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# **Support for State Prescription Drug Program: A Survey of AARP California Members**

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September 2005



# **Support for State Prescription Drug Program: A Survey of AARP California Members**

**Report Prepared by  
Jennifer H. Sauer**

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## About This Survey

This mail survey of AARP members in California explores their concerns, their view of state legislative priorities, and their experiences regarding prescription drugs and long-term care. This report is part of the larger survey and discusses member use of prescription drugs and their level of support for a state prescription drug program.

AARP conducted the AARP California Member Survey from July through August, 2005. A random sample of 2,000 AARP members in California, 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-four percent of the sampled California members returned surveys by the cut-off date, providing 879 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 California.

The weighted overall findings are discussed as well as statistically significant differences among three age segments: 50-59, 60-74 and 75+. Other sub-group differences are available upon request. Throughout the report, statistics representing member responses are reported in percentages. In some instances, percentages are small and may not seem to represent a significant proportion of members, yet when projected to the total California membership the actual number of people may be substantial. As of June 2005, the number of individual AARP members in California was 3,021,212. A full annotated questionnaire is included in Appendix A.

## Highlights

- Over half of all California members are extremely (32%) or very (21%) concerned about being able to afford prescription drugs in the next two years, and another one in five say they are somewhat concerned (21%).
- Six in ten California members say they would strongly support (60%), and another one in five would somewhat support (21%), a prescription drug discount program for low-income persons *even if they may not be eligible to participate in it*.
- Most would strongly (54%) or somewhat (21%) support the state creating a program that asked pharmacies and drug manufacturers to enter into a rebate agreement with California allowing the state to buy large quantities of prescription drugs at lower prices.

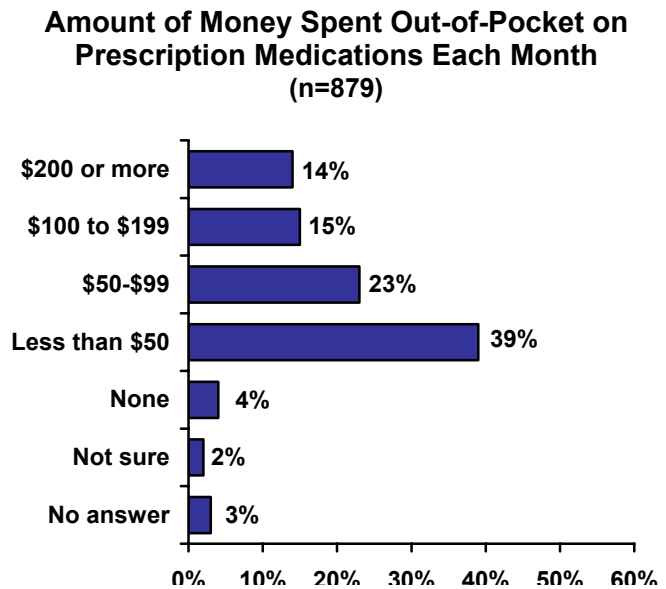
## Findings

### **Although most AARP California members have some form of health coverage, slightly fewer receive help to pay for prescription drugs.**

While nearly nine in ten (87%) California AARP members report being covered by some form of health insurance, sixteen percent fewer (71%) report getting help to pay for their prescription drugs from insurance or other health coverage – in total, one quarter (25%) of all members say they do not get any help from health insurance or coverage to pay for their medications. Additionally, most (89%) members indicate they have taken prescription drugs in the past 12 months, and nearly all of those members (93%) are taking them on a regular basis.

### **Of those California members who have taken prescription drugs in the last 12 months, about one in seven report spending \$200 or more out-of-pocket on their prescription drugs each month.**

Among those who have taken prescription drugs in the past 12 months, the majority indicate they spend \$50 or more each month, but one in seven say they spend at least \$200 or more each month on their prescription medications. Another four in ten report spending less than \$50 per month out of their own pocket, and only 4 percent say they have not spent any of their own money for their prescriptions.



