

2011

Voices of African Americans 50+ in New York: Dreams & Challenges



Executive Summary

AARP has a strong commitment to help improve the lives of the 50+ population. As part of the Association's continuous communication with its members and all 50+ Americans, AARP commissioned an innovative set of surveys designed to better gather information on the needs, interests and concerns of 50+ Americans both at the national and state level.

These random digit dial telephone surveys of over 29,000 adults age 50+ across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were fielded between January 2nd and January 31st. These telephone interviews also included additional list-assisted samples of African-American and Hispanic 50+ adults.

The data presented here is based on a sample of 302 50+ New York state African American adults and has a sampling error of 5.5%.

Executive Summary

The survey finds that:

- **About five in ten African American New York adults 50+ say that health care issues are the top problem or challenge facing mid-life and older adults in their state. One quarter cite economic issues as the largest challenge.**
- **At a more personal level, adults 50+ say vacation and travel, hobbies, and strengthening their faith or spirituality are what they personally dream about doing next in their lives.**
- **Health and financial security are very important in the lives of adults 50+. More than nine in ten say staying healthy, having adequate health insurance, staying mentally sharp, protecting against consumer fraud, Social Security, and Medicare are extremely or very important to them.**
- **African American adults 50+ do not have everything they need in order to accomplish their most important goals:**
 - **Fewer than a third have all they need to stay sharp, stay healthy, maintain adequate health insurance, and spend times with friends and family.**
 - **Only about two in ten say they have all they need to receive needed Social Security and Medicare and protect themselves from consumer fraud.**

Executive Summary

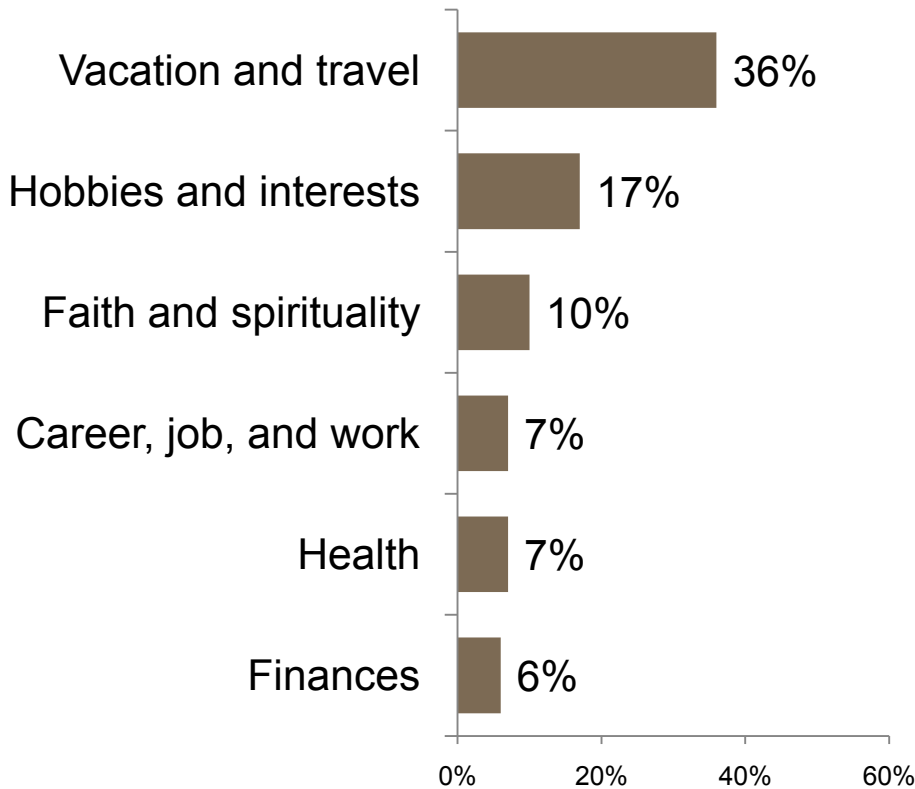
- **Given current worries about financial, health, transportation, and work issues, half (52%) of all African American New York adults 50+ are not confident that life will be better for their children's generation than it has been for them.**
- **Worries about health issues illustrate the importance of finances. About seven in ten worry about having to pay more for health care, financial devastation due to health costs, being unable to pay for a major illness, and staying healthy.**
- **About 90 percent of adults 50+ worry about one or more financial issues. Public assistance benefits and maintaining finances and lifestyle in retirement are worries for two-thirds.**
- **In the current economy, nearly half (48%) of all African American adults 50+ say they have had at least some difficulty paying their monthly electric utility bill.**

Executive Summary

- **If the economy doesn't improve over the next 12 months, 49 percent of African American New York adults age 50+ say they will delay retirement and work longer.**
- **About one in four African American New York adults 50+ do not have access to a bank, pharmacy, grocery store, or park within walking distance.**
- **Only one third say they feel extremely or very informed about long-term care services available in their community.**

Dreams for the 50+

Top Dreams (n=302)

