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Louisiana Long-term Care: A Survey of AARP Members

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Published December 2005



Louisiana Long-term Care: A Survey of AARP Members

Report Prepared by Joanne Binette

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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. We produce *AARP The Magazine*, published bimonthly; *AARP Bulletin*, our monthly newspaper; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, our bimonthly magazine in Spanish and English; *NRTA Live & Learn*, our quarterly newsletter for 50+ educators; and our website, www.aarp.org. AARP Foundation is our 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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Background

Louisiana, like many other states, is facing major long-term care challenges as the population ages and people live longer. From 2002 to 2020, the number of Louisianans aged 65 and older will increase by 42.8 percent. Currently, among this population, more than two in five have incomes either under the poverty level or between one and two times the poverty level and almost a quarter have self care or mobility limitations (Gibson, et. al., 2004).

Despite the desire of most older persons to remain in their homes and communities to receive long-term care services and supports, the large majority of Medicaid long-term care spending in Louisiana goes to institutional care such as nursing homes, while only 19 percent of Medicaid dollars are spent on home and community-based services. Furthermore, Louisiana has the 3rd highest number of nursing home beds per 1,000 persons age 65 and older in the country, and with more than 8,000 empty nursing home beds in 2004, the state has the 9th lowest nursing home occupancy rate in the country (Gibson, et. al., 2004).

Louisiana Long-term Care: A Survey of AARP Members explores members' opinions and concerns about having enough long-term care options and being able to stay in their own homes and communities as they age. This report further examines members' support for increasing funding for long-term care services that allow people to stay in their own homes, enforcement of quality standards in long-term care settings, and AARP Louisiana's advocacy efforts in these areas.

This report is part of a larger mail survey of 914 Louisiana AARP members conducted between May and June 2005 prior to hurricane season. During the 2005 hurricane season, there was a historic amount of devastation in Louisiana from hurricane Katrina, specifically in the New Orleans area. If the survey was conducted today, the results would probably be much stronger given the mass destruction of homes and long-term care facilities as well as the displacement of hundreds of Louisiana residents. The full questionnaire is contained in the appendix to this report. 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 Louisiana membership the actual number of people may be substantial. As of November 2005, the number of AARP members in Louisiana was 460,069.

¹ Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Highlights

- About half of Louisiana members want to receive long-term care services at home from a nurse or personal care aide or family and friends.
- Approximately nine in ten Louisiana members think it is extremely or very important 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.
- The majority of Louisiana members say they would not be very willing or not at all willing to move into a nursing home when they needed long-term care services if home and community-based long-term care services were unavailable in their community.
- Nearly seven in ten Louisiana members are worried about not having enough choices among long-term care services for themselves and their families.
- Approximately three-quarters of Louisiana members strongly or somewhat support legislation to increase funding for services that would allow people to stay in their own homes, even if it meant reducing funding for nursing homes.
 - Of those members who support this legislation, over half say they would still support the law even if it meant that some nursing homes might close or be consolidated with others.
- Over four in five Louisiana members strongly or somewhat support AARP Louisiana advocating for long-term care services that help people to stay in their own homes and communities.
 - Of those members who support AARP Louisiana's advocacy efforts, almost seven in ten say they would still support advocacy efforts even if it meant reducing nursing home funding.
- About six in ten Louisiana members say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who supports shifting funds from nursing homes to home and community-based long-term care services.
- Nearly nine in ten Louisiana members support the state strengthening the enforcement of quality standards in nursing homes, for providers of home and community-based long-term care services, and in assisted living facilities:
 - Nursing homes (76% strongly support, 12% somewhat support)
 - Providers of home and community-based long-term care services (71% strongly support, 17% somewhat support)
 - Assisted living facilities (71% strongly support, 16% somewhat support).

Findings

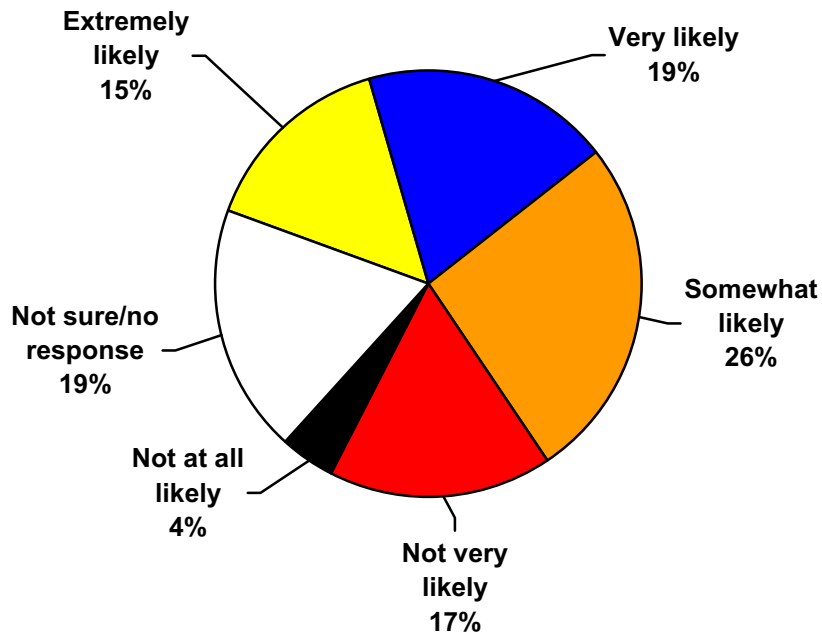
Over one-quarter of Louisiana members say they or a family member needed long-term care services within the last five years.

More than one in four (27%) Louisiana members or members of their families needed long-term care services within the past five years. This translates into 124,219 members who have had experience with long-term care.

Six in ten Louisiana members say they or a family member are likely to need long-term care services in the next five years.

More than one-third of members say they or a family member are extremely (15%) or very likely (19%) to need long-term care services in the next five years while another quarter say they are somewhat (26%) likely.