### **For nearly half of those California members taking prescription drugs, paying for them presents a financial problem for them.**

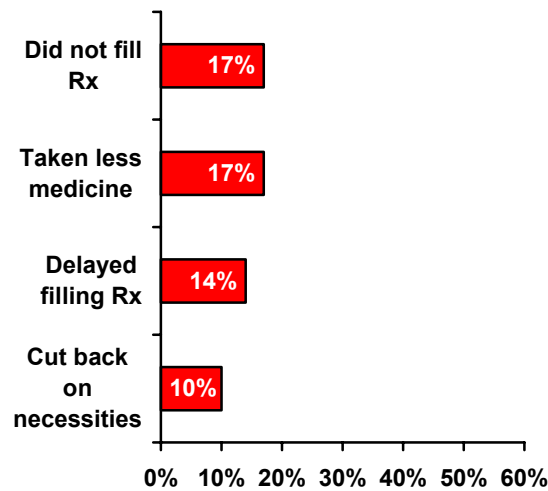
Among those members who say they have taken a prescription medication in the last 12 months, almost half say that paying for their medication presents a major (15%) or minor (32%) financial problem for them. One half (52%) of all members in California indicate that paying for their medication is not a problem for them.

As one would expect, those with incomes less than \$20,000 are more likely than higher income members to say that paying for their medications presents a major financial problem for them (<\$20K: 37%; \$20K-\$39.9K: 14%; \$40K-\$74.9K: 9%; \$75K+: 2%).

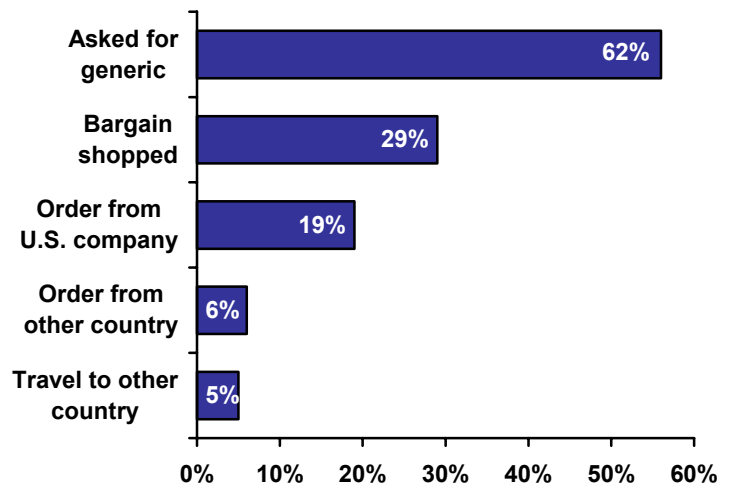
**Over one-quarter of all California members have engaged in at least one of four critical measures to afford their prescription drugs or make them last longer.<sup>1</sup>**

Many AARP California members have taken steps to afford their prescription drugs – some more harmful to their health than others. While more than one in four (28%) members indicate taking one or more of the four critical measures listed in the survey, one in six specifically say they decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost of the drug or took less medicine than prescribed to make it last longer. About one in seven delayed getting a prescription filled because they didn’t have enough money to pay for it.

**Critical Measures Taken by AARP California Members To Afford Their Prescription Drugs (N=780)**



**Other Cost-Saving Measures Taken by AARP California Members To Afford Their Prescription Drugs (N=780)**



Interestingly, younger members are more likely than those ages 75 and older to report engaging in any of the more serious measures: delayed filling a prescription (50-59: **20%**; 60-74: **16%**; 75+: **7%**), took less medication (50-59: **26%**; 60-74: **17%**; 75+: **9%**), or didn’t fill a prescription (50-59: **22%**; 60-74: **21%**; 75+: **10%**).

While the lowest income members in California are significantly more likely than higher income groups to engage in all four of the more critical measures tested in the survey, the data do show that between 10 and 16 percent – at least one in ten members – of the middle income group report having to take one of these actions in order to afford their medications.