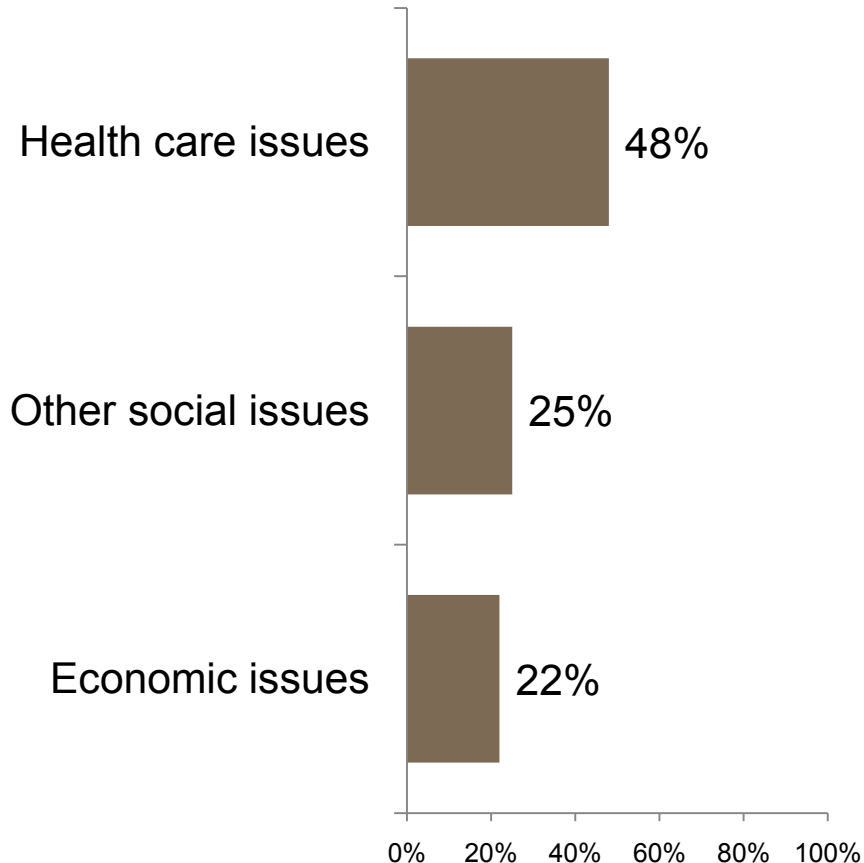


- **African American adults 50+ say they want to spend time traveling (36%) and pursuing their hobbies and interests (17%).**
- **Rejuvenation is what they dream about. Adults 50+ want to strengthen their faith or spirituality (10%), get a better job or take their current career to a new level (7%), and maintain good health (7%).**
- **Other dreams mentioned by fewer than five percent are around marriage, grandchildren, friends and family, and volunteering.**

Source: Core Q1. Thinking about what's next in your life, I would like you to think about the kinds of things you dream about doing—these could be things you have always wanted to do, but never got around to, or things you have done in the past and want to continue doing. What would you consider to be the one thing that you would most like to do? (Open ended/Unaided response)

Top Challenge Facing the 50+

Top Challenge (n=302)

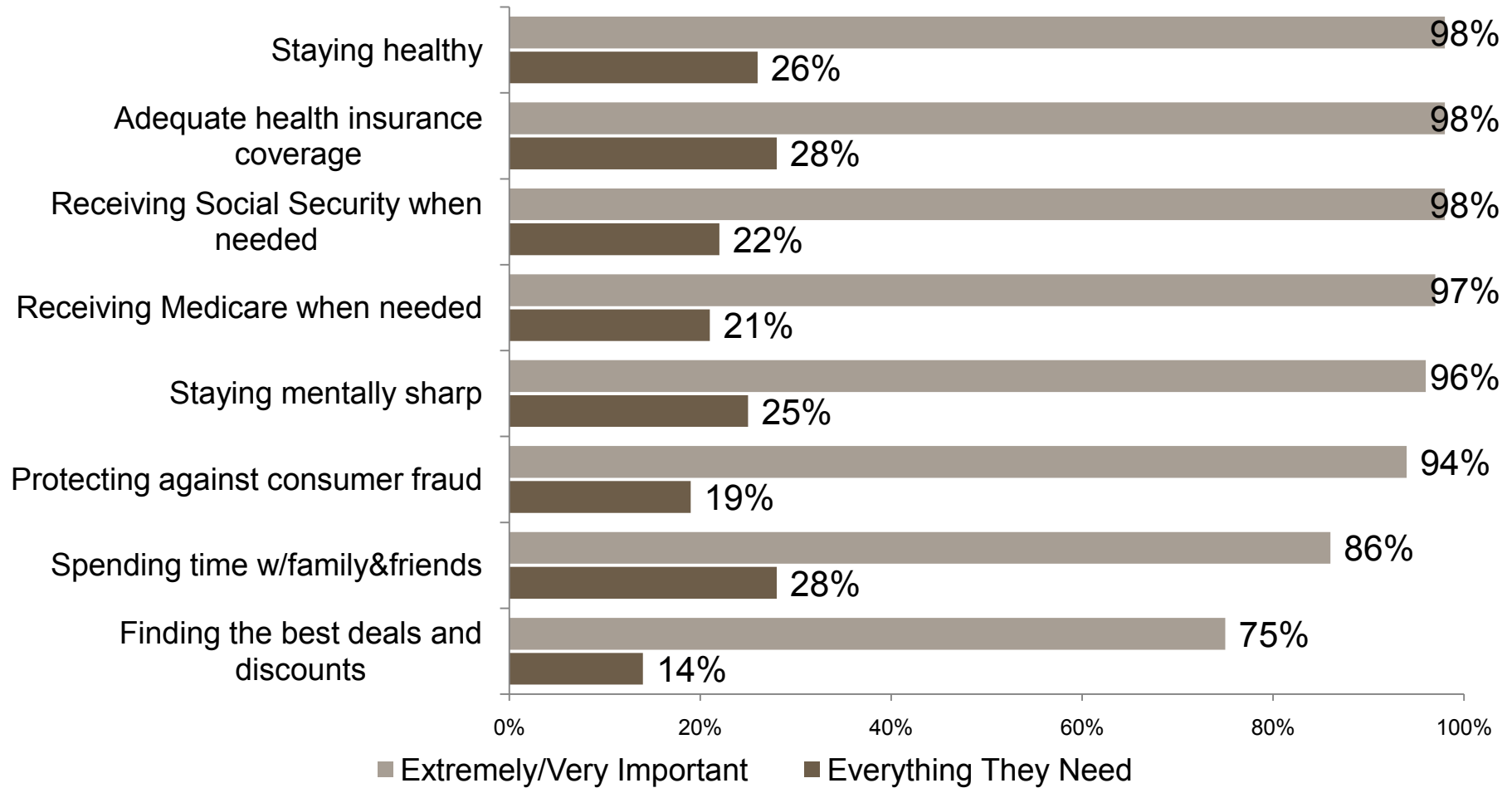


- **Health care issues include the cost of health care and staying healthy.**
- **Economic issues include unemployment and having enough money to retire.**
- **Other social issues vary widely. They include topics like how to spend time, transportation/getting around, family values, politics and government.**

Source: Core Q2. What do you believe is the SINGLE most important problem or challenge facing mid life and older Americans as they get older?
(Open ended/Unaided response)