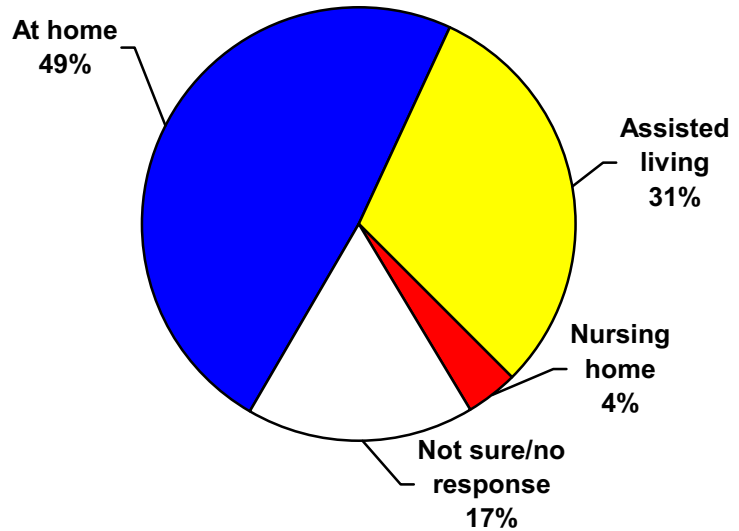
**Likelihood of Needing Long-term Care Services in the Next Five Years
(N = 912)**



Louisiana members would prefer to receive long-term care in their own homes or in assisted living facilities.

About half (49%) of Louisiana members want to receive long-term care services in their own homes if long-term care is needed: 37 percent would prefer to have in-home care from a nurse or personal care aide and 12 percent want in-home care from family and friends. About three in ten (31%) would prefer to have care provided in a residential setting such as an assisted living facility. Few (4%) members prefer to receive care in a nursing home.

**Preferred Long-term Care Option*
(N = 912)**

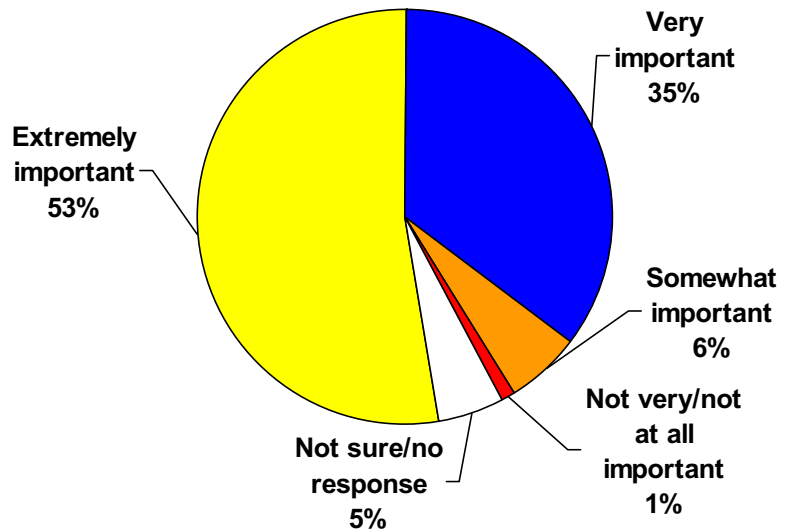


*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Nearly all Louisiana 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.

Almost nine in ten Louisiana members say that it is extremely (53%) or very important (35%) 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 six percent believe 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 = 912)**

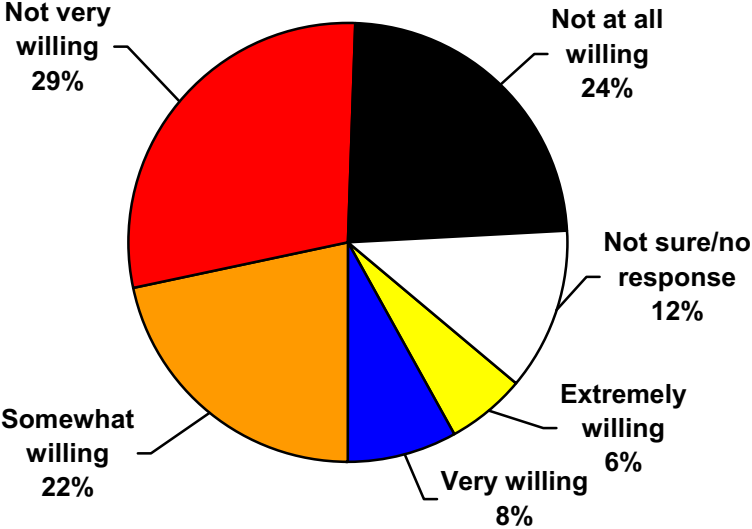


A majority of Louisiana members would be unwilling to move into a nursing home to obtain long-term care services even if home care services were unavailable in their community.

Respondents were asked how willing they would be to move into a nursing home when they needed long-term care services if home and community-based long-term care services such as home delivered meals, homemaker home-health aide services, or transportation services were unavailable in their community.

Over half report that they would not be very willing (29%) or not at all willing (24%) to move into a nursing home instead.

Willingness to Move to a Nursing Home if Home Care Services were Not Available in Your Community* (N = 912)



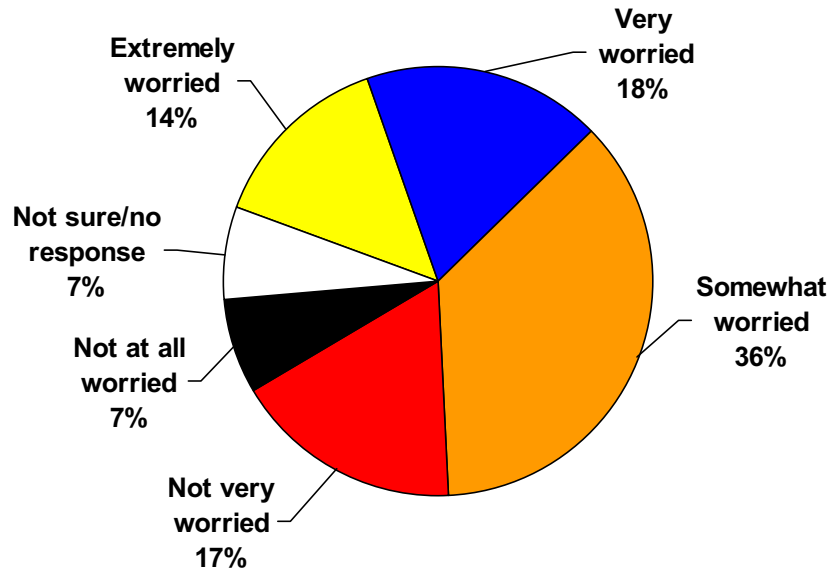
*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Nearly seven in ten Louisiana members are worried about not having enough choices among long-term care services for themselves and their family.