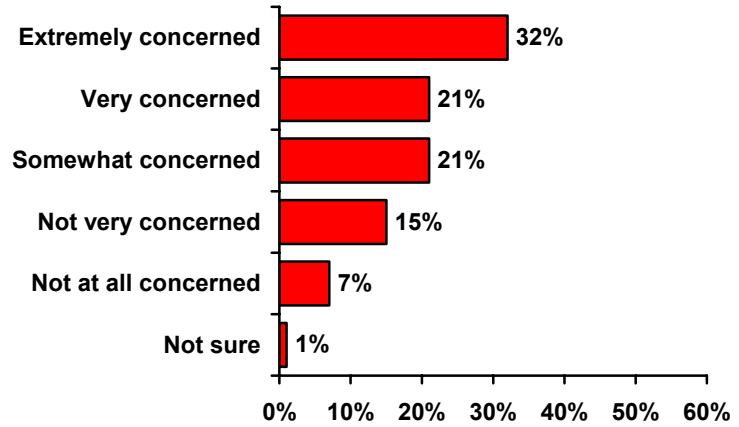
| <b>Engagement in Critical Rx Affordability Measures By Income</b> | <b>TOTAL % (N=780)</b> | <b>&lt;\$20,000 (n=149)</b> | <b>\$20K to \$39.9K (n=222)</b> | <b>\$40K to \$74.9K (n=190)</b> | <b>\$75K + (n=152)</b> |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Decided not to fill prescription                                  | 17%                    | 26%                         | 19%                             | 16%                             | 9%                     |
| Taken less medicine than prescribed                               | 17%                    | 33%                         | 16%                             | 14%                             | 8%                     |
| Delayed getting prescription filled                               | 14%                    | 31%                         | 16%                             | 10%                             | 4%                     |
| Cut back on necessities   | 10%                    | 26%                         | 9%                              | 5%                              | 1%                     |

<sup>1</sup> Determined by calculating a count of four specific measures listed among the total nine tested in the survey (see Question 9 in Annotated Questionnaire).

**Over half of all California members are extremely or very concerned about being able to afford prescription drugs in the next two years.**

Nearly three in four members indicate concern about the cost of prescription drugs over the next couple of years. However, in the personal concerns section of the survey, considerably more members say they are extremely (47%) or very (29%) concerned about affording prescription drugs in general (see Annotated Questionnaire, Question 26).

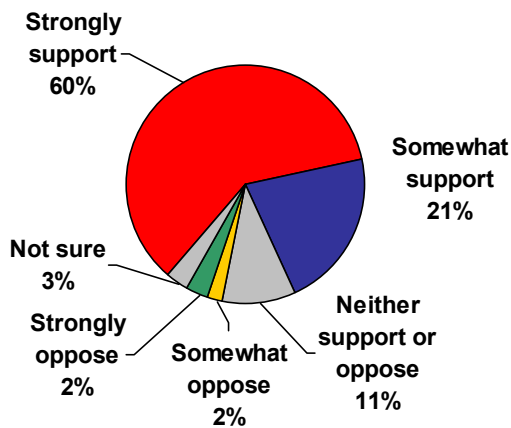
**Level of Concern About Affording Prescription Drugs in Next Two Years (N=879)**



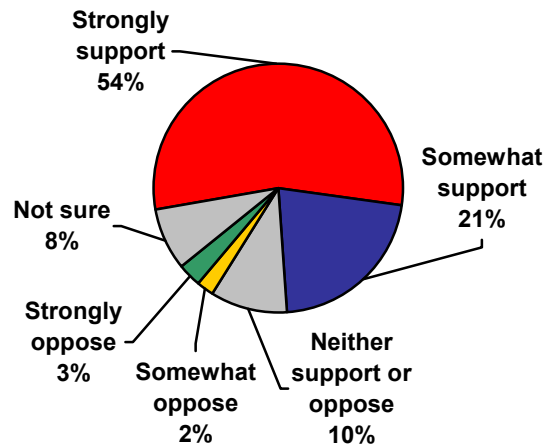
**Eight in ten AARP California members would support a state prescription drug program even if they might not be eligible to receive its benefits, and three-quarters would support a state program that asked pharmacies or drug manufacturers to enter into a rebate agreement with the state.**

Six in ten California members say they would strongly support, and another one in five would somewhat support, a prescription drug discount program for low-income persons even if they may not be eligible to participate in it. In addition, most would strongly or somewhat support California creating a program that asked pharmacies and drug manufacturers to enter into a rebate agreement with the state allowing the state to buy large quantities of prescription drugs at lower prices.