Issues of Importance to the 50+ Today

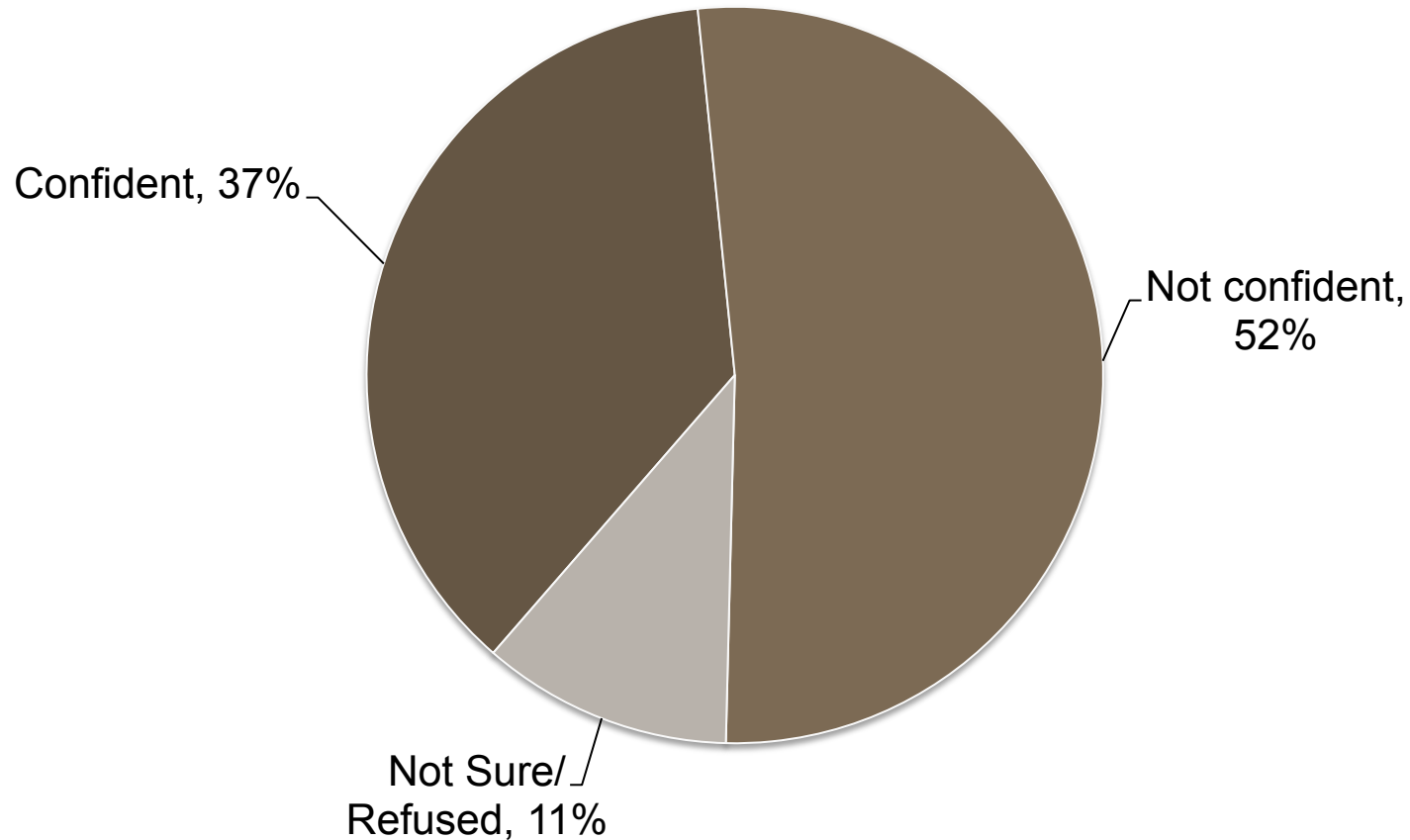
Issues of Importance and Extent to Which Needs Are Met for the 50+ Today (n=302)



Source: Core 3a-q. How important is each of the following in your life right now? Core 4a-h: Do you think you currently have everything you need in regards to [specific items of extreme/very importance]? See attached annotated survey for a list of items. Base for Everything They Need is those who said issue was extremely/very important.