About one-third of Louisiana members say they are extremely (14%) or very (18%) worried whether they will have sufficient choices regarding the type of long-term care services available for themselves or their family members. Another third are somewhat worried (36%).

More members who report that they or a family member have used long-term care services in the past five years indicate they are concerned about not having enough choices than those with no prior exposure to long-term care services (77% vs. 65%).

Concern About Not Having Enough Choices Regarding Types of Long-term Care Services* (N = 912)



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

Nearly three-quarters of Louisiana members would support a law that would increase Medicaid funding for services that help people stay in their own homes longer even if nursing home funding was reduced; however, support wanes somewhat if some nursing homes might close.

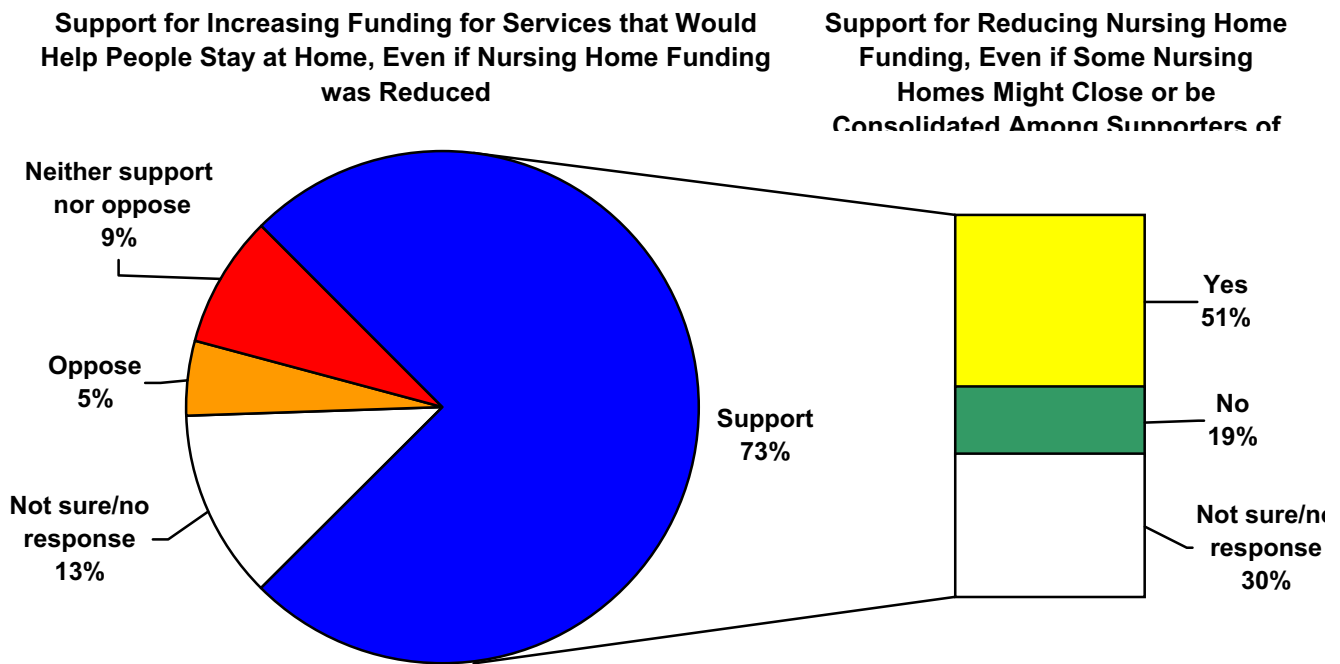
Members were presented with the following statement about the status of long-term care services in Louisiana:

Almost eight in ten nursing home residents in Louisiana have their nursing home bills paid for by Medicaid, the state health insurance program funded with federal and state dollars. Currently, more than 90 percent of the state Medicaid money spent on long-term care pays for nursing homes rather than services that give people the choice to stay in their own homes or in a community setting like an adult day care center. In 2004, more than 8,000 nursing home beds were empty.

Members were then asked how supportive they would be for a law that would increase Medicaid funding for services that would help people stay in their own homes longer, even if it meant reducing funding for nursing homes. Almost three in four say that they strongly (48%) or somewhat support (24%) a law that would increase funding for services that would allow people to stay in their own homes.² Only five percent oppose this change.

Members who strongly or somewhat support this law were then asked if they would still support it if some nursing homes might close or be consolidated with others. Over half of these members say they would still support (51%) this law even if it meant some nursing homes might close or be consolidated. This means that among the 73 percent who support this law, 37 percent still support it even if some nursing homes might close or be consolidated while only 14 percent do not support it and 20 percent are unsure.³

Support for a Law that Would Increase Funding for Services that Would Help People Stay at Home, Even if Funding for Nursing Homes were Reduced



² Percentages in text may differ slightly from graph due to rounding.

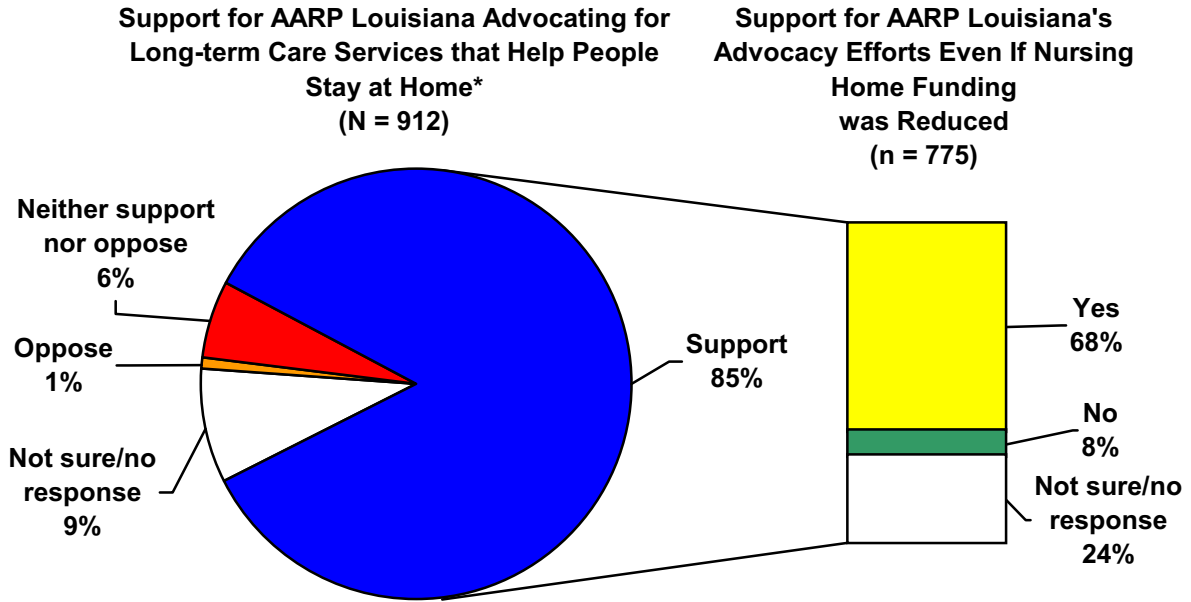
³ Two percent did not answer the question.

