



AARP Virginia Member Survey 2007: Transportation Needs Assessment

January 2008



AARP Virginia Member Survey 2007: Transportation Needs Assessment

Report Prepared by Anita Stowell-Ritter

**Copyright © 2008
AARP
Knowledge Management
601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049
<http://www.aarp.org/research/>
Reprinting with Permission**

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 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.

Acknowledgements

Staff from AARP Virginia State Office, State Affairs, State and National Initiatives Livable Communities, and Knowledge Management contributed to the design and implementation of this study. Special thanks go to AARP staff including Madge Bush and Amy Gilbody, AARP Virginia State Office; Mary Wallace, State Affairs; and Frank Carroll, SNI Livable Communities. AARP Knowledge Management Staff involved in the survey and report design include Anita Stowell-Ritter, Rachelle Cummins, Joanne Binette, Erica Dinger, and Cheryl Barnes. Anita Stowell-Ritter wrote the report. For more information, contact Anita Stowell-Ritter at (202) 434-6205.

Background

Access to goods and services is crucial for maintaining an independent lifestyle and favorable quality of life. Flexible transportation options are essential for accessing health care services, establishing and maintaining social contacts, and preserving independence and general well being.¹

As the older population increases in age and number, it is important to identify existing barriers to transportation accessibility with the goal of ensuring mobility for older individuals. In addition, the issues of mobility for the aging population cannot be addressed by merely responding to the transportation needs of the overall population.

In Virginia, older adults are still heavily reliant on cars; however, as individuals age, driving may no longer be an option. As the aging population experiences barriers to driving and public transportation, alternative means must be made available to ensure that individuals maintain access to the services they need.

AARP Virginia commissioned this study to examine transportation issues among older adults and to help assess the overall transportation needs of older Virginia residents. Some of the questions that framed this research are: What can or must be done to improve accessibility and the likelihood of older adults using transit options? How do transportation options and concerns vary based on age and health status? These data will help to inform transportation and mobility policies aimed at increasing older residents' access to goods and services, as well as socialization.

¹ Houser, A. *Community Mobility Options: The Older Person's Interest*. AARP Public Policy Institute, 2005.

Highlights

- The vast majority (91%) of members report it is important for Virginia to increase funding for public transportation systems for the elderly and disabled.
- A majority of members (81%) say it is important for Virginia to reduce overlap and eliminate transportation gaps through improved coordination of human services transportation systems.
- Nearly all (95%) members say they or a member of their household have driven a car or motor vehicle in the past month.
- More than nine in ten (92%) indicate they drive when they need and want to go someplace. For members who are 75 and older (drive, 76% and ride share 61%) or who have *poor* health and disability status (HDS) (drive, 75% and ride share 49%), the number who say they primarily drive drops and the percentages of those who say they ride share increases.
- Only two percent of members say that they do not go on outings during a typical week. However, seven percent of those ages 75 and older and six percent of those with *poor* HDS do not get out during a typical week.
- Nine in ten members (91%) report they are satisfied with their ability to get to where they need and want to go with more than four in ten (44%) indicating they are extremely satisfied. Extreme satisfaction is tempered by age and disability status. Only one in four (24%) of those with *poor* HDS and about one in three (32%) of those age 75 and older say they are extremely satisfied.

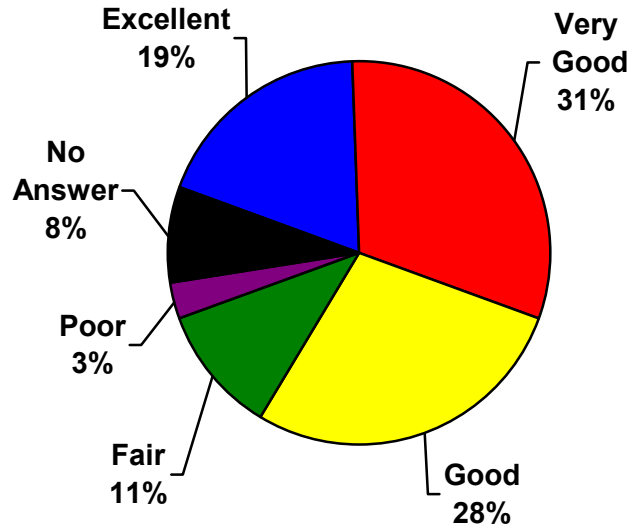
Detailed Findings

A. Member's Health Reports

A majority of members report that their health is at least good.

Virginia members were asked to rate their current health as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor. Half of members report their health is either excellent or very good, while nearly three in ten report that their health is good. Notably only one in seven indicates their health is either fair or poor.

**Self-Reported Health Status
(Weighted N=790)**

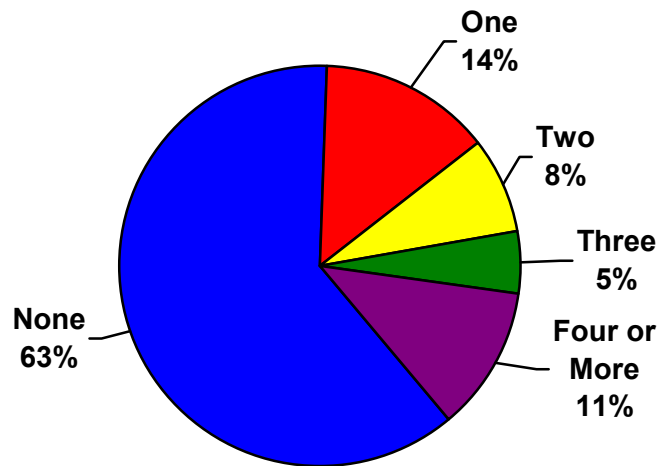


Health status declines with age. Nearly one in four (23%) of those ages 50-74 report they are in excellent health compared to nine percent of those ages 75 and older.

More than half of members age 75 and older have a *poor* health and disability rating.

Members were also 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.

**Count of Difficulties with Ten Routine Activities
(Weighted N=722)**



The number of disabilities a member has increases with advancing age. Nearly half of members age 75 and older indicate they have two or more disabilities compared to only one in five of those ages 50 to 74.

**Count of Difficulties with Routine Activities
By Age Group**

Number of Difficulties with Routine Activities	50-74 (n=613)	75+ (n=109)
	%	%
None	64	39
One	15	13
Two or More	21	49

Since health and disability are interrelated, a health and disability status index has been created to simultaneously capture the variation in each measure. The HDS index draws data from two survey questions: *Question 24*, “How would you describe your current health?” and *Question 25*, which assesses the difficulties members have in ten key routine activities such as reading, hearing, lifting, climbing stairs, and walking (See Appendix I: Annotated Survey Questionnaire).

The health status of a respondent is recorded on a 5-point scale with excellent health rated as 5 and poor health rated as 1. The count of disabilities is used to describe disability status. For example, a respondent who reports no disabilities gets a disability score of 0, while a respondent with six disabilities gets a score of 6. The HDS index rating is then calculated by subtracting the number of disabilities from the health rating. Thus, a respondent who reports that he/she is in excellent health with no disabilities has an HDS score of 5, while a respondent who reports *poor* health and six disabilities has an HDS score of -5. On the basis of their HDS scores, members are classified into four groups: *excellent* HDS (a score of 5), *good* HDS (a score of 3 or 4), *fair* HDS (a score of 1 or 2), or *poor* HDS (a score of 0 to -9).

The percentage of members who rate a *poor* HDS status climbs significantly with age (50-74, 15%; 75+, 35%).

B. Driving Behavior

Nearly all (95%) members say they or members of their household have driven a car or other motor vehicle in the past month.