50+ Generational Concerns

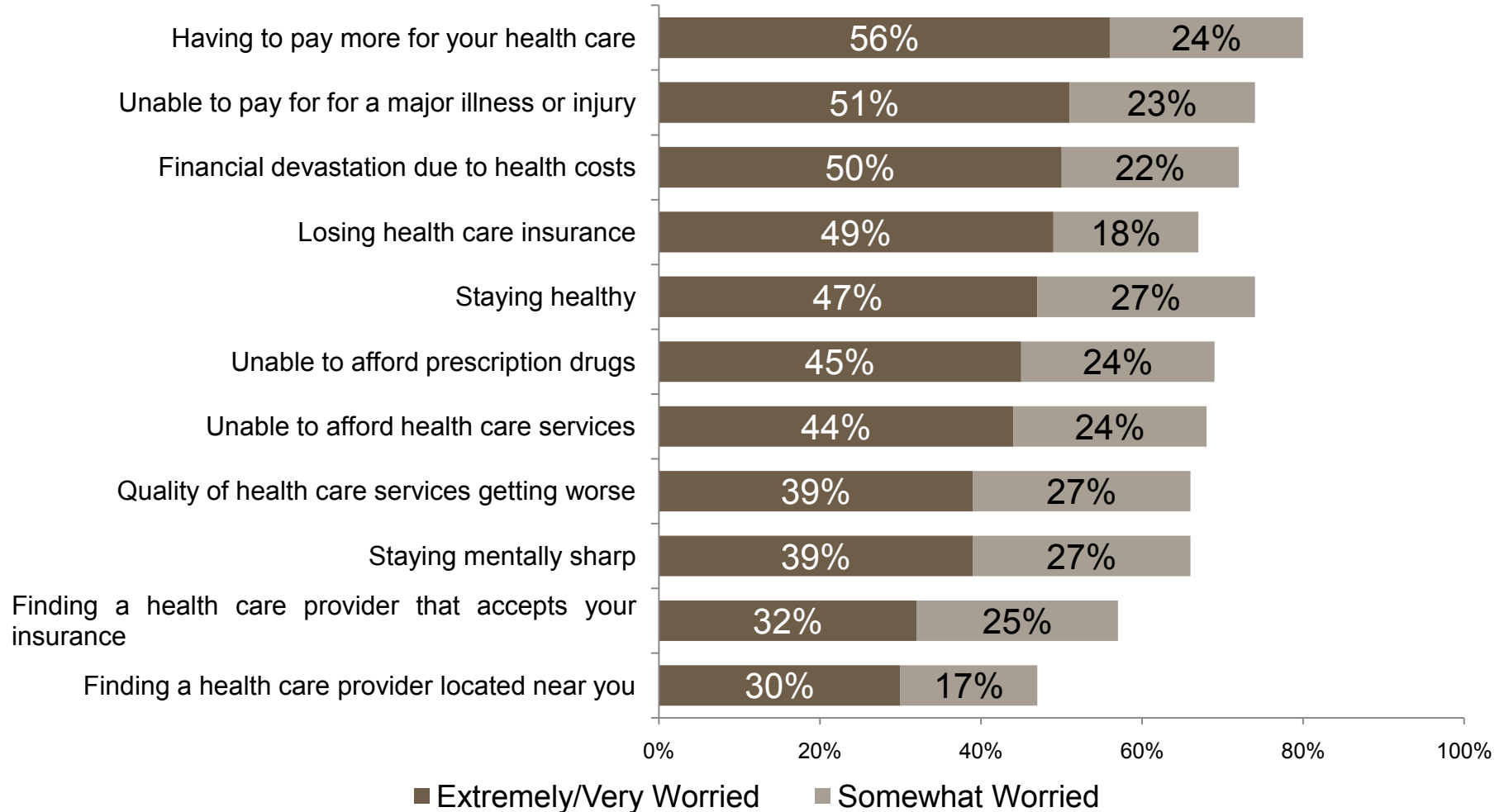
Confidence That Your Children's Generation Will Be Better Than It Has Been for You (n=302)



Source: 50+2. Do you feel confident or not confident that life for your children's generation will be better than it has been for you?

50+ Health Care Concerns

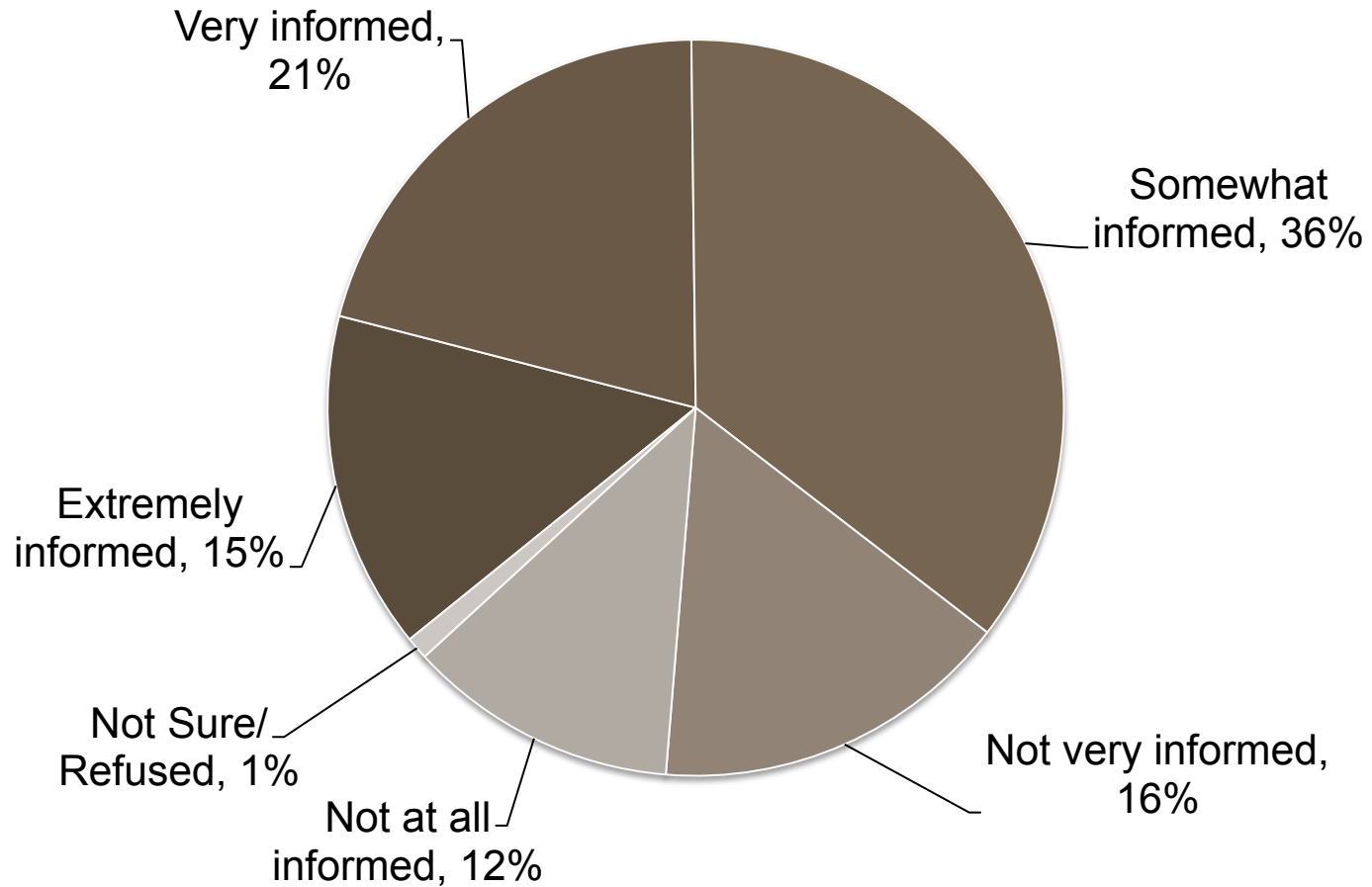
Worry about Health Issues (n=302)



Source: HC9. I'm going to read to you a list of health issues that people sometimes worry about. Please tell me how worried you are about each of the following. How worried are you about [INSERT, READ AND RANDOMIZE EACH ITEMS A THROUGH K BELOW]? Are you extremely worried, very worried, somewhat worried, not very worried, or not at all worried?