**Level of Support for State Prescription Drug Program Even if not Eligible (N=879)**



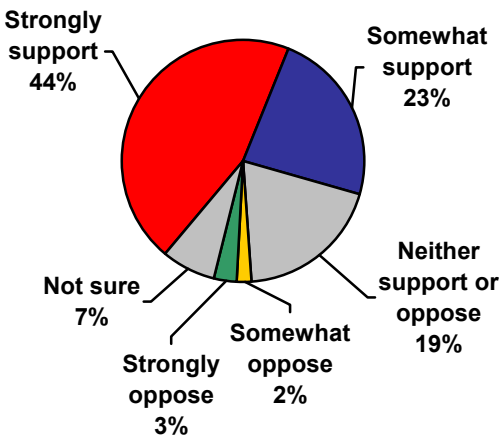
**Level of Support for State Prescription Drug Rebate Program (N=879)**



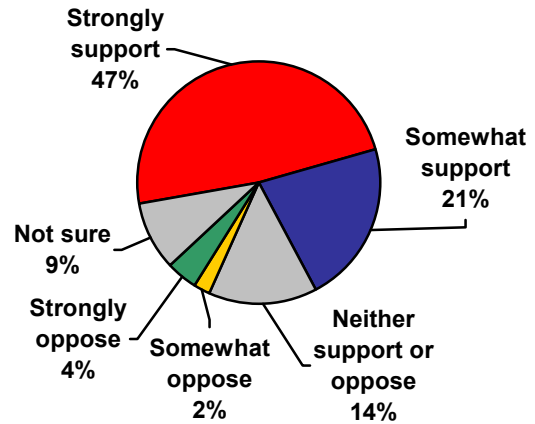
**Most California members support federal and state legislation that would allow citizens and the state to purchase prescription drugs from Canada.**

Two-thirds of all California members say they would strongly or somewhat support the federal government making it easier for people to buy prescription drugs from Canada, while another one in five indicate no opinion and only five percent are opposed to such a proposal. Additionally, if purchasing drugs became legal on a *federal* level, over two-thirds of members say they would also support the state being able to purchase prescription drugs from Canada.

**Level of Support for Federal Legislation (N=879)**



**Level of Support for State Legislation (N=879)**



**Having information available to them that compares the safety, effectiveness, and cost of their prescription drugs is extremely or very important to over eight in ten California members.**

The majority of AARP California members view the availability of comparative drug information as extremely (52%) or very (32%) important, while another one in ten say it is somewhat important to them (11%). Only three percent say such information is not very or not at all important to them.

