One in five Virginia AARP members have health problems and disabilities that curtail their ability to get to where they need and want to go.

Members were asked whether they had difficulty with ten types of routine activities such as climbing stairs, walking a quarter of a mile, or lifting or carrying something as heavy as ten pounds. The number of disabilities a member has increases with advancing age. Nearly half (49%) of members age 75 and older indicate they have two or more disabilities compared to only one in five (21%) of those ages 50 to 74.

More than nine in ten Virginia AARP members indicate that it is important for the state to increase funding for public transportation programs that serve older persons and those with disabilities.

Nearly all Virginia AARP members report that it is important for the state to increase funding for public transportation that serves older persons and those with disabilities. Of these more than two in five say it is extremely important.

More than seven in ten (72%) Virginia AARP members indicate that a candidate’s support of increased funding for public transportation would be a factor in their voting decision.

More than four in five members indicate it is important for Virginia to improve coordination of human services transportation systems.

A solid majority of members indicate it is important to them personally that Virginia reduces overlap and eliminates transportation service gaps through improved coordination of human services transportation systems. Few members say they would oppose increased coordination.

About two in three members (64%) indicate they would be more likely to vote for a state candidate who supports improved coordination of human services transportation to reduce overlap in services.
Methodology

This mail survey explores the opinions and experiences of AARP Virginia members on health care quality, long-term care, caregiving, payday lending, and transportation. AARP conducted the 2007 Virginia Member Survey between July and August 2007. Researchers at AARP randomly selected 2,000 AARP members in Virginia making sure to select members proportionate to each of three age groups: 50-59, 60-74, and 75+. Each selected member received a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey.

From the sample, 790 members returned the survey, making the response rate 40 percent. The sampling error for this survey sample is ± 3.5 percent. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of about 3.5 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every eligible AARP member household in Virginia had been surveyed. As of August 2007, there are approximately 1,036,950 AARP members in Virginia. Researchers weighted the sample by age group to represent the AARP Virginia member population.

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.