number, date of birth, or mother’s maiden name – and uses it to open new bank accounts, open new loans, or make large purchases in your name.

14. How concerned are you about being a victim of identity theft?

<u>%</u>	
52	Very concerned
35	Somewhat concerned
10	Not very concerned
1	Not at all concerned
*	Not sure
1	No Answer

15. In the last 5 years, have you or someone you know experienced identity theft?

<u>%</u>	
6	Yes, I was a victim of identity theft
19	Yes, a person I know was the victim of identify theft
2	Yes, both myself and someone I know have been victims of identity theft
68	No [Skip to Question 17]
4	Not sure [Skip to Question 17]
3	No Answer

16. What kind of identity theft have you or someone you know experienced? (Check all that apply) (n=254 Respondents who say they have experienced identity theft or know some who has experienced it)

<u>%</u>	
63	Credit card information was used or stolen
34	Checking, savings, or other bank account information was used or stolen
29	A social security number was used or stolen
14	New accounts – bank or credit cards – were created in victim’s name
8	New loans were created in victim’s name
28	Large purchases were made in victim’s name
13	ATM bank card was used or stolen
11	Other types of personal information was used or stolen
10	Other types of identity theft; please specify: _____
5	Not sure/unknown
1	No Answer

17. Typically, when a crime is committed, the place where the crime occurred determines where it will be reported, processed, and prosecuted. For victims of identity theft, the place where the fraud occurred may not be the place where the victim lives. How important is it to you that New Mexico makes it mandatory for police officers in the identity theft victim’s home district to report, process, and prosecute identity theft crimes, regardless of where the fraud took place?

<u>%</u>	
71	Very important
17	Somewhat important
4	Not very important
1	Not at all important
5	Not sure
3	No Answer

18. A security freeze allows an individual to add a personal password or P.I.N. (personal identification number) to limit access to his/her credit reports. This assures that no one can access the report without the prior consent of that individual, and helps to prevent an identify thief who obtains your personally identifiable information from opening new accounts. Do you support or oppose New Mexico enacting legislation that permits an individual to place a security freeze on credit reports?

<u>%</u>	
77	Strongly support
15	Somewhat support
1	Somewhat oppose
*	Strongly oppose
5	Not sure
2	No Answer

19. Sometimes an identity thief will give the name and identifying information of a victim to law enforcement when caught and charged with a crime. The identity theft victim may later find that there are criminal charges in his or her name as a result of the identity thief's actions. How important is it to provide victims of this type of identity theft a formal, legal mechanism to clear their names from law enforcement records?

<u>%</u>	
90	Very important
5	Somewhat important
1	Not too important
0	Not at all important
2	Not sure
2	No Answer

About You

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

20. In the last 12 months, have you accessed the Internet from your home or work, or from some other source such as your local library? (Check all that apply)

<u>%</u>	
36	Yes, from home
3	Yes, from work
2	Yes, from some other source
35	No
24	No Answer

21. Are you male or female?

<u>%</u>	
47	Male
51	Female
3	No answer

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

<u>%</u>	Age
29	50-59
43	60-74
23	75+
6	No Answer

23. What is your current marital status?

<u>%</u>	
58	Married
17	Widowed
18	Divorced
*	Separated
5	Never married
3	No Answer

24. Thinking about your state elections for New Mexico Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, which of the following best describes your voting behavior?

<u>%</u>	
64	Always vote
23	Sometimes miss one
5	Rarely vote
5	Never vote
1	Not sure
3	No Answer

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

<u>%</u>	
4	Less than high school
19	High school graduate or equivalent
32	Some college or technical training beyond high school
17	College graduate (4 years)
23	Post-graduate or professional degree
5	No Answer

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

<u>%</u>	
26	Employed or self-employed full-time
9	Employed or self-employed part-time
56	Retired and not working
4	Other such as homemaker
1	Unemployed and looking for work
4	No Answer

27. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

<u>%</u>	
16	Yes
79	No
1	Not sure
4	No Answer

28. What is your race?

<u>%</u>	
89	White or Caucasian
1	Black or African American
1	Asian
2	Native American or Alaskan Native
*	Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
3	Other
6	No Answer

29. What is your 5-digit zip code? (write in your zip code.) _ _ _ _ _

30. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2003?

<u>%</u>	
6	Less than \$10,000
13	\$10,000 to \$19,999
15	\$20,000 to \$29,999
13	\$30,000 to \$39,999
11	\$40,000 to \$49,999
16	\$50,000 to \$74,999
16	\$75,000 or more
11	No answer

Thank you for completing this survey. Please use the postage-paid envelope and return it to State Member Research, AARP, 601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049, by July 23, 2004.

AARP
Knowledge Management
For more information contact Joanne Binette (202) 434-6303