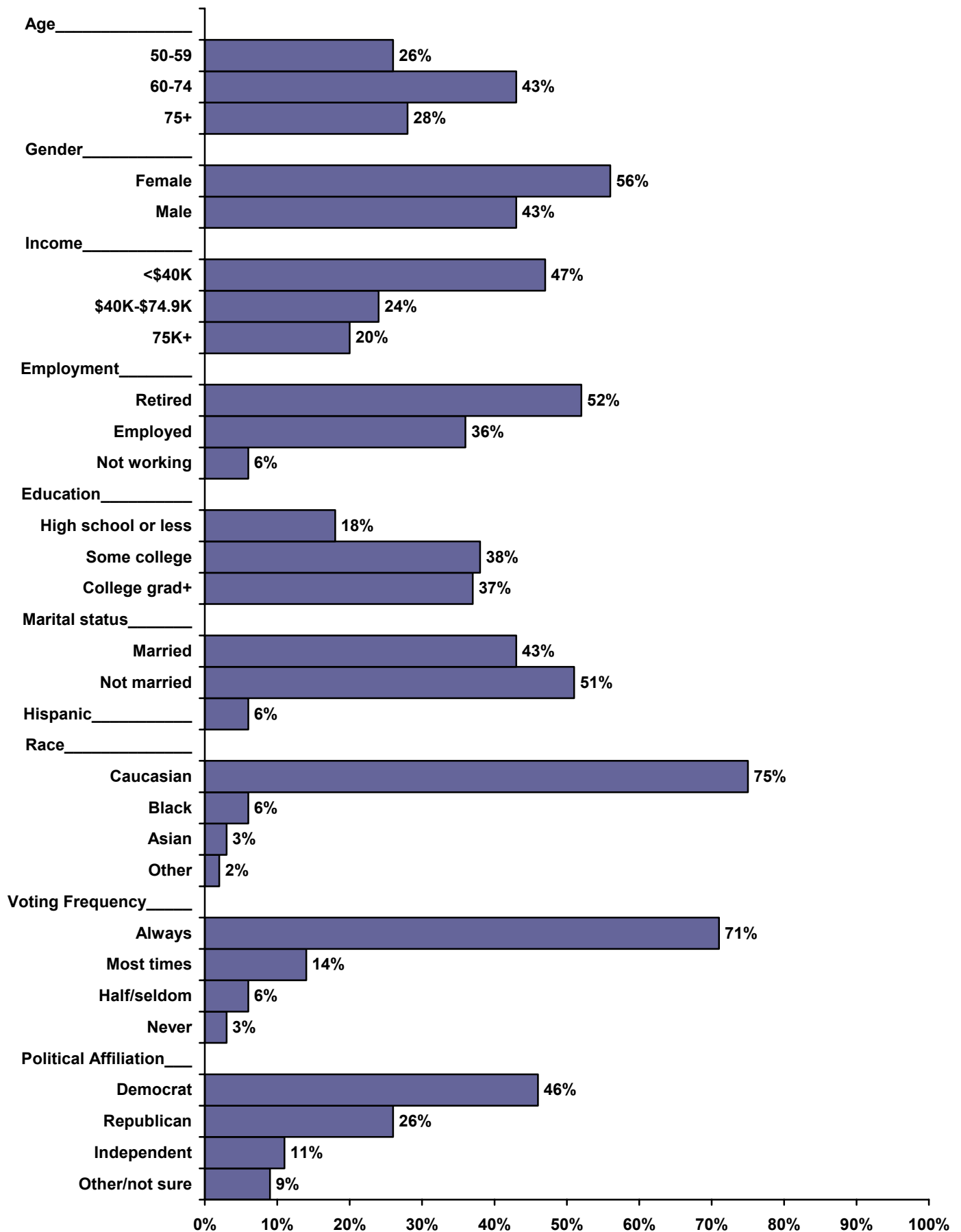


## Conclusions

Overall, the findings indicate that members view the issue of prescription drug affordability as an important one, and they are very much in support of a state prescription drug program for low-income residents even if they may not be able to participate in it. Furthermore, California members show strong support for a state prescription drug program that would ask pharmacies and drug manufacturers to enter into a rebate agreement with the state allowing for the purchase of large quantities of drugs at lower prices.

Strong member support for a state prescription drug program is likely due the high level of concern about being able to afford prescription drugs in general, particularly over the next two years, the amount they are spending out-of-pocket each month on their medications, and the high level of importance members place on comparative prescription drug information that includes cost. Additionally, the financial burden many feel when having to pay for their prescriptions and the potentially harmful measures some have taken to afford their medications or to make them last longer are likely to be motivating many California members to support a state prescription drug program.

## **Respondent Demographics**



**APPENDIX A**  
**ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE**

## 2005 AARP California Member Survey

(AARP Members Weighted n = 879; Response Rate = 44%; Sampling Error =  $\pm$  3.31%)  
 (Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple response.)