Over four in five Louisiana members support AARP Louisiana advocating to increase funding for long-term care services that help people stay in their own homes and communities but support declines somewhat if nursing home funding is reduced.

More than four in five members strongly (65%) or somewhat support (20%) AARP Louisiana advocating for long-term care services that help people to remain in their own homes and communities. Only one percent opposes AARP advocating for increased funding for these services.

Members who strongly or somewhat support AARP Louisiana advocating for long-term care services at home and in the community were then asked if they would still support this advocacy if it meant that funding for nursing homes would be reduced. Nearly seven in ten of these members say they would still support (68%) this advocacy even if it meant nursing home funding would be reduced. This means that among the 85 percent who support AARP advocacy for home and community-based long-term care services, 58 percent still support it even if nursing home funding was reduced while only seven percent do not support it and 20 percent are unsure.

Support for AARP Louisiana Advocating for Long-term Care Services that Help People Stay in Their Own Homes and Communities

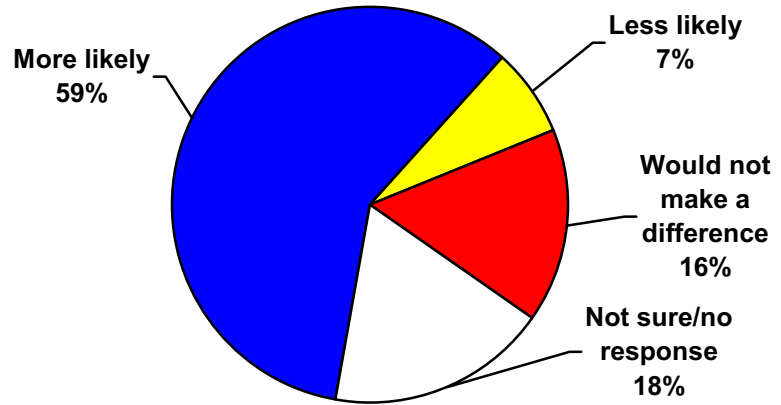


*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

About six in ten Louisiana members say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports shifting funds from nursing homes to long-term care services that will allow people to stay in their own homes.

Approximately six in ten (59%) members say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who supports shifting funds from nursing homes to home and community-based services. This translates into 271,440 members who would be more likely to vote for a candidate supporting this action. Only seven percent say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported this action.

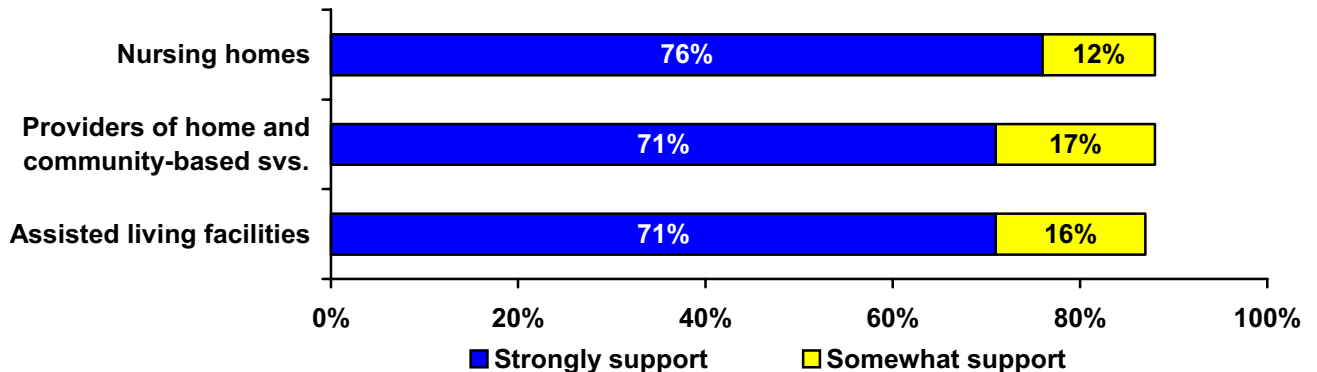
Likelihood of Voting for a Candidate Who Supports Shifting Funds from Nursing Homes to Long-term Care Services that Allow People to Stay at Home (N = 912)



Approximately nine in ten Louisiana members support strengthening the enforcement of quality standards in nursing homes, for providers of home and community-based services, and in assisted living facilities.

More than seven in ten Louisiana members strongly support the state strengthening the enforcement of quality standards in nursing homes (76%), for providers of home and community-based long-term care services (71%), and in assisted living facilities (71%). This translates into at least 326,649 members who would support the enforcement of quality standards. More one in ten somewhat supports the state strengthening enforcement in each of these long-term care settings.