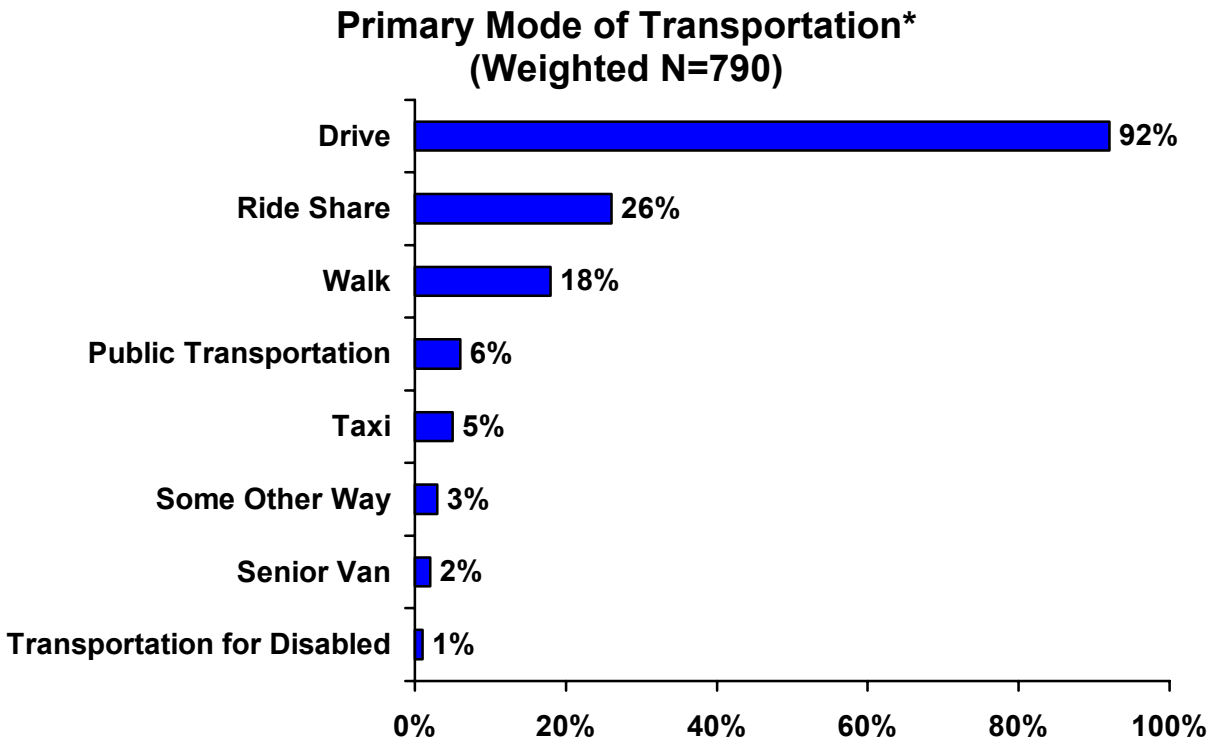
Nearly all (98%) members ages 50 to 74 report they or a member of their household have driven a car or other motor vehicle in the last month. However, for those age 75 and older, nearly nine in ten (87%) report they or a household member have driven.

Next members were asked whether they or someone in their household had stopped driving due to health conditions. About one in ten (9%) report they or someone in their household has ceased driving. Of these, more than half (53%) say they stopped driving while more than four in ten (42%) report that someone else had given up driving due to health conditions. Only one percent indicates that both they and someone else have stopped driving.

Three times as many of those age 75 and over compared to those younger say that they or someone in their household stopped driving due to health conditions (75+, 24% vs. 50-74, 6%). Notably, only six percent of those with *poor* HDS indicate they or someone in their household has stopped driving.

More than nine in ten members indicate they usually drive when they need to get somewhere.

The vast majority reports that they drive a car when they need to go somewhere. One in four says that they get a ride with family or friends. About one in five indicates they walk. Only about five percent or fewer report they use some other form of transportation.

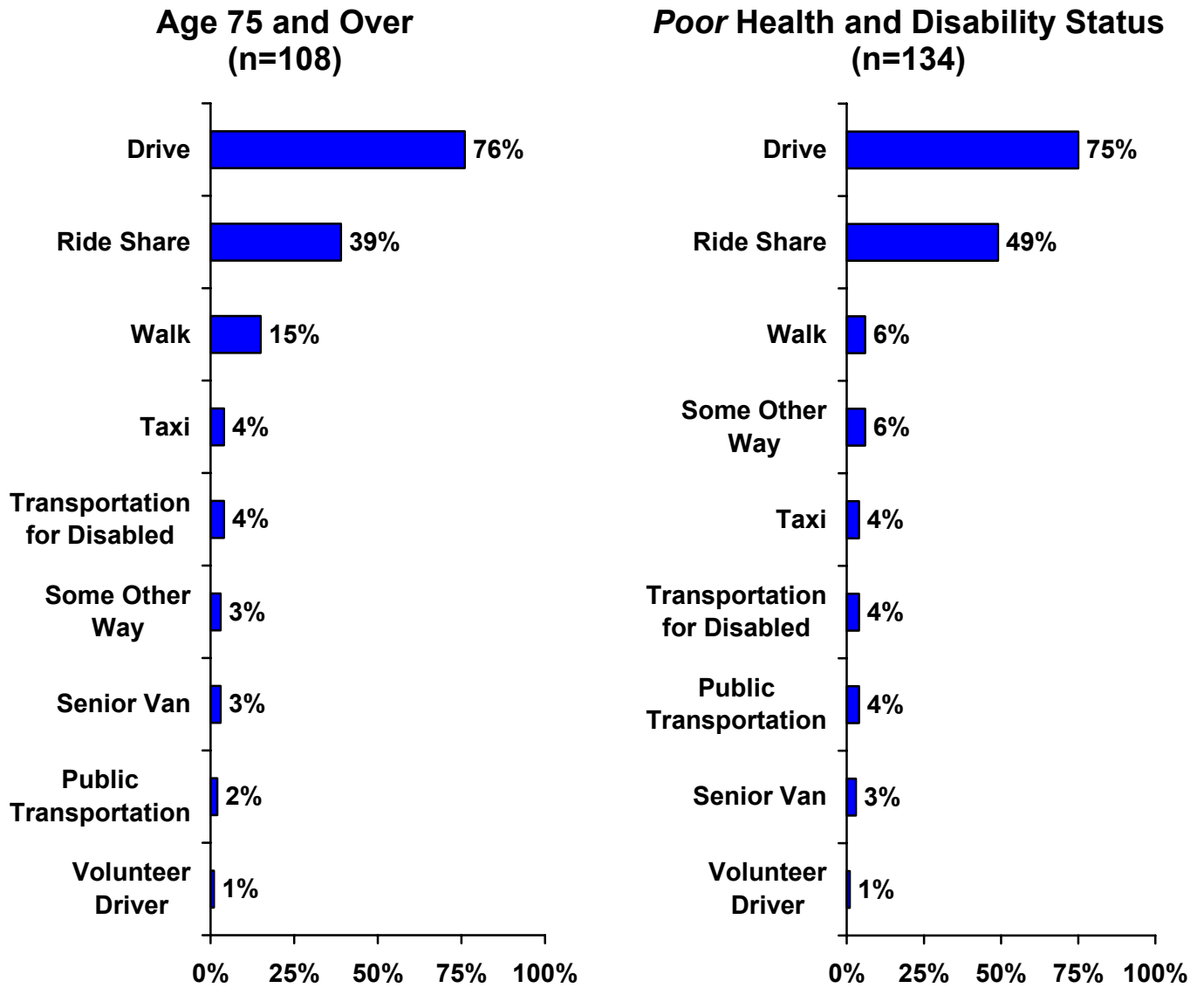


*Percentages exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

C. Effects of Age and Disability on Transportation Choice and Use

Age and health and disability status influences members' usual choice of transportation options. While driving continues to be the primary transportation option, as age increases and health and disability status declines, almost twice as many members say they ride share with family or friends.

Primary Sources of Transportation By Age and *Poor* Health and Disability Status

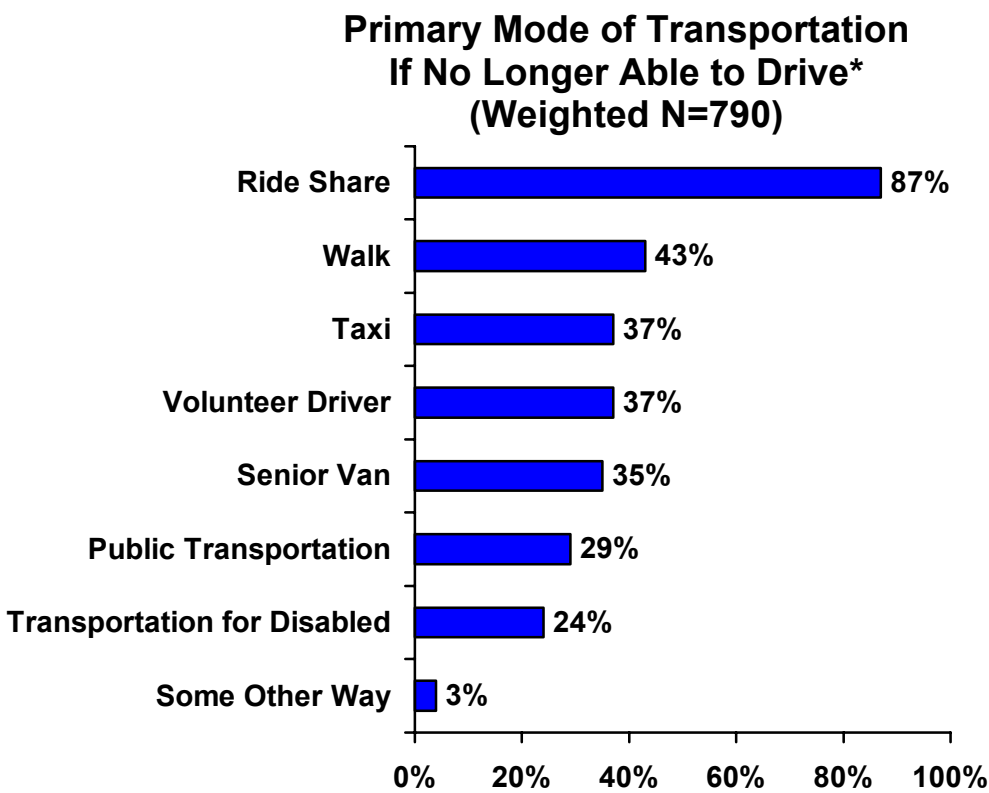


D. Driving Alternatives

If members could no longer drive, most say they would ride share to get to where they need and want to go.