### State Legislative Issues

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

|   | Top<br>Priority<br>▼ | High<br>Priority<br>▼ | Medium<br>Priority<br>▼ | Low<br>Priority<br>▼ | Not a<br>Priority<br>▼ | Not<br>Sure<br>▼ | No<br>Response<br>▼ |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| a. Protecting access to promised pensions and retiree health benefits.....  | 60%                  | 26%                   | 7%                      | 2%                   | 3%                     | 1%               | 2%                  |
| b. Maintaining access to home and community based long-term care services .....   | 38%                  | 37%                   | 17%                     | 3%                   | 2%                     | 1%               | 2%                  |
| c. Expanding funding for alternative transportation services for those unable to drive  | 24%                  | 31%                   | 31%                     | 8%                   | 3%                     | 2%               | 2%                  |
| d. Ensuring that Social Security continues to provide a guaranteed base for retirement income.....  | 77%                  | 16%                   | 4%                      | *                    | 2%                     | *                | 1%                  |
| e. Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured .....  | 37%                  | 30%                   | 18%                     | 6%                   | 4%                     | 2%               | 3%                  |
| f. Ensuring that workers age 50 and older have equal access to jobs, promotions, and employee benefits.....                                     | 40%                  | 34%                   | 17%                     | 5%                   | 2%                     | 1%               | 1%                  |
| g. Maintaining Medicaid, the government program that provides health and long-term care for low income people .....                             | 39%                  | 32%                   | 17%                     | 6%                   | 3%                     | 1%               | 1%                  |
| h. Protecting consumers against fraudulent and deceptive business practices that can reduce their retirement savings and financial assets ..... | 56%                  | 26%                   | 12%                     | 3%                   | 2%                     | *                | 1%                  |

**1. (CONTINUED) To be effective, AARP California wants to work on the most important issues facing California 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 California?**

|  | Top<br>Priority<br>▼ | High<br>Priority<br>▼ | Medium<br>Priority<br>▼ | Low<br>Priority<br>▼ | Not a<br>Priority<br>▼ | Not<br>Sure<br>▼ | No<br>Response<br>▼ |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| i. Maintaining funding for housing options that allow individuals to remain in their communities as they age ..... | 31%                  | 35%                   | 22%                     | 4%                   | 3%                     | 1%               | 4%                  |
| j. Maintaining the affordability of utility services ..  | 35%                  | 37%                   | 18%                     | 4%                   | 2%                     | *                | 4%                  |
| k. Strengthening Medicare as a base for retirement health coverage .....   | 53%                  | 29%                   | 11%                     | 2%                   | 1%                     | 1%               | 4%                  |
| l. Maintaining services for older, low-income state residents .....  | 34%                  | 35%                   | 19%                     | 5%                   | 2%                     | 1%               | 4%                  |
| m. Making prescription drugs more affordable .....   | 61%                  | 24%                   | 9%                      | 1%                   | 1%                     | *                | 3%                  |
| n. Enforcing quality regulations for long-term care services .....   | 43%                  | 34%                   | 16%                     | 3%                   | 1%                     | 1%               | 4%                  |

## Prescription Drugs

**2. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance, such as any private or employee health insurance plan or through programs like Medicare or Medicaid?**

|             | <u>%</u> |
|-------------|----------|
| Yes         | 87       |
| No          | 10       |
| Not sure    | 1        |
| No Response | 3        |

**3. Do you get any help in paying for prescription drugs from insurance or other health coverage?**

|             | <u>%</u> |
|-------------|----------|
| Yes         | 71       |
| No          | 25       |
| Not sure    | 2        |
| No Response | 3        |

**4. How concerned are you about being able to afford the cost of needed prescription drugs over the next two years?**

|                      | <u>%</u> |
|----------------------|----------|
| Extremely concerned  | 32       |
| Very concerned       | 21       |
| Somewhat concerned   | 21       |
| Not very concerned   | 15       |
| Not at all concerned | 7        |
| Not sure             | 1        |
| No Response          | 3        |

**5. In the past 12 months, have you taken any prescription medications?**

|          |       | <u>%</u> |
|----------|-------|----------|
| Yes      |       | 89       |
| No       | ————→ | 8        |
| Not sure | ————→ | 3        |

**6. Are you currently taking prescription drugs on a regular basis, that is, daily, weekly, or monthly? (n=780)**

|             | <u>%</u> |
|-------------|----------|
| Yes         | 93       |
| No          | 7        |
| No Response | 1        |

**7. In the past 12 months, has paying for your prescription drugs been a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem for you? (n=780)**

|                 | <u>%</u> |
|-----------------|----------|
| A major problem | 15       |
| A minor problem | 32       |
| Not a problem   | 52       |
| No Response     | 1        |