Support for Strengthening the Enforcement of Quality Standards in Long-term Care Settings (N = 912)

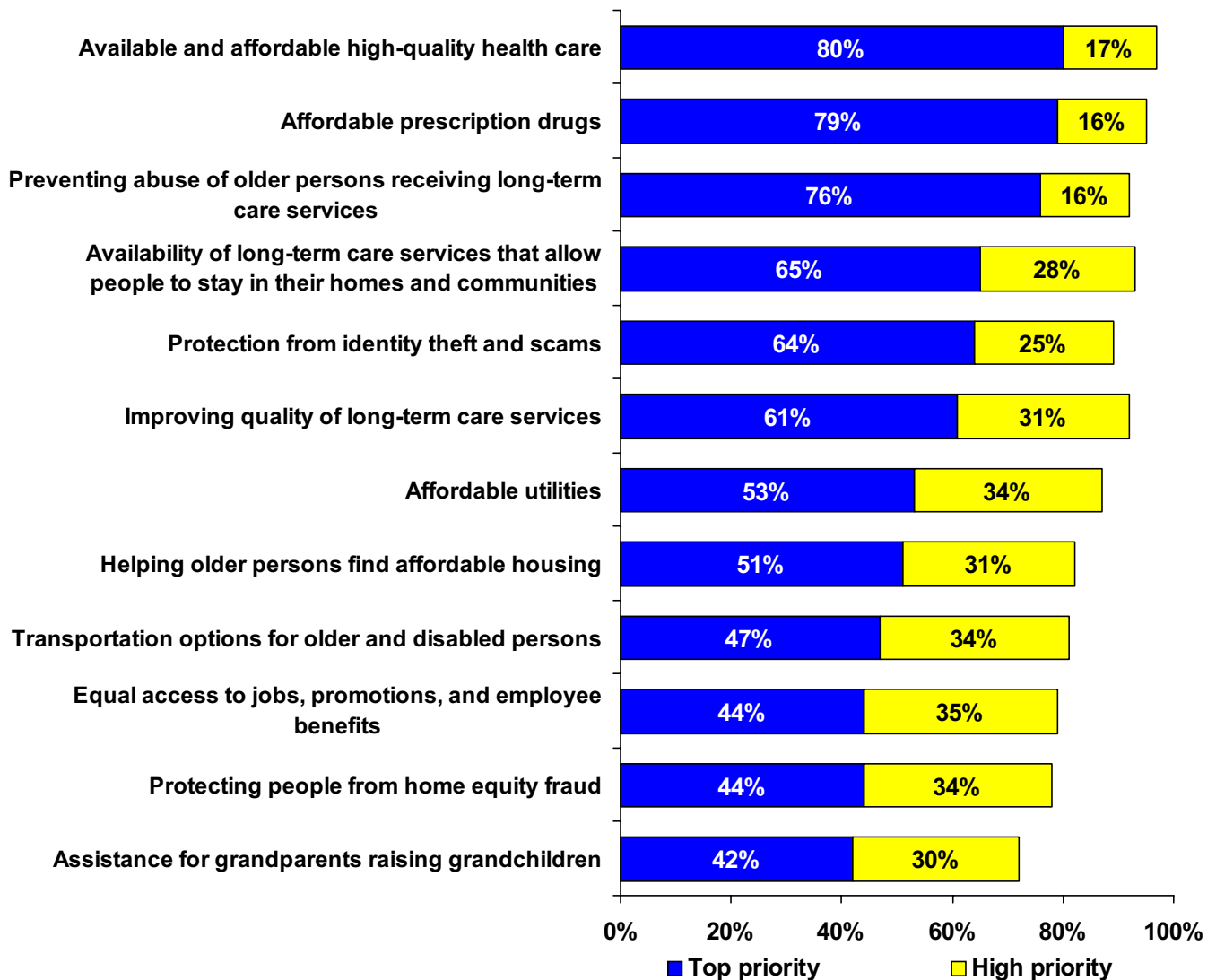


Legislative Priorities

Members list available and affordable health care and access to affordable prescription drugs as their top priorities for AARP Louisiana.

Members were asked to indicate how much of a priority it should be for AARP Louisiana to work on various legislative issues. Members were given a list of 12 different issues. About eight in ten members say that available and affordable high-quality health care (80%) and access to affordable prescription drugs (79%) should be top priorities for AARP Louisiana. Three-quarters say preventing the abuse of older persons receiving long-term care services (76%) should be a top legislative priority. About six in ten or more believe the availability of long-term care services that allow people to stay in their homes (65%), protection from identity theft (64%), and improving the quality of long-term care services (61%) should be top legislative priorities for AARP Louisiana.

**Top and High Priority Legislative Issues for Louisiana Members
(N = 912)**



Conclusions

As AARP Louisiana continues to work on health care reform in the state it is important to consider the opinions of AARP Louisiana members. Many members indicate that they will need some type of long-term care for themselves or their family members within the next five years. Members want to be able to stay in their own homes as they age. In fact only four percent would choose to go to nursing homes if long-term care was needed and the majority would be unwilling to move into a nursing home if home care services were unavailable in their community. The majority is also worried about whether or not they will have sufficient choices regarding the types of long-term care services available to meet their needs. Members who have past experience with long-term care are much more concerned about having choice of long-term care services.

Louisiana members' desire to stay in their own homes is further reflected in their strong support for legislation and advocacy for home and community-based long-term care services. Louisiana members support a law that would increase Medicaid funding for services that would allow people to stay in their own homes longer, even if meant reducing funding for nursing homes. However, support for this law wanes if it results in some nursing homes closing or being consolidated with others. Members are supportive of AARP Louisiana advocating for services that help people to stay in their own homes, although support declines if it means nursing home funding may be reduced.

Member opinion from this survey can also offer guidance to candidates and elected officials on the availability of home and community-based long-term care services. Shifting funds from nursing homes to services that would allow people to stay in their own homes would likely affect the voting behavior of Louisiana members. About six in ten say they would be more likely to vote for candidates who support shifting funds from nursing homes to long-term care services that will allow people to stay in their own homes which translates into 271,440 members who would be more likely to vote for a candidate supporting this action. .

Quality of care is very important to members regardless of the type of long-term care service they or their family members may receive. The vast majority of Louisiana members support the enforcement of quality standards across all long-term care settings. Approximately nine in ten members support the state strengthening the enforcement of quality standards for nursing homes, providers of home and community-based services, and assisted living facilities.

Given members' strong desire to stay in their own homes and communities, AARP Louisiana should work towards rebalancing the current long-term care system in the state to provide people with more options for long-term care services other than institutional care. Quality of care in long-term care settings is also an important issue to be addressed. AARP Louisiana should continue its advocacy efforts to ensure the safety and protection of recipients of long-term care services.