Members were asked if they could no longer drive, what mode of transportation would they use to get to the places they would need and want to go. Nearly nine in ten members say they would get a ride with family or friends. More than two in five say they would walk.

About three in ten or more say they would use a taxi, ride with a volunteer driver from a local program, use a senior or community van, or use public transportation. About one in four members say they would use transportation for those with disabilities.

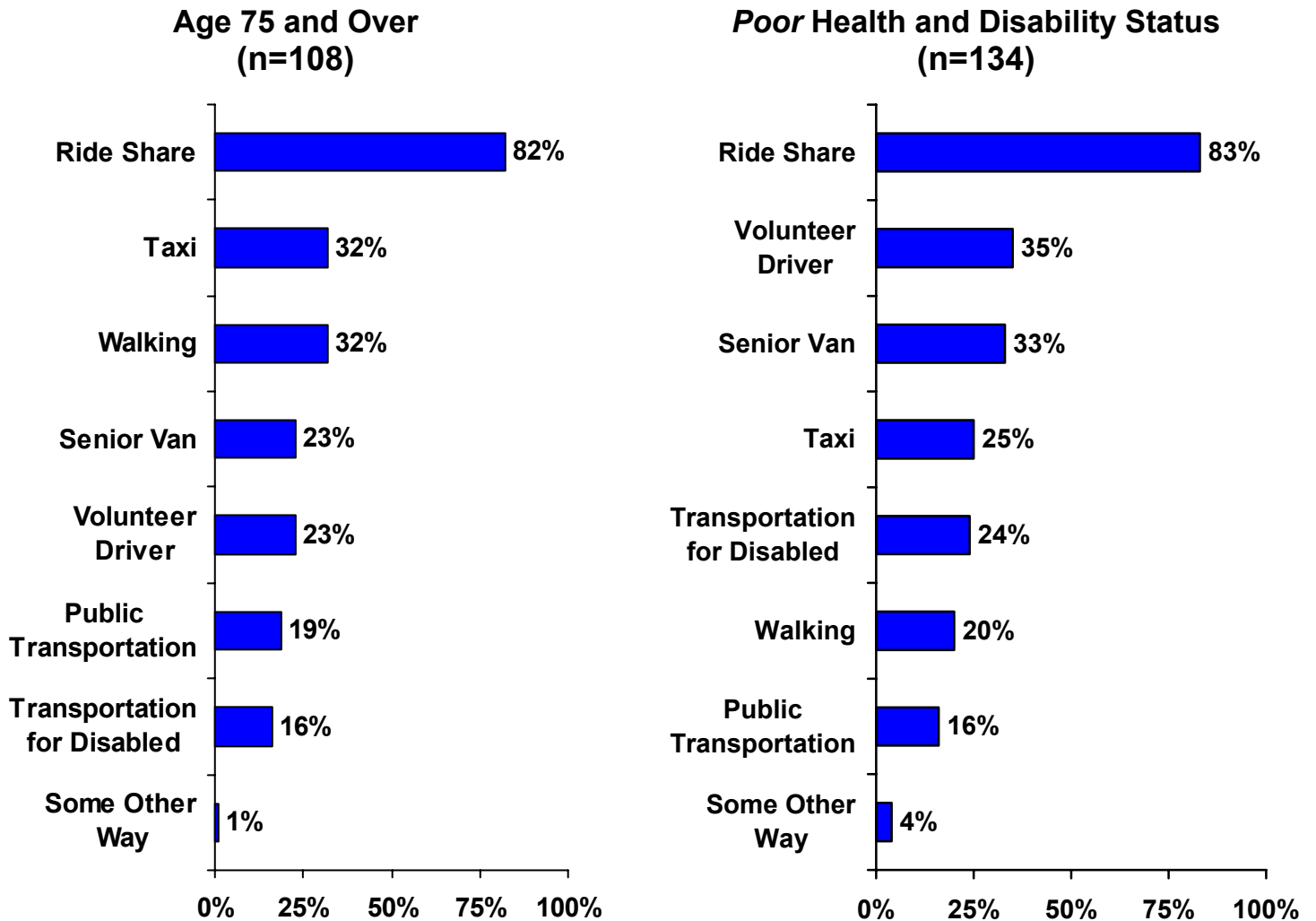


**Percentages exceed 100% due to multiple responses.*

As age increases and health and disability status declines, interest in walking as a mode of transportation declines. Ride sharing with family and friends remains the top choice.

Other preferred options include taxis, senior or community vans, and a volunteer driver from a community program. Less than one in five report they would use public transportation.

Primary Mode of Transportation If No Longer Able to Drive By Age and *Poor Health and Disability Status**



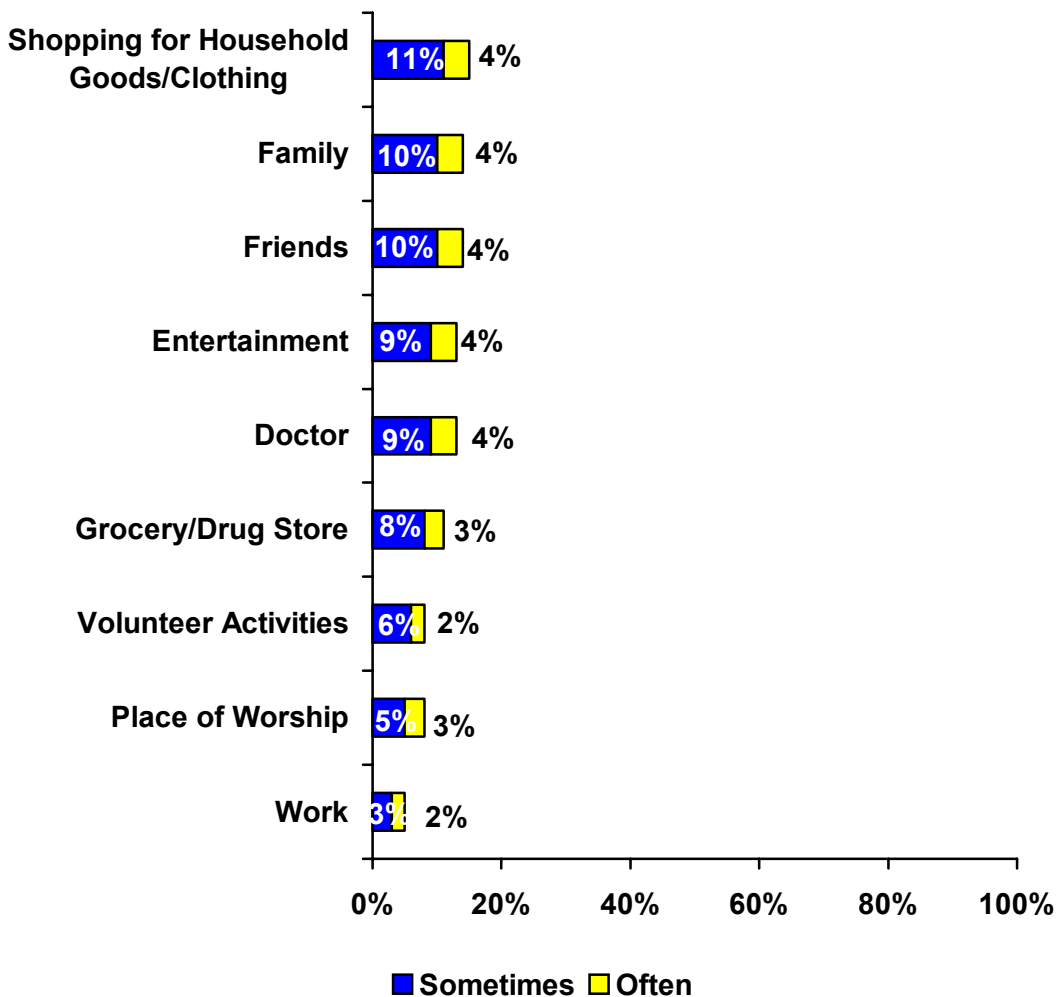
**Percentages exceed 100% due to multiple responses.*

E. Ability to Get to Where They Need and Want to Go

About one in seven or fewer members indicates that transportation problems interfere at least sometimes with their ability to get to where they need or want to go.