50+ Long-Term Care Concerns

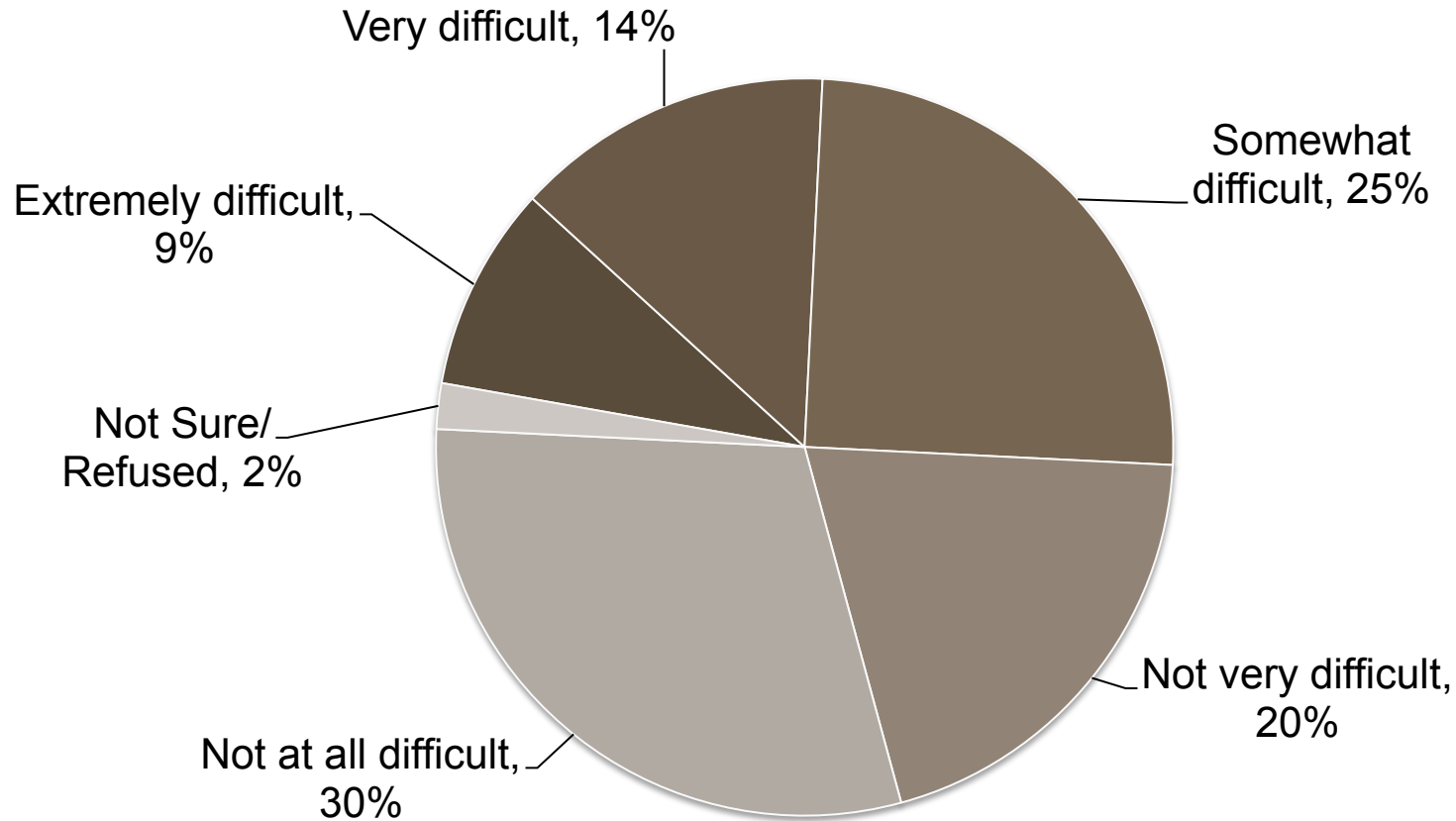
Feel Informed about Long-Term Care Services Provided at Home and in Community Settings (n=302)



Source: HLTC4. How informed would you say you are about long-term care services provided at home and in community settings? Are you extremely informed, very informed, somewhat informed, not very informed or not at all informed?