Methodology

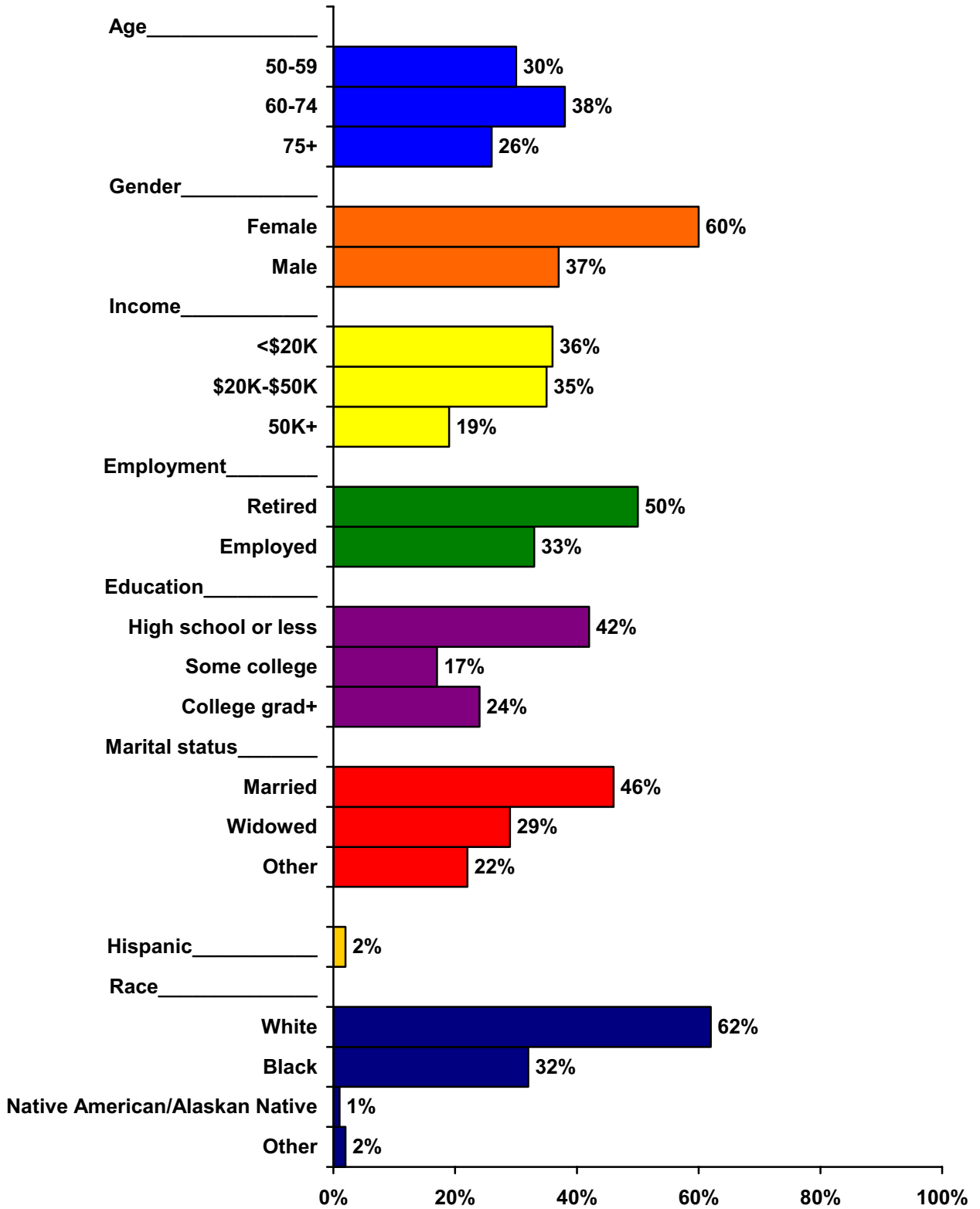
AARP conducted the *2005 Louisiana Member Survey of AARP Members* from May 4 through June 1, 2005. A random sample of 2,000 AARP members in Louisiana, proportionally stratified by three age segments, 50 to 59, 60 to 74, and 75+, was selected from AARP's membership database. Each sampled member was contacted about the survey in four ways: a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey.

Forty-six percent of the sampled Louisiana members returned surveys by the cut-off date, providing 914 useable surveys for analysis. Thus, the survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.3 percent. Survey responses were weighted to reflect the distribution of the age segments in the member population of Louisiana. Due to rounding of the weights, the final number of cases for the weighted dataset is 912. As of November 2005, the number of AARP members in Louisiana was 460,069.

References

Gibson, M., Gregory, S., Houser, A., & Fox-Grage, W. (2004). *Across the States 2004: Profiles of Long-Term Care*. Washington, DC: AARP Public Policy Institute.

Demographic Characteristics (N = 912)



Annotated Questionnaire

2005 Louisiana Member Survey

(AARP Members Weighted n = 912; Response Rate = 46%; Sampling Error = 3.3± %)
 (Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple response.)

State Legislative Issues

1. To be effective, AARP Louisiana wants to work on the most important issues facing Louisiana 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 Louisiana?

	Top Priority ▼	High Priority ▼	Medium Priority ▼	Low Priority ▼	Not a Priority ▼	No Answer ▼
a. Protecting people from home equity fraud	44%	34%	14%	3%	3%	3%
b. Making sure older persons have long-term care services that allow them to live in their own homes and communities as they age	65%	28%	5%	*	*	1%
c. Making sure that high quality health care is available and affordable	80%	17%	1%	*	*	2%
d. Making sure people can get affordable prescription drugs	79%	16%	2%	*	*	3%
e. Making sure older persons have equal access to jobs, promotions, and employee benefits.....	44%	35%	16%	2%	1%	1%
f. Preventing the abuse of older persons who are receiving long-term care services in their home, in their community, or in nursing homes	76%	16%	5%	1%	1%	2%
g. Making sure people have access to affordable utilities	53%	34%	9%	2%	1%	2%
h. Protecting older persons from identity theft and other consumer scams	64%	25%	8%	2%	1%	1%
i. Improving the quality of long-term care services	61%	31%	6%	1%	*	3%
j. Finding transportation options for older persons and persons with disabilities	47%	34%	15%	2%	1%	1%
k. Helping grandparents raising grandchildren to get financial, medical, educational, and legal services for their grandchildren	42%	30%	19%	5%	3%	1%
l. Helping older persons find affordable housing	51%	31%	13%	3%	1%	1%

Social Security

2. Based on what you have heard, read, or experienced with Social Security, what is your overall view of the present system?