Members were presented with a listing of nine destinations and asked whether transportation problems interfered with their ability to go there. One in seven or fewer members indicate that transportation problems interfere with their ability to get to each destination.

**Transportation Problems Interfere with Ability
To Go to Eight Destinations
(Weighted N=790)**



Problems getting to where they need or want to go increases with age and is most pronounced among those members age 75 and over. About one in four or more members age 75 and over indicate that at least sometimes they have problems getting to their doctor, grocery and drug stores, and shopping for clothes, household items, and other necessities.

**Transportation Problems Sometimes or Often Interfere
With Ability to Get to Key Services
By Age**

	50-74 (n=613)	75+ (n=109)
Destination	%	%
Doctor	11	21
Grocery Store/Pharmacy	10	16
Clothing, etc.	14	20

More of those 75 and older report they do not go to work or for volunteer activities than those younger (work: 75+, 62% vs. 50-74, 25%; volunteer activities: 75+, 30% vs. 50-74, 18%).

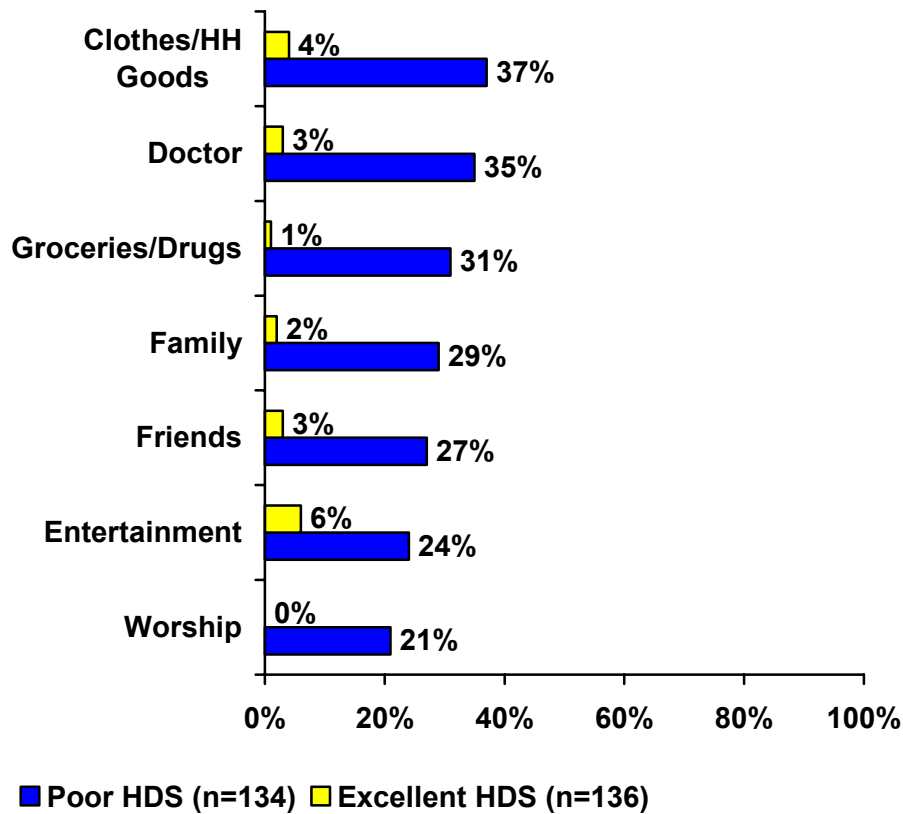
Problems getting out for social reasons also increase with age. About one in five members 75 and older report at least some problems in their ability to visit friends and family. There are no age related differences for going to worship, although more of those 75 and report they do not get out for entertainment (75+, 12% vs. 50-74, 6%).

**Transportation Problems Sometimes or Often Interfere
With Ability to Attend Social or Religious Activities
By Age**

	50-74 (n=613)	75+ (n=109)
Destination	%	%
Family	14	17
Friends	13	20
Entertainment	11	16
Worship	8	11

Members with *poor* HDS are more likely to experience problems getting to where they need and want to go than those with *excellent* HDS.

**At Least Sometimes Experience Problems
Getting to Key Destinations
By *Excellent* and *Poor*
Health and Disability Status**

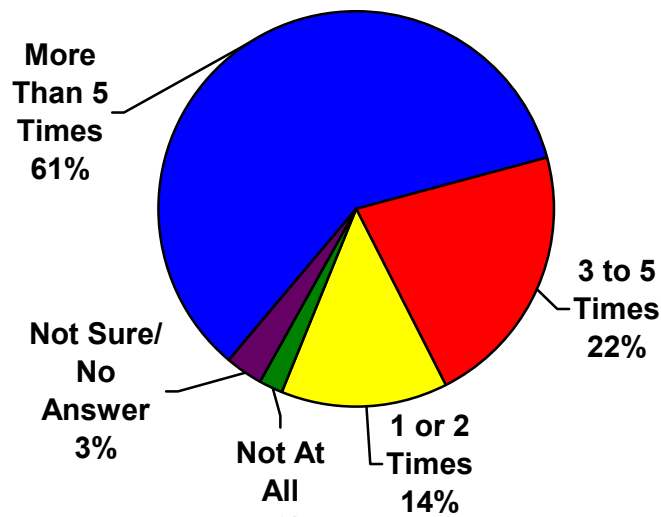


F. Outings during a Typical Week

Nearly all members indicate they leave their home to go somewhere during the typical week.

Nearly all (95%) members report that during a typical week they leave their house or apartment to go somewhere. Two percent indicate they do not leave their house at all during a typical week.

Outings in Typical Week (Weighted N=790)



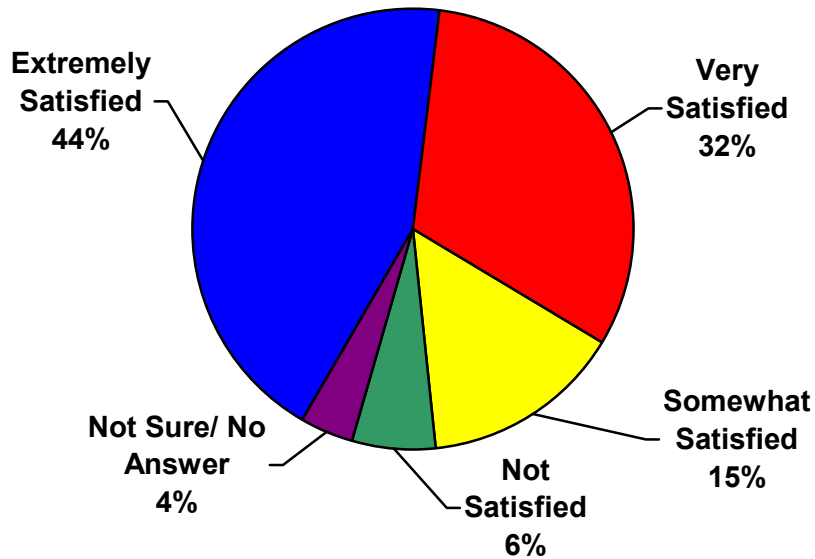
Seven percent with *poor* HDS report they do not get out during a typical week compared to none of those with *excellent* HDS. Also, those members age 75 and older are more likely to say they do not get out during a typical week than their younger counterparts (75+, 6% vs. 50-74, 1%).

G. Satisfaction with Community Transportation Services

Most Virginia members are satisfied with their ability to get around their community when they want or need to go someplace.

Overall, a majority of AARP Virginia members report they are at least somewhat satisfied with how they get around their community when they need and want to go someplace. Only six percent of members indicate they are not very or not at all satisfied with the way they get around.