50+ Financial Concerns

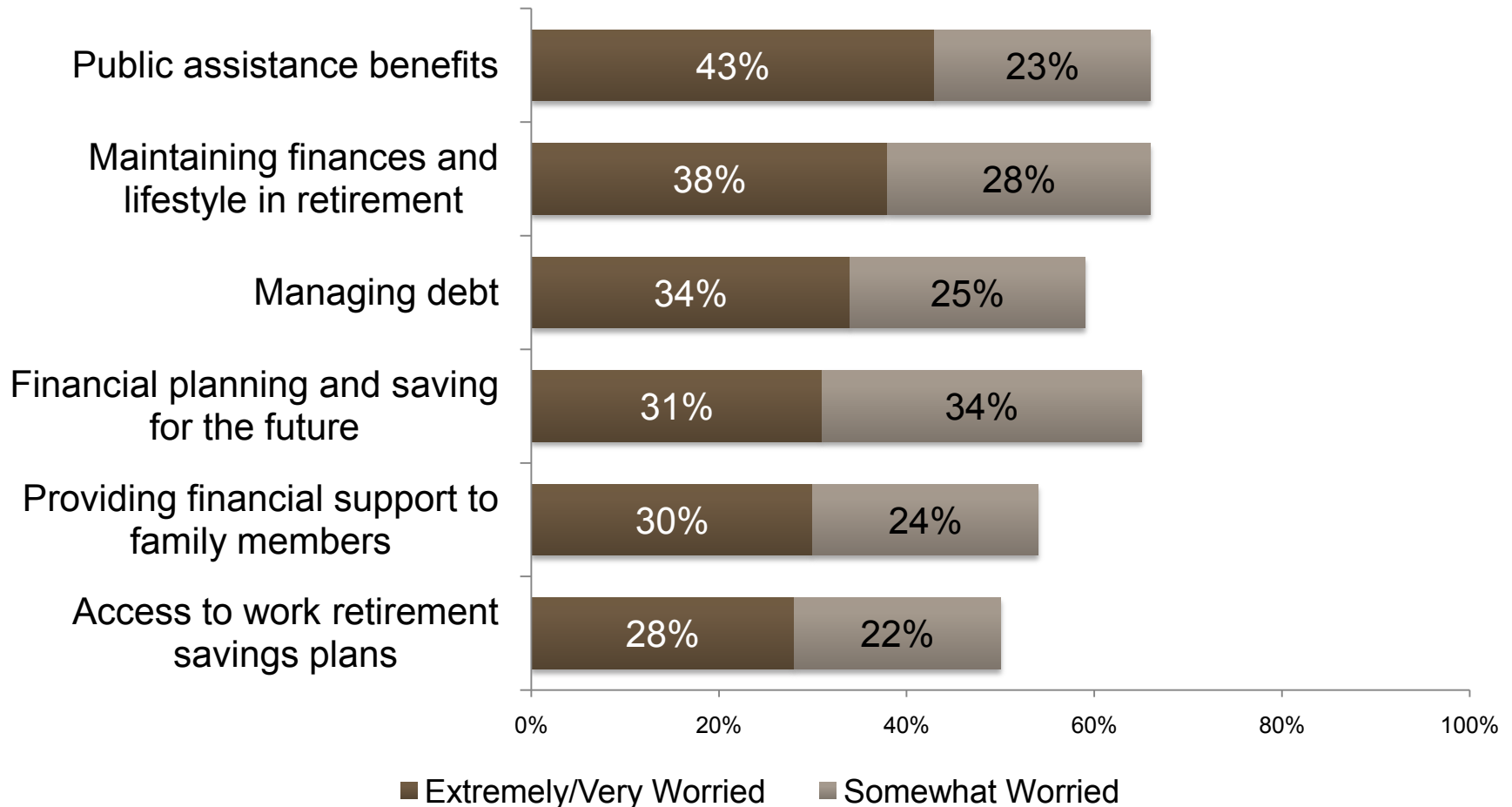
Difficulty Paying Electric Utility Bill (n=302)



Source: EUTIL3. Thinking of your current household finances, how difficult is it for you these days to pay your electric bill? Is it extremely difficult, very difficult, somewhat difficult, not very difficult, or not at all difficult?

50+ Financial Concerns

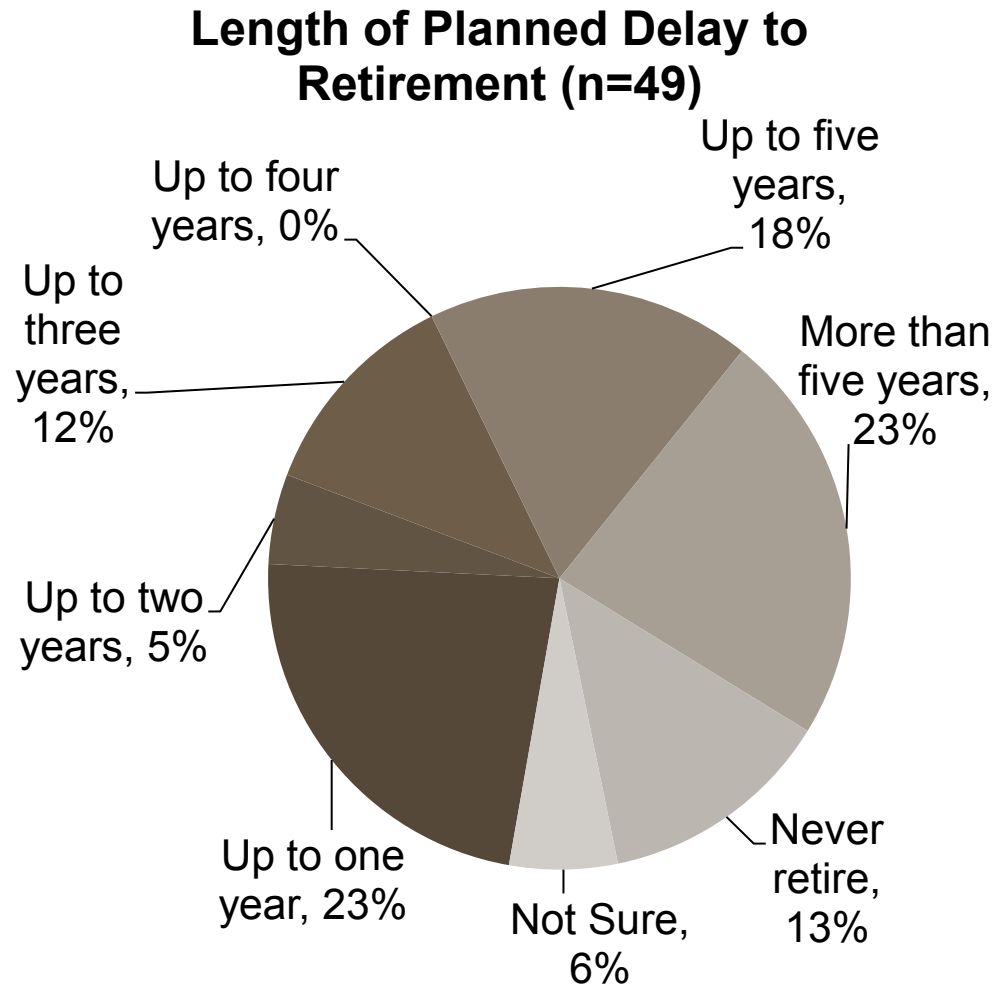
Worry about Financial Issues (n=302)



Source: ECON4. I'm going to read to you a list of financial issues that people sometimes worry about. Please tell me how worried you are about each of the following. How worried are you about [INSERT, READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS A THROUGH F BELOW]? Are you extremely worried, very worried, somewhat worried, not very worried, or not at all worried?