	<u>%</u>
Extremely favorable	18
Very favorable	25
Somewhat favorable	26
Not very favorable	13
Not at all favorable	8
Not sure	7
No Answer	3

3. How strongly do you favor or oppose keeping the Social Security system as close to the present system as possible?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly favor	59
Somewhat favor	21
Neither favor nor oppose	7
Somewhat oppose	5
Strongly oppose	4
No Answer	3

4. Please check which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion about Social Security. (Please check only ONE)

	<u>%</u>
Social Security has no serious problems that require changing the current system	17
Social Security has minor problems that can be fixed with slight changes to the current system	51
Social Security's problems are serious and can be fixed only with substantial changes to the current system	26
Social Security's problems are so bad that the current system should be replaced	2
No Answer	4

5. How confident are you that the Social Security system will continue to provide benefits of at least equal value to the benefits received by retirees today?

	<u>%</u>
Extremely confident	10
Very confident	24
Somewhat confident	33
Not very confident	16
Not at all confident	8
Not sure	5
No Answer	3

6. Some people propose allowing workers to invest some of their Social Security payroll taxes in the stock market through individual retirement work accounts sometimes referred to as private accounts. For the average worker, this portion could be up to \$1,300 per year that they could invest. How strongly do you favor or oppose this approach?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly favor	9
Somewhat favor	14
Neither favor nor oppose	19
Somewhat oppose	12
Strongly oppose	34
Not sure	9
No Answer	3

7. If creating private accounts could mean changes in the way Social Security benefits are calculated, resulting in cuts for everyone and not just the people who choose to participate in the private account, how strongly do you favor or oppose proposals for private accounts?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly favor	5
Somewhat favor	7
Neither favor nor oppose	11
Somewhat oppose	14
Strongly oppose	51
Not sure	9
No Answer	4

8. If creating private accounts meant that you would have more control over where your retirement money is invested, how strongly do you favor or oppose proposals for private accounts?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly favor	12
Somewhat favor	21
Neither favor nor oppose	14
Somewhat oppose	9
Strongly oppose	30
Not sure	10
No Answer	4

9. If creating private accounts will drain money out of Social Security and require large new Federal debt to pay the Social Security benefits for current retirees, how strongly do you favor or oppose proposals for private accounts?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly favor	4
Somewhat favor	5
Neither favor nor oppose	8
Somewhat oppose	13
Strongly oppose	60
Not sure	6
No Answer	4

10. If creating private accounts meant that you would have the potential to earn more money for your retirement, how strongly do you favor or oppose proposals for private accounts?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly favor	19
Somewhat favor	21
Neither favor nor oppose	13
Somewhat oppose	9
Strongly oppose	25
Not sure	9
No Answer	4

11. If creating private accounts will require the creation of a new government agency to oversee the accounts, how strongly do you favor or oppose proposals for private accounts?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly favor	4
Somewhat favor	11
Neither favor nor oppose	12
Somewhat oppose	15
Strongly oppose	44
Not sure	11
No Answer	4

12. If creating private accounts meant that you could leave the balance in your private account to your children when you die, how strongly do you favor or oppose proposals for private accounts?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly favor	28
Somewhat favor	23
Neither favor nor oppose	10
Somewhat oppose	5
Strongly oppose	20
Not sure	9
No Answer	4

13. If creating private accounts meant that you would receive a lower guaranteed Social Security benefit, how strongly do you favor or oppose proposals for private accounts?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly favor	4
Somewhat favor	7
Neither favor nor oppose	7
Somewhat oppose	14
Strongly oppose	58
Not sure	7
No Answer	4

14. Thinking about all of the possible effects of creating private accounts, how strongly do you favor or oppose allowing workers to invest some of their Social Security payroll taxes in the stock market?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly favor	6
Somewhat favor	15
Neither favor nor oppose	13
Somewhat oppose	12
Strongly oppose	40
Not sure	10
No Answer	4

15. Do you think allowing workers to invest some of their Social Security payroll taxes in the stock market will strengthen or weaken the Social Security system?

	<u>%</u>
Strengthen	10
Weaken	57
Not sure	29
No Answer	3

Electric Utilities

16. How strongly do you support or oppose a state program that uses a small portion of all electric utility payments to help consumers use less energy so their monthly bills are lower?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	33
Somewhat support	26
Neither support nor oppose (Go to question 18)	12
Somewhat oppose (Go to question 18)	5
Strongly oppose (Go to question 18)	8
Not sure (Go to question 18)	11
No Answer	5

17. Would you still support having a state program to help consumers use less energy, even if it meant everyone had to pay an additional \$1.25 each month on their electric bill to support the program? (n=536)

	<u>%</u>
Yes	63
No	18
Not sure	18
No Answer	1

18. If there was a state program to help consumers use less energy, should all customers, including business, industrial and commercial electric users, contribute to the program?

	<u>%</u>
Yes	73
No	11
Not sure	14
No Answer	2

19. How strongly do you support or oppose having a state program that helps make electricity affordable to households with low incomes?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	46
Somewhat support	25
Neither support nor oppose (Go to question 21)	11
Somewhat oppose (Go to question 21)	5
Strongly oppose (Go to question 21)	6
Not sure (Go to question 21)	4
No Answer	3

20. Would you still support having a state program to provide low-income energy assistance, even if it meant everyone had to pay an additional \$1.25 each month on their electric bill to support the program? (n=643)

	<u>%</u>
Yes	64
No	19
Not sure	16
No Answer	1

21. If there was a low-income energy assistance program in the state, should all customers, including business, industrial and commercial electric users, contribute to the program?

	<u>%</u>
Yes	70
No	14
Not sure	15
No Answer	2

Long-term care

Long-term care refers to support and services provided over an extended period of time at home, in a community setting, or in a nursing home. These supports and services are available to people of all ages who are frail, ill, or have a disability and who need help with regular daily activities – such as getting dressed, bathing, preparing meals, or eating. **Home and community-based services** refer to long-term care support and services received by people in their homes or in other home-like settings.

22. Have you or anyone in your family -- such as grandparents, parents, children, or a sister or brother -- used long-term care services within the last five years?