Satisfaction with Transportation (Weighted N=790)

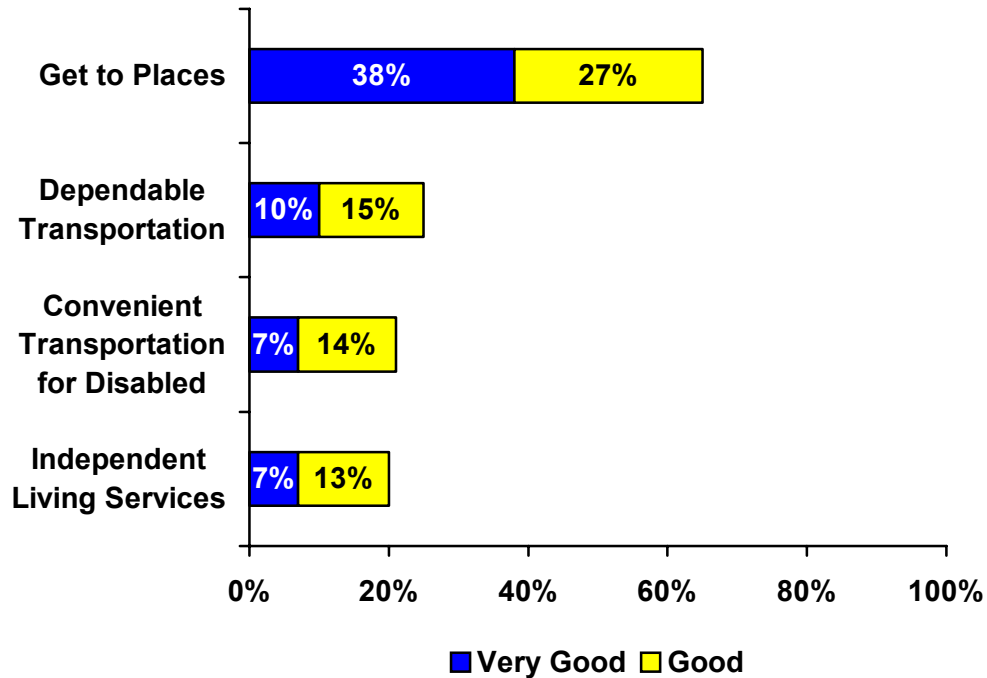


Extreme satisfaction, however, is dependent on health status and age. Those with *poor* HDS are substantially less likely to say they are extremely satisfied than their counterparts (*poor*, 24% vs. *excellent*, 64%). Similarly nearly half (48%) of members ages 50 to 74 say they are extremely satisfied compared to one in three (33%) of those age 75 and over.

Nearly two-thirds of members rate their community as at least good in being able to get to where they wish to go.

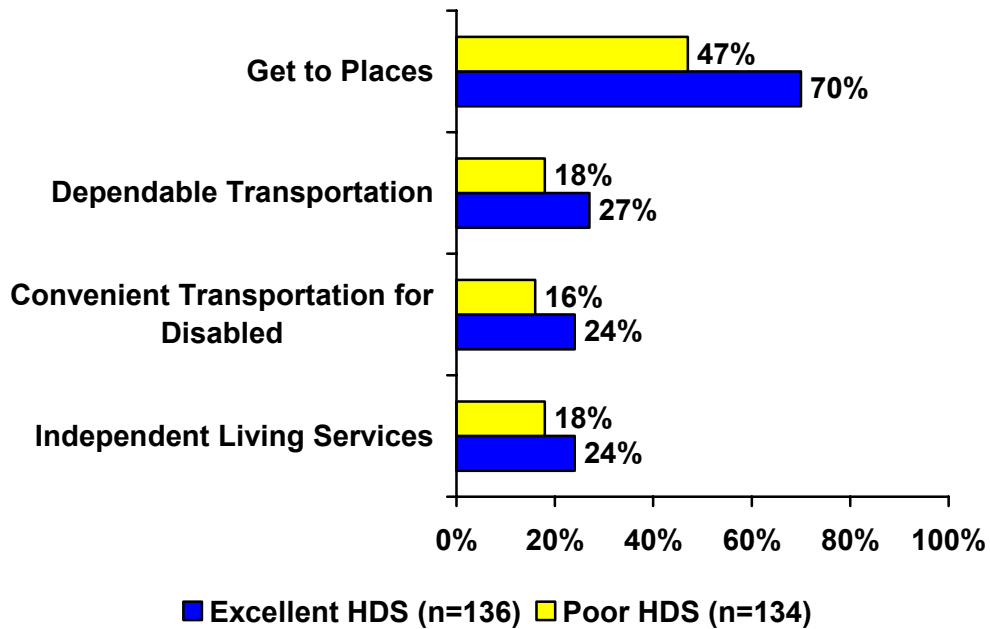
Members were asked to rate their community on four dimensions. Nearly two in three members indicate their community is very good or good in terms of their “*being able to get to most of the places they wish to go.*” One in four or fewer respondents also say their community is at least good in: “*offering dependable public transportation,*” “*offering convenient transportation for people with disabilities or health problems,*” and “*providing a variety of transportation services to help them maintain their independence as they grow older.*”

Very Good and Good Ratings Of Communities on Six Dimensions (Weighted N=790)



Health status influences community ratings. Nearly seven in ten members with *excellent* HDS say their Health status influences community ratings. Nearly seven in ten members with *excellent* HDS say their community is very good or good when considering their ability to get to most of the places they wish to go. Less than half of those with *poor* HDS rate it as very good or good.

**Very Good and Good Ratings
Of Communities on Six Dimensions
By *Excellent* and *Poor* HDS**

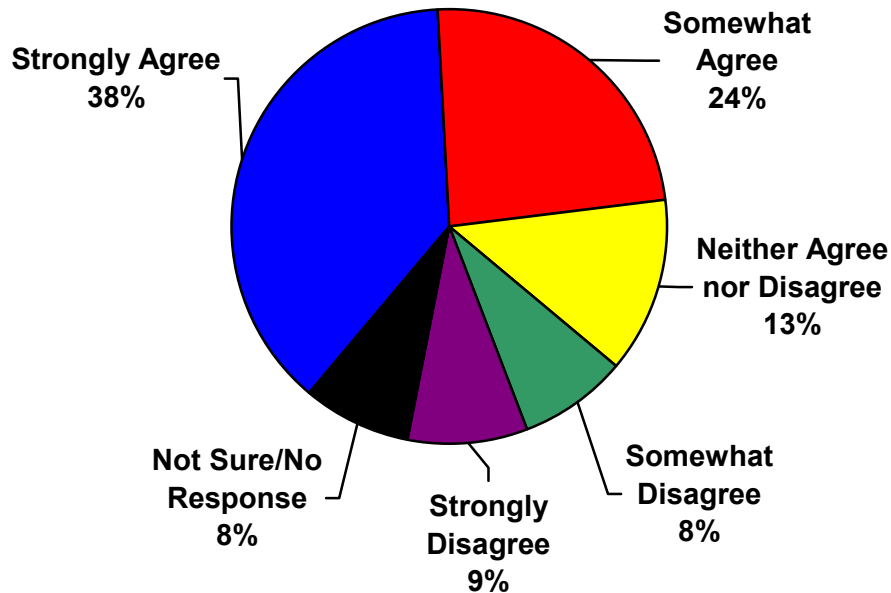


There are no significant differences in community ratings based on age.

More than six in ten members agree that if they were no longer able to drive it would be difficult for them to continue to live in their current neighborhood.

Members were asked to rate their level of agreement with the statement: “If I were no longer able to drive, it would be difficult for me to continue to live in my current neighborhood.” Over six in ten (62%) members report they strongly or somewhat agree with the statement.

Difficulty Remaining in Neighborhood If Unable to Drive (Weighted N=790)



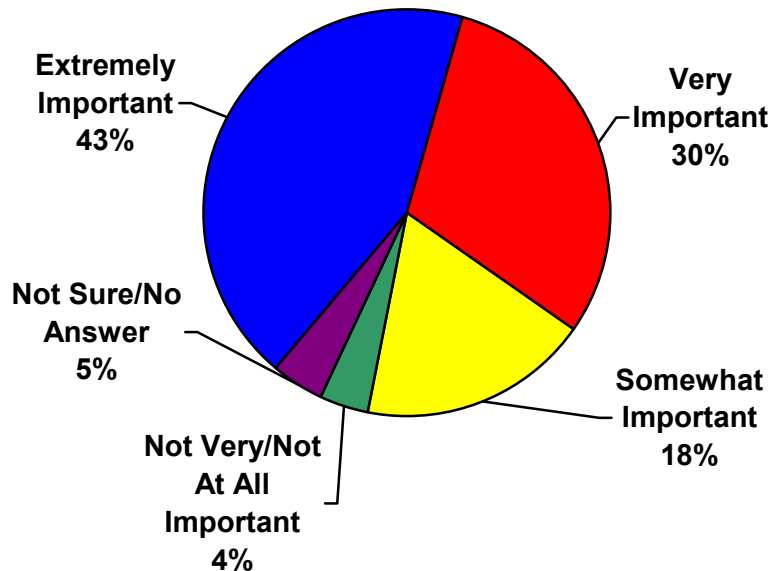
Health and disability status and age are not a factor in response.

H. Need for Legislative Action

Nine in ten AARP members say that it is important for Virginia to increase funding for public transportation programs for the elderly and disabled persons.

When asked how important it was to them personally that Virginia increase funding for public transportation programs for the elderly and disabled persons, only four percent report it is not very or not at all important to them. The vast majority (91%) says it is important with more than two in five (43%) indicating it is extremely important.