50+ Work Concerns

- **49 percent of working adults 50+ say if the economy does not improve over the next 12 months they will delay complete retirement and work longer.**
- **Six percent are not sure how long they would delay retirement in order to work longer. Thirteen percent say they would never retire.**

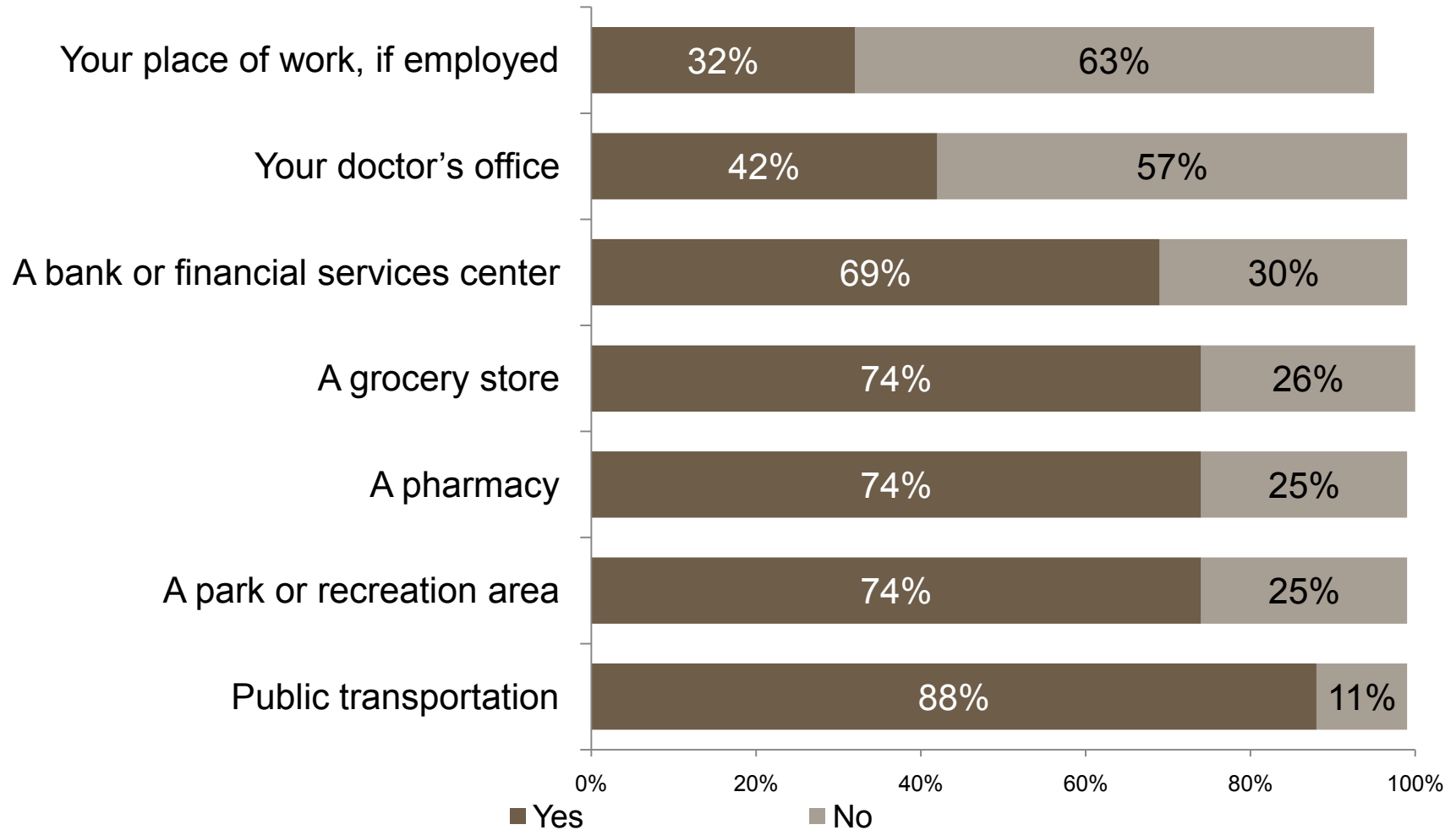


Source: WORK2. If the economy does NOT improve over the next 12 months, will you delay complete retirement and work longer?

Source: WORK3. How much longer do you plan to delay complete retirement and work longer? Do you plan to delay up to one year, up to two years, up to three years, up to four years, up to five years, more than five years or do you plan to never retire? Base: Respondents who are employed and plan to delay retirement.