**8. In the past 12 months, approximately how much have you spent, EACH month, out of your own pocket for your prescription drugs? (n=780)**

|  | <u>%</u> |
|--|----------|
| Less than \$10 per month   | 8        |
| \$10 but less than \$50 per month                                    | 31       |
| \$50 but less than \$100 per month                                   | 23       |
| \$100 but less than \$200 per month                                  | 15       |
| \$200 but less than \$500 per month                                  | 12       |
| \$500 or more per month  | 2        |
| I did NOT spend money out of my own pocket for my prescription drugs | 4        |
| Not sure   | 2        |
| No Response  | 3        |

**9. Many people face difficult decisions when buying prescription drugs. In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following: (n=780)**

|   | Yes<br>▼ | No<br>▼ | No<br>Response<br>▼ |
|---|----------|---------|---------------------|
| a. Delayed getting a prescription filled because you didn't have enough money to pay for it? .....                              | 14%      | 83%     | 3%                  |
| b. Taken less medicine than your doctor prescribed to make it last longer? .....  | 17%      | 80%     | 4%                  |
| c. Cut back on items such as food, fuel, or electricity to be able to afford a prescription drug? .....                         | 10%      | 87%     | 3%                  |
| d. Decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost of the drug? .....  | 17%      | 79%     | 4%                  |
| e. Ordered your prescription drugs by mail or Internet from a company <u>in the U.S.</u> because they cost less? .....          | 19%      | 77%     | 4%                  |
| f. Ordered your prescription drugs by mail or Internet from a company <u>in another country</u> because they cost less? .....   | 6%       | 91%     | 3%                  |
| g. Traveled to Mexico, Canada, or another country to purchase prescription drugs because they cost less?.....                   | 5%       | 92%     | 3%                  |
| h. Shopped around for the best price? .....   | 29%      | 67%     | 4%                  |
| i. Asked your doctor or pharmacist for generic prescription drugs instead of brand name drugs when generics are available?..... | 62%      | 35%     | 3%                  |

**10. Even if you have not taken prescription drugs in the past 12 months, how important is it to you that the state of California work toward making prescription drug costs more affordable to residents like yourself?**

|                      | <u>%</u> |
|----------------------|----------|
| Extremely important  | 56       |
| Very important       | 26       |
| Somewhat important   | 9        |
| Not very important   | 2        |
| Not at all important | 1        |
| Not sure             | 1        |
| No Response          | 5        |

**11. How strongly would you support or oppose a state prescription drug discount program in California for low-income persons even if you may not be eligible to receive its benefits?**

|                            | <u>%</u> |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Strongly support           | 60       |
| Somewhat support           | 21       |
| Neither support nor oppose | 11       |
| Somewhat oppose            | 2        |
| Strongly oppose            | 2        |
| Not sure                   | 3        |
| No Response                | 2        |



- 12. The state of California is considering ways to help make prescription drugs more affordable to residents. One option would be to ask pharmacies or drug manufacturers to enter into a rebate agreement with the state. This agreement would allow the state to buy large quantities of prescription drugs at prices below the average wholesale price, and sell them to the consumer for a discounted price. Enrollment in this program would be voluntary for individuals who earn \$32,000 or less or couples who earn \$43,000 or less each year and there would be no fee to join.**

**How strongly would you support or oppose putting a state prescription drug program like this into effect?**

|                            | <u>%</u> |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Strongly support           | 54       |
| Somewhat support           | 21       |
| Neither support nor oppose | 10       |
| Somewhat oppose            | 2        |
| Strongly oppose            | 3        |
| Not sure                   | 8        |
| No Response                | 3        |

- 13. How important is it to you that consumers like yourself have information available that would allow you to compare the safety, effectiveness, and cost of their prescription drugs?**

|                      | <u>%</u> |
|----------------------|----------|
| Extremely important  | 52       |
| Very important       | 32       |
| Somewhat important   | 11       |
| Not very important   | 2        |
| Not at all important | 1        |
| Not sure             | 1        |
| No Response          | 2        |