Importance of Increased Funding for Public Transportation Serving Older Persons and Those with Disabilities (Weighted N=790)



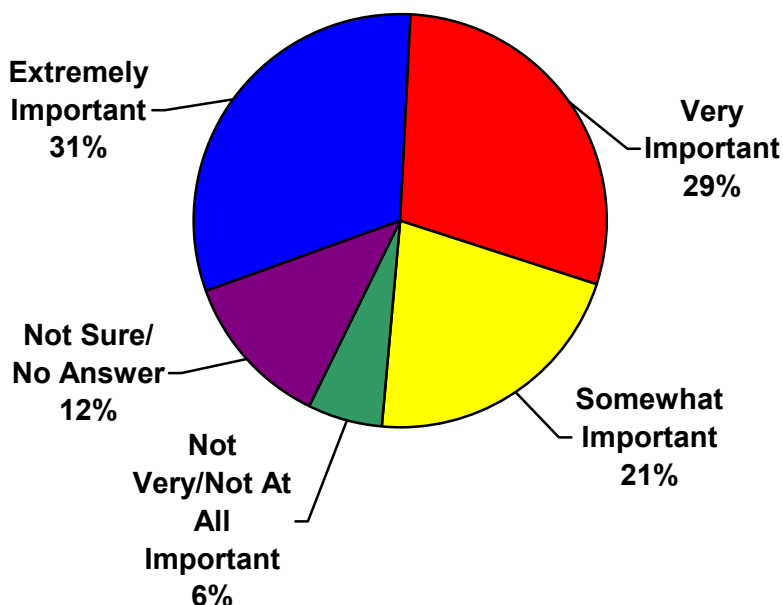
Age and health and disability status are not factors in members' opinions about the importance of increased funding.

A majority of members indicate a candidate for state office's support of increased funding would be a factor in their decision to vote for a candidate. Over seven in ten (72%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported increased funding. Only two percent report they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported this measure.

A majority of members indicate that it is important to improve coordination of human services transportation systems.

Members were asked how important it was to them personally that Virginia reduce overlap and eliminate transportation gaps through improved coordination of human services transportation systems. More than eight in ten report that it is important to them with more than three in ten indicating it is extremely important. Only six percent say it is not important to them.

Importance of Improved Coordination of Human Services Transportation Systems (Weighted N=790)



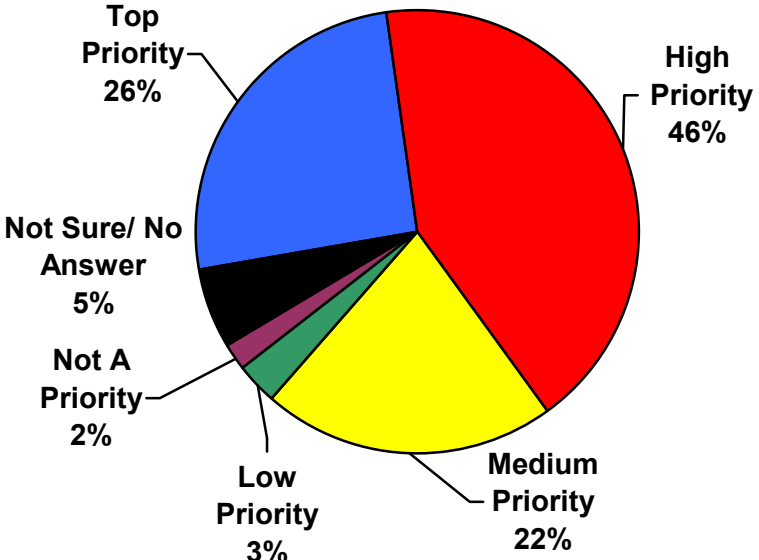
About two in three members (64%) indicate they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who supports improved coordination of human services transportation to reduce overlap in services.

I. Priority for AARP Action

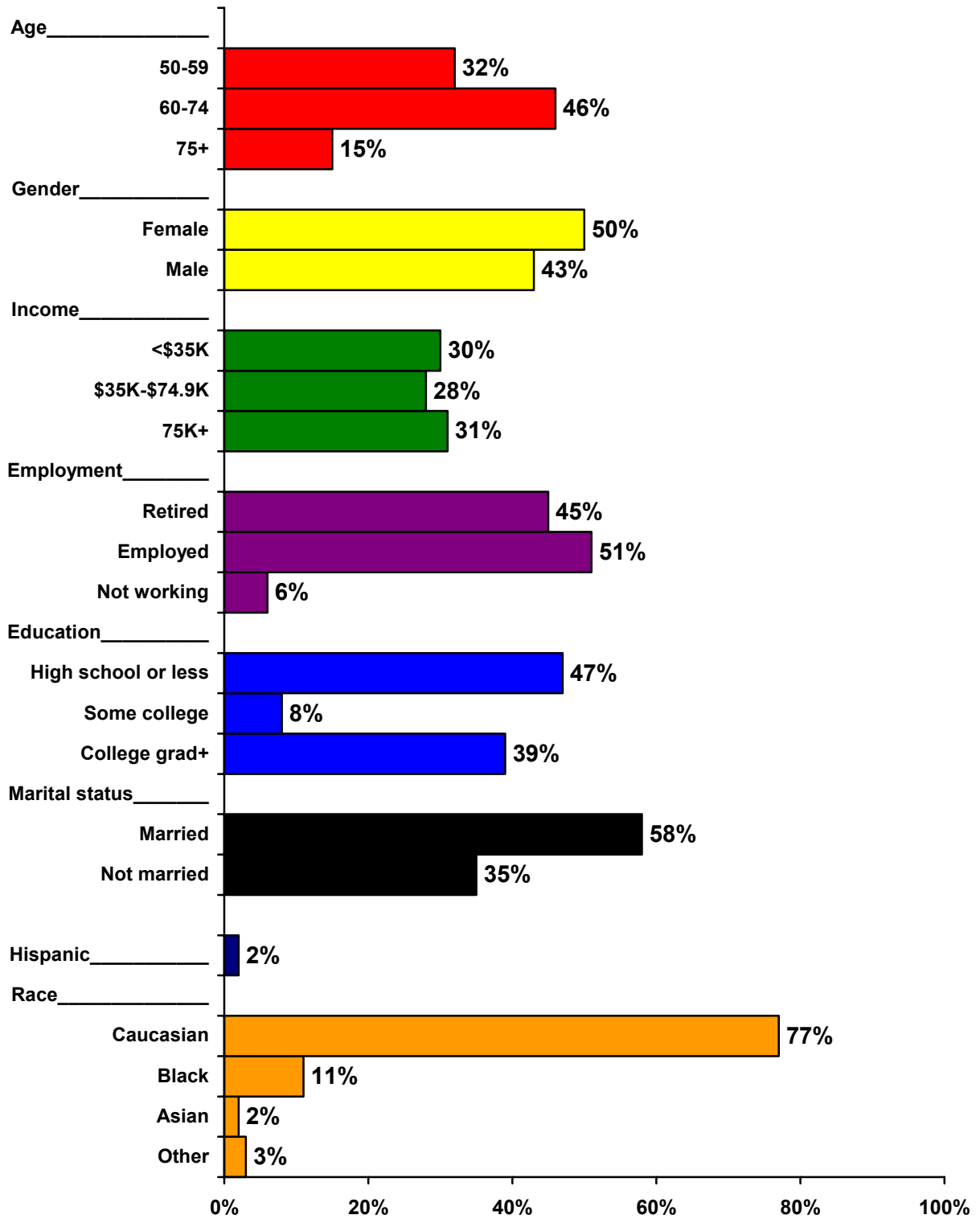
A majority of members report that it is a priority for AARP Virginia to work on legislation to increase funding for public transportation services for the elderly and disabled.

Nine in ten members (91%) indicate it is a priority for AARP Virginia to work for legislation that increases funding for public transportation services that serve the elderly and disabled. Only five percent indicate it is a low or not a priority.

**Priority for AARP Virginia to Work
To Increase Funding for Public Transportation Services for
Elderly and Disabled
(Weighted N=790)**



Respondent's Demographic Characteristics (Weighted N=790)



Conclusion

Overall, AARP Virginia members are very mobile. Nearly all drive to where they need and want to go. Even if they were no longer able to drive themselves, they anticipate sharing rides with family and friends. A solid majority of members express satisfaction with how they get around their community. Nine in ten members go on three or more outings per week. Given their near total reliance on cars to get them to where they need and want to go, nearly two-thirds of members say their community is very good or good in terms of “being able to get to most of the places they wish to go.”

For those age 75 and older and those with *poor* health and disability status, transportation options start to shift. Even though driving continues to be the primary mode of transportation, almost twice as many members report that they share rides with family and friends. Among those older and those with poor HDS who continue to drive, a solid majority says that if they were unable to drive they would prefer to ride share. They are also more open to other forms of transportation as well: taking taxis or senior or community vans or riding with volunteer drivers from community programs. Even as their transportation options narrow, these groups express limited interest in public transportation.