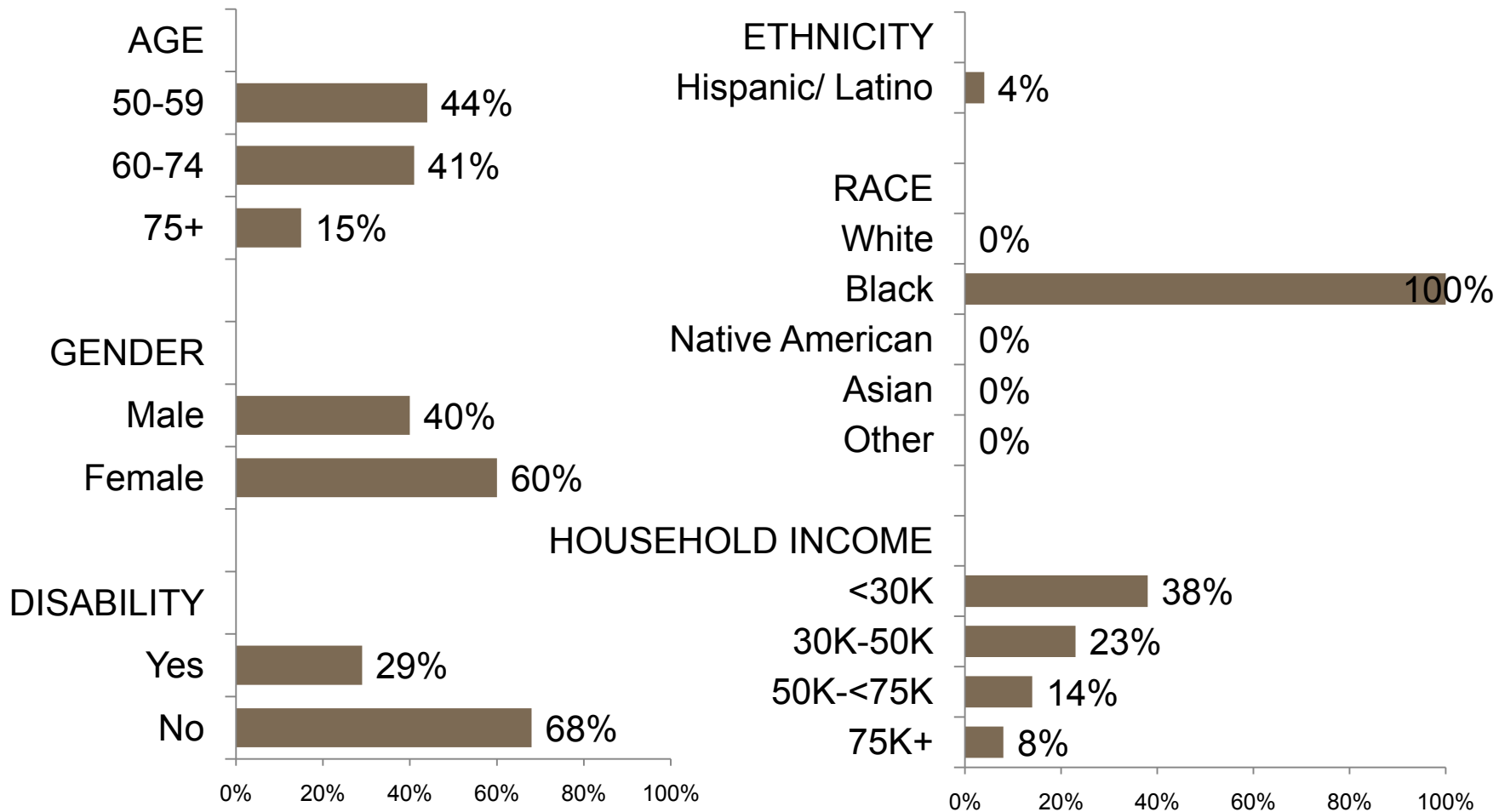
50+ Transportation Concerns

Walkability from Home to Community Locations (n=302)

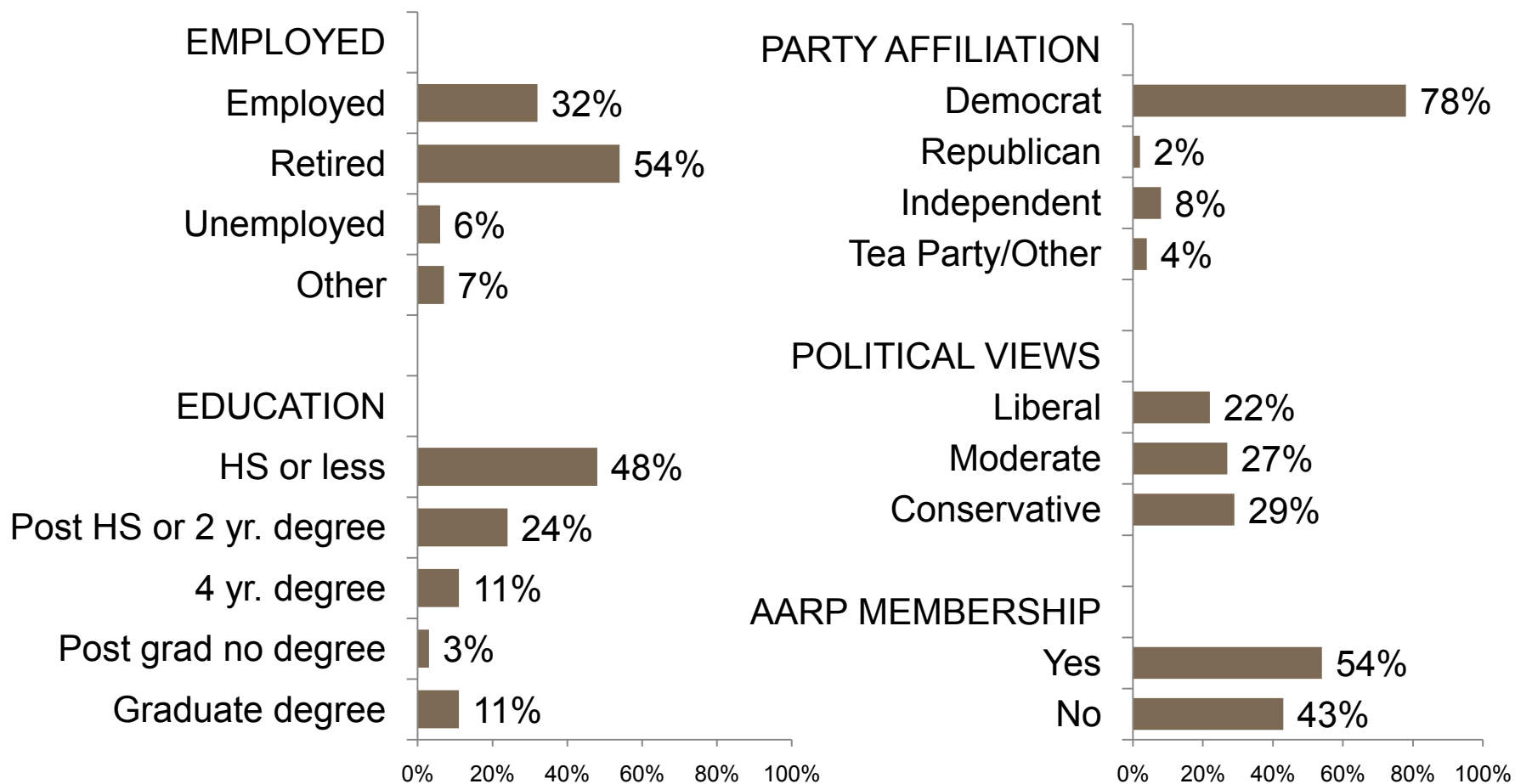


Source: TRANS4. Can you safely walk from your home to [INSERT, READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS A THROUGH G BELOW]?

50+ Survey Sample Demographics (n=302)



50+ Survey Sample Demographics (n=302)



CONTACT

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