	<u>%</u>
Yes	27
No	70
Not sure	2
No Answer	1

23. How likely is it that you or a family member may need long-term care services in the next five years?

	<u>%</u>
Extremely likely	15
Very likely	19
Somewhat likely	26
Not very likely	17
Not at all likely	4
Not sure	18
No Answer	1

24. People sometimes worry about whether they will have enough choices about where they or their family members will be able to get long-term care services. How worried are you about it?

	<u>%</u>
Extremely worried	14
Very worried	18
Somewhat worried	36
Not very worried	17
Not at all worried	7
Not sure	5
No Answer	3

25. If you or a family member needed long-term care services, how would you prefer to receive those services? (Please check only ONE)

	<u>%</u>
Have family and friends provide all the care at home	12
Be able to pay a nurse or a personal care aide to provide care at home	37
Have care provided in a home-like setting such as an assisted living or a care home where housing, food, and personal help with bathing, dressing, and other activities are provided to those who need them	31
Have care provided in a nursing home	4
Not sure	13
No Answer	4

26. If you or a family member needed long-term care services, how important would it be to you to have services that would allow you or your family member to stay at home as long as possible?

	<u>%</u>
Extremely important	53
Very important	35
Somewhat important	6
Not very important	1
Not at all important	*
Not sure	2
No Answer	2

27. If you needed home care services in the future – like home delivered meals, housecleaning, nurse’s care, or transportation – and these types services were not available in your community, how willing would you be to move into a nursing home to receive these services?

	<u>%</u>
Extremely willing	6
Very willing	8
Somewhat willing	22
Not very willing	29
Not at all willing	24
Not sure	9
No Answer	3

28. Almost eight in 10 nursing home residents in Louisiana have their nursing home bills paid for by Medicaid, the state health insurance program funded with federal and state tax dollars. Currently, more than 90 percent of the state Medicaid money spent on long-term care pays for nursing homes rather than services that give people the choice to stay in their own homes or in a community setting like an adult day care center. In 2004, more than 8,000 nursing home beds were empty.

How strongly do you support or oppose legislation that would increase Medicaid funding for services that help people stay in their own homes longer, even if it meant reducing funding for nursing homes?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	48
Somewhat support	24
Neither support nor oppose (Go to question 30)	9
Somewhat oppose (Go to question 30)	3
Strongly oppose (Go to question 30)	2
Not sure (Go to question 30)	9
No Answer	5

29. Would you still support legislation that reduced funding for nursing homes if it meant that nursing homes with a lot of empty beds might have to close or be consolidated with another facility? (n=663)

	<u>%</u>
Yes	51
No	19
Not sure	28
No Answer	2

30. How strongly do you support or oppose AARP Louisiana advocating to increase funding of long-term care services that help people stay in their own homes or communities?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	65
Somewhat support	20
Neither support nor oppose (Go to question 32)	6
Somewhat oppose (Go to question 32)	1
Strongly oppose (Go to question 32)	*
Not sure (Go to question 32)	5
No Answer	4

31. Would you still support AARP Louisiana advocating to expand funding for long-term care services that help people stay in their own homes and communities even it meant reducing funding for nursing homes? (n=775)

	<u>%</u>
Yes	68
No	8
Not sure	23
No Answer	1

32. How likely would you be to vote for a candidate for state office in Louisiana who supports shifting funds from nursing homes to long-term care services that help people to stay in their own homes and communities longer. 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>
More likely	59
Would not make a difference	16
Less likely	7
Not sure	15
No Answer	3

33. How strongly do you support or oppose the state of Louisiana strengthening the enforcement of quality standards for nursing homes?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	76
Somewhat support	12
Neither support nor oppose	4
Somewhat oppose	*
Strongly oppose	*
Not sure	5
No Answer	3

34. Assisted living is a residential setting that provides or coordinates personal care services, activities, and health related services with the goals of maximizing resident privacy and independence.

How strongly do you support or oppose the state of Louisiana strengthening the enforcement of quality standards for assisted living facilities?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	71
Somewhat support	16
Neither support nor oppose	4
Somewhat oppose	1
Strongly oppose	*
Not sure	5
No Answer	3

35. How strongly do you support or oppose the state of Louisiana strengthening the enforcement of quality standards for providers of home and community-based services?

	<u>%</u>
Strongly support	71
Somewhat support	17
Neither support nor oppose	4
Somewhat oppose	*
Strongly oppose	*
Not sure	5
No Answer	3

About You

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

D1. 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?

	<u>%</u>
Yes	45
No	52
No Answer	3

D2. Are you male or female?

	<u>%</u>
Male	37
Female	60
No Answer	3

D3. What is your age as of your last birthday? _____ (in years)

	<u>%</u>
50-59	30
60-74	38
75+	26
No Answer	6

D4. What is your current marital status?

	<u>%</u>
Married	46
Separated	1
Divorced	15
Widowed	29
Single, that is never married	5
Single, living with partner	1
No Answer	3

D5. Thinking about your state elections for Louisiana Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, which of the following best describes your voting behavior?

	<u>%</u>
Always vote	70
Sometimes miss one	19
Rarely vote	5
Never vote	2
Not sure	1
No Answer	3

D6. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

	<u>%</u>
Less than high school graduate	12
High school graduate	30
Technical school/Other	5
Some college	17
Graduated college	14
Graduate school or more	10
No Answer	12

D7. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

	<u>%</u>
Employed full-time	28
Employed part-time	6
Not employed	4
Retired	50
Homemaker	5
Other	3
Temporarily unemployed	1
No Answer	4

D8. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

	<u>%</u>
Yes	2
No	91
Not sure	2
No Answer	5

D9. What is your race?

	<u>%</u>
White	62
Black	32
Asian/Oriental/Chinese/Japanese	*
Native American/American Indian	1
Other	2
No Answer	4

D10. What is your 5-digit zip code? (WRITE IN YOUR ZIP CODE.) _ _ _ _ _

D11. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2004?

	<u>%</u>
Less than \$10,000	15
\$10,000 to \$19,999	21
\$20,000 to \$29,999	15
\$30,000 to \$39,999	11
\$40,000 to \$49,999	10
\$50,000 to \$74,999	9
\$75,000 or more	10
No Answer	11

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 **June 1, 2005**.

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