Narrowing of transportation options leads to increasing isolation among those ages 75 and older and those with *poor* health and disability status. More than one in ten of those ages 75 and older say they do not go on any outings during the typical week, while just under one in ten of those with *poor* HDS status say they do not get out at all during the week. Transportation issues also create problems with getting to where they need or want to go. Between one in four and a third of members in these groups say they at least sometimes experience difficulties getting to their doctors, shopping at the grocery store or pharmacy, or shopping for clothes and other essential household items. These two groups of members are significantly less likely to be extremely satisfied with the way they get around their community than those who are younger and those with fewer health and disability concerns.

One in four or fewer members rate their community as either very good or good on three dimensions: Offering dependable public transportation; offering convenient transportation for people with disabilities or health problems; and providing a variety of transportation services to help them to maintain their independence as they grow older.

Given their views about the limited community transportation options, it is not surprising that nine in ten members say it is important for Virginia to increase funding for public transportation programs for the elderly and disabled. More than eight in ten also believe that it is important for the state to reduce overlap and eliminate transportation gaps through improved coordination of human services transportation systems.

Given the strong preference for automobile transportation – driving, ridesharing, getting a ride with a volunteer, or using a senior or community van – it is probable that transportation options that enable persons to be picked up at their door will be most appealing. Feasible options must also accommodate a wide range of physical infirmities.

Virginia's population is aging. Between 2000 and 2020, Virginia's age 65 and older population is expected to nearly double from 792,420 to 1,359,250. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were approximately 87,300 persons age 85 and over residing in Virginia in 2000. This number is expected to grow to 145,500 in 2010 and to 172,600 in 2020.² It is critical that the state begin to study transportation options that support the continuing community involvement of older residents and those with *poor* health and disability status. Increasing funding for transportation services for the elderly and disabled is critical as is the continued exploration of community transportation options that meet the physical needs and preferences of those who are frail. Public transportation systems must be viewed to encompass more than bus or rail service and include para transit systems that provide door-to-door service.

² VaEmploy.com data found at <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/vecportal/lbrmkt/popproj.cfm>.

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.

Appendix I

Annotated Questionnaire

2007 AARP Virginia Member Legislative Issues Survey

Weighted Sample = 790; Sampling Error = ± 3.5

Long-Term Care

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

Long-Term Care Ombudsmen are trained individuals who have been charged with identifying, investigating, and resolving complaints made by or on behalf of long-term care patients. Virginia law requires one ombudsman for every 2,000 nursing home beds. Lack of funding has prevented Virginia from having enough ombudsmen to meet this goal.

1. Do you support or oppose Virginia increasing the budget for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to assure that the state meets the guideline for having one ombudsman for every 2,000 nursing home beds?

- 64% Strongly support
- 19% Somewhat support
- 7% Neither support nor oppose
- 1% Somewhat oppose
- 1% Strongly oppose
- 6% Not sure
- 2% Missing / No Answer

2. How important is it to you that Virginia strengthens the enforcement of quality standards for nursing homes?

- 70% Extremely important
- 23% Very important
- 5% Somewhat important
- 1% Not very important
- <0.5% Not at all important
- 1% Not sure
- 1% Missing / No Answer

Medicaid is a state and federal program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain groups of people who have low incomes and few assets. To receive Medicaid long-term care services, people must be unable to perform daily living activities like bathing, dressing, eating, or have serious cognitive impairments.

In 2007, the Virginia Legislature passed a law that allows all Virginia residents including those on Medicaid, to choose where they receive long-term care services. People needing long-term care can get and choose among a variety of services to help them remain independent and meet their needs in whatever setting is most appropriate whether it is in their own homes, community programs, assisted living residences, or nursing homes.

3. Do you support or oppose Virginia shifting resources from institutional care to home and community-based care that would allow Virginians to receive long-term care services in their homes and communities?

- 65% Strongly support
- 24% Somewhat support
- 5% Neither support nor oppose
- 2% Somewhat oppose
- 1% Strongly oppose
- 2% Not sure
- 2% Missing / No Answer

In 2007, legislation gave Virginia’s Secretary of Health and Human Resources the authority to coordinate long-term care services across all of the state governmental agencies. One strategy to improve the coordination of long-term care services is to create a Long-Term Care Implementation Council, chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and staffed by the heads of all state agencies that provide oversight of long-term care service programs.

4. Do you support or oppose Virginia creating a Long-Term Care Implementation Council charged with coordination of state long-term care services?

- 40% Strongly support
- 31% Somewhat support
- 15% Neither support nor oppose
- 2% Somewhat oppose
- 2% Strongly oppose
- 7% Not sure
- 2% Missing / No Answer

Virginia is currently testing a project called “No Wrong Door” in *six* communities. Through these projects, Virginia has created one-stop-shopping centers that give Virginians information on a variety of health and supportive long-term care services available within their community.

5. Do you support or oppose an evaluation of the “No Wrong Door” test projects to determine whether one-stop-shop centers should be available throughout the state?

- 45% Strongly support
- 30% Somewhat support
- 12% Neither support nor oppose
- 2% Somewhat oppose
- 2% Strongly oppose
- 7% Not sure
- 3% Missing / No Answer

Caregiving

The Virginia Caregiver Grant Program provides up to \$500 per year for support services to low-income family caregivers who provide around the clock care to a loved one needing long-term care. The program has no budget to provide information or training to these family caregivers. In 2007, the Virginia Caregiver Grant Program had an annual budget of \$700,000. By increasing the program’s budget to \$1 million per year, the amount of the individual grants could be increased and funding could be provided to caregivers for information and training.

6. Do you support or oppose the Virginia legislature increasing funds for the Virginia Caregiver Grant Program from \$700,000 per year to \$1 million per year?

- 52% Strongly support
- 27% Somewhat support
- 8% Neither support nor oppose
- 4% Somewhat oppose
- 2% Strongly oppose
- 4% Not sure
- 3% Missing / No Answer

Health Care Quality

- 7. Under Virginia law, health care professionals are not required to show they have up-to-date knowledge and skills needed to provide quality care as a condition of retaining their license. Do you believe all licensed health care professionals in Virginia should be required to demonstrate their competence periodically?**

91% Yes
2% No
5% Not sure
2% Missing / No Answer

- 8. Do you support or oppose Virginia studying how to best establish guidelines for evaluating the continuing competency of health care practitioners?**

61% Strongly support
25% Somewhat support
5% Neither support nor oppose
2% Somewhat oppose
2% Strongly oppose
3% Not sure
3% Missing / No Answer

Transportation

- 9. In a typical week, how often do you get out of your home and go somewhere (for example, shopping, visiting, etc.)?**

2% Not at all
14% 1 or 2 times
22% 3 to 5 times
61% More than 5 times
<0.5% Not sure
2% Missing / No Answer

- 10. Have you or someone in your household driven a car or other motor vehicle in the last month?**

95% Yes
3% No
-- Not sure
2% Missing / No Answer

11. Have you or someone in your household stopped driving due to health conditions?

9% Yes → → →
 88% No
 <0.5% Not sure
 2% Missing / No Answer

11b. Who stopped driving?

53% I stopped driving.
 42% Someone in my household stopped driving.
 1% I and someone in my household stopped driving.
 3% Missing / No Answer

12. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: If I or the principle driver in my household were no longer able to drive, it would be difficult for me to continue to live in my current neighborhood.

38% Strongly agree
 24% Somewhat agree
 13% Neither agree nor disagree
 8% Somewhat disagree
 9% Strongly disagree
 5% Not sure
 3% Missing / No Answer

13. For each of the following destinations, how often does a transportation problem interfere with your ability to go there? If you do not go to that destination, check the Don't Go box.

	Never ▼	Sometimes ▼	Often ▼	Don't Go ▼	Missing / No Answer ▼
a. Your doctor.....	83%	9%	4%	1%	3%
b. Your family	79%	10%	4%	3%	4%
c. Your friends.....	77%	10%	4%	5%	5%
d. Your place of worship	76%	5%	3%	11%	5%
e. The grocery or drug store	84%	8%	3%	1%	4%
f. Shopping for clothes or household items	80%	11%	4%	1%	4%
g. Entertainment (e.g. movies, sports, eating out).....	76%	9%	4%	7%	5%
h. Volunteer activities.....	66%	6%	2%	21%	5%
i. Work	58%	3%	2%	31%	6%

14. In general, when you need to get somewhere, how do you usually get there?
(Check all that apply)

- 18% Walk
- 92% Drive
- 26% Get a ride with family or friends
- 1% Get a ride with a volunteer from a local program that pairs people who do not drive with a driver
- 5% Take a taxi
- 6% Take public transportation
- 2% Take a senior or community van
- 1% Take transportation provided to people with disabilities who cannot use or get to public transportation
- 3% Other (Specify) _____
- 2% Missing / No Answer

15. If you were unable to drive yourself, would you use the following modes of transportation to get you to the places you need and want to go? If the form of transportation is not available in your community, check the “not available” (N/A) box.

	Yes	No	N/A	Missing / No Answer
	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. Walk.....	43%	26%	5%	27%
b. Ride with family or friends.....	87%	2%	3%	8%
c. Ride with volunteer driver from a local program.....	37%	13%	18%	33%
d. Public transportation.....	29%	13%	29%	28%
e. Taxi.....	37%	19%	14%	30%
f. Senior or Community Van.....	35%	11%	21%	33%
g. Transportation for those with disabilities.....	24%	15%	21%	40%
h. Other (Specify) _____	3%	--	<0.5%	97%

16. Overall, how satisfied are you with how you get around in your community when you want or need to go someplace?

44% Extremely satisfied
32% Very satisfied
15% Somewhat satisfied
4% Not very satisfied
2% Not at all satisfied
2% Not sure
2% Missing / No Answer

17. How important is it to you that Virginia increases funding for public transportation programs for elderly and disabled persons?

43% Extremely important
30% Very important
18% Somewhat important
3% Not very important
1% Not at all important
3% Not sure
2% Missing / No Answer

18. How important is it to you that Virginia reduces overlap and eliminates transportation service gaps through improved coordination of human services transportation systems?

31% Extremely important
29% Very important
21% Somewhat important
4% Not very important
2% Not at all important
9% Not sure
3% Missing / No Answer

19. How would you rate your community on the following characteristics?

	Very Good ▼	Good ▼	Average ▼	Poor ▼	Very Poor ▼	Missing /No Answer ▼
a. Being able to get to most of the places you wish to go	38%	27%	17%	8%	5%	6%
b. Offering dependable public transportation	10%	15%	27%	20%	18%	11%
c. Offering convenient transportation for people with disabilities or health problems	7%	14%	33%	20%	10%	16%
d. Providing a wide variety of services to help you maintain your independence as you grow older.....	7%	13%	32%	23%	12%	14%

20. How much of a priority should it be for AARP Virginia to work on legislation to increase funding for public transportation services for the elderly and disabled?

- 26% Top priority
- 43% High priority
- 22% Medium priority
- 3% Low priority
- 2% Not a priority
- 3% Not sure
- 3% Missing / No Answer

Payday Loans

A payday lender advances money – up to \$500 – to borrowers for a fee of \$15 per \$100 borrowed, and the entire loan amount is generally repayable within 14 days. Payday loans generally cost at least 10 times as much as loans from a traditional bank. Under Virginia law, payday lenders are allowed to make loans with up to a 390 percent annual percentage rate (APR).

21. How important are the following consumer protections for Virginia residents who use payday loans?

	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not At All Important	Not Sure	Missing/ No Answer
a Prohibiting triple-digit annual interests rates.....	68%	12%	4%	1%	3%	8%	5%
b Requiring loan terms that make it possible for consumers to pay back the loan.....	62%	18%	5%	1%	2%	6%	6%
c Prohibiting payday lenders from making a loan to a borrower who has an outstanding loan.....	48%	20%	11%	2%	2%	9%	8%
d Prohibiting payday lenders from making a loan without checking the borrowers' ability to repay the loan.....	56%	19%	8%	2%	2%	7%	7%
e Prohibiting payday lenders from holding a post-dated check as collateral for the loan.....	51%	15%	11%	4%	2%	10%	7%

22. Do you support or oppose capping the annual percentage rate payday lenders can charge at 36 percent APR?

63%	Strongly support
8%	Somewhat support
6%	Neither support nor oppose
2%	Somewhat oppose
6%	Strongly oppose
10%	Not sure
6%	Missing / No Answer

Candidate Support

23. If a candidate for Virginia state office supported the following legislative actions, how likely would you be to vote for the candidate?

	More Likely ▼	Make No Difference in Vote ▼	Less Likely ▼	Not Sure ▼	Missing / No Answer ▼
a. Improving the quality of care provided in Virginia nursing homes.....	83%	11%	<0.5%	2%	3%
b. Adequately funding the Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to comply with Virginia law to have one ombudsman per 2,000 nursing home beds.....	70%	17%	2%	6%	5%
c. Reallocating funding from institutional care to finance greater access to home and community-based care	70%	16%	4%	5%	5%
d. Creating a Long-Term Care Implementation Council to coordinate long-term care services	58%	25%	5%	7%	6%
e. Supporting an evaluation of the one-stop-shopping centers to support consumers getting information on community long-term care services	57%	29%	3%	5%	6%
f. Increasing funds for the Virginia Care Giving Program to \$1 million per year.....	60%	22%	4%	7%	6%
g. Studying the best way to establish guidelines for evaluating the continuing competence of health care practitioners ...	70%	19%	3%	3%	5%
h. Increasing funds for public transportation programs for the elderly and disabled	72%	18%	2%	3%	5%
i. Improving coordination of human services transportation to reduce overlap in services	64%	23%	2%	5%	6%
j. Prohibiting payday lenders from charging greater than 36 percent APR for loans	71%	15%	3%	6%	5%
k. Increasing consumer protections for payday loan borrowers.....	72%	15%	2%	6%	5%

About You

24. How would you describe your health?

19%	Excellent
31%	Very good
28%	Good
11%	Fair
3%	Poor
8%	Missing / No Answer

25. Do you have difficulty with any of the following:

	Yes	No	Missing / No Answer
	▼	▼	▼
a. Going out alone, for instance to shop or visit a doctor's office	7%	84%	9%
b. Dressing, bathing, or getting around inside your home.....	4%	88%	8%
c. Seeing the words and letters in an ordinary newspaper even when wearing glasses.....	12%	80%	8%
d. Hearing what is said in a normal conversation when using a hearing aid if one is used	8%	82%	10%
e. Lifting or carrying something as heavy as ten pounds, like a bag full of groceries	17%	75%	8%
f. Climbing a flight of stairs without resting.....	11%	80%	9%
g. Walking a quarter mile (about three city blocks)	21%	69%	10%
h. Having speech understood by others	3%	89%	8%
i. Using the telephone.....	4%	87%	9%
j. Working at a job or business.....	15%	71%	14%

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

62%	Yes, from home
28%	Yes, from work
13%	Yes, from some other source
24%	No
8%	Missing / No Answer

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

- 32% 50 – 59
- 46% 60 – 75
- 15% 75 or older
- 9% Missing / No Answer

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

29. Are you male or female?

- 43% Male
- 50% Female
- 7% Missing / No Answer

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

- 34% Democrat
- 22% Republican
- 26% Independent
- 7% Other
- 11% Missing / No Answer

31. Thinking about your state elections for Virginia Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, how often would you say you voted?

- 57% Always
- 22% Most of the time
- 4% About half of the time
- 3% Seldom
- 5% Never
- 8% Missing / No Answer

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

- 2% Yes
- 87% No
- Not sure
- 11% Missing / No Answer

33. What is your race and/or ethnicity?

77%	White or Caucasian
11%	Black or African American
<0.5%	American Indian or Alaska Native
2%	Asian
<0.5%	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
2%	Other: (Specify)_____
9%	Missing / No Answer

34. What is your current marital status?

58%	Married
2%	Not married, living with partner
2%	Separated
11%	Divorced
16%	Widowed
4%	Never married
8%	Missing / No Answer

35. What type of community do you live in?

15%	Urban
42%	Suburban
15%	Small town
26%	Rural
3%	Missing / No Answer

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

8%	0-12 th grade (no diploma)
24%	High school graduate (or equivalent)
15%	Post-high school education (no degree)
8%	2-year college degree
15%	4-year college degree
7%	Post-graduate study (no degree)
17%	Graduate or professional degree (s)
5%	Missing / No Answer

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

- 5% Self-employed, part-time
- 6% Self-employed, full-time
- 10% Employed, part-time
- 30% Employed, full-time
- 45% Retired, not working at all
- 4% Not in labor force for other reasons
- 2% Unemployed but looking for work
- 1% Missing / No Answer

38. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2006?

- 5% Less than \$10,000
- 11% \$10,000 to less than \$20,000
- 14% \$20,000 to less than \$35,000
- 12% \$35,000 to less than \$50,000
- 9% \$50,000 to less than \$60,000
- 7% \$60,000 to less than \$75,000
- 13% \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
- 18% \$100,000 or more
- 4% Not sure
- 8% Missing / 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 September 20, 2007.

AARP
Knowledge Management
For more information please contact Anita Ritter
(202) 434-6205 or aritter@aarp.org