- 14. How strongly would you support or oppose the federal government making it easier for people to buy prescription drugs from Canada?**

|                            | <u>%</u> |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Strongly support           | 44       |
| Somewhat support           | 23       |
| Neither support nor oppose | 19       |
| Somewhat oppose            | 2        |
| Strongly oppose            | 3        |
| Not sure                   | 7        |
| No Response                | 3        |

**15. If the federal government were to make it legal for individual citizens to buy prescription drugs from Canada at lower costs, other laws could be passed to either allow or prohibit states from purchasing prescription medications this way. If legal on a federal level, how strongly would you support or oppose the state of California being able to purchase prescription drugs from Canada?**

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
|                            | <u>%</u> |
| Strongly support           | 47       |
| Somewhat support           | 21       |
| Neither support nor oppose | 14       |
| Somewhat oppose            | 2        |
| Strongly oppose            | 4        |
| Not sure                   | 9        |
| No Response                | 3        |

## Caregiving

**16. A caregiver can be anyone who provides unpaid help to a relative or friend who is ill, disabled, or elderly. A caregiver could help that other person by providing financial assistance, running errands, doing household chores, or with personal care and grooming.**

**Are you currently providing this type of care to someone?**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
|  | <u>%</u> |
| Yes                                      | 16       |
| No $\longrightarrow$ SKIP TO QUESTION 22 | 80       |
| No Response                              | 4        |

**17. How many adults do you provide this type of care for? (n=142)**

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
|             | <u>%</u> |
| 1           | 70       |
| 2           | 20       |
| 3 or more   | 7        |
| No Response | 4        |

**18. What is/are their relationship to you? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY) (n=142)**

|          |         |          |               |          |                  |
|----------|---------|----------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| <u>%</u> |         | <u>%</u> |               | <u>%</u> |                  |
| 17       | Spouse  | 5        | Daughter      | 20       | Friend/Neighbor  |
| 2        | Partner | 4        | Mother-in-law | 1        | Grandmother      |
| 11       | Father  | 2        | Father-in-law | 0        | Grandfather      |
| 32       | Mother  | 3        | Brother       | 12       | Other (specify): |
| 4        | Son     | 7        | Sister        |          | _____            |
|          |         |          |               | 3        | No Response      |

**19. Do they live in your household? (n=142)**

|          |             |   |
|----------|-------------|---|
| <u>%</u> |             |   |
| 35       | Yes         |   |
| 61       | No          | <b>19a. IF NO, do those you provide care for live: (n=87)</b> |
| 4        | No Response | 42% within 5 miles of your home                               |
|          |             | 15% between 5 and 10 miles of your home                       |
|          |             | 9% between 11 and 15 miles of your home                       |
|          |             | 10% between 16 and 25 miles of your home                      |
|          |             | 19% more than 25 miles from your home                         |
|          |             | 5% No Response  |

**20. Do they receive paid help from: (n=142)**

|  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>No Response</b> |
|--|------------|-----------|--------------------|
|  | ▼          | ▼         | ▼                  |
| An aide or nurse hired through an agency or service .....  | 15%        | 74%       | 11%                |
| An aide or nurse hired independently or privately – <i>not</i> through an agency or service..... | 14%        | 67%       | 19%                |
| A housekeeper to clean or cook .....   | 21%        | 63%       | 17%                |

**21. As a caregiver, would you like to have more help or information on: (N-142)**

|   | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>No Response</b> |
|---|------------|-----------|--------------------|
|   | ▼          | ▼         | ▼                  |
| Keeping the person(s) I care for safe at home .....               | 58%        | 31%       | 12%                |
| Easy activities I can do with the person(s) I care for.....       | 43%        | 41%       | 16%                |
| Balancing my work and family responsibilities .....               | 40%        | 45%       | 15%                |
| Finding time for myself.....                                      | 47%        | 38%       | 15%                |
| Choosing an assisted living facility or nursing home .....        | 44%        | 41%       | 16%                |
| Choosing a home care agency.....                                  | 45%        | 41%       | 15%                |
| How to talk with doctors and other healthcare professionals ..... | 38%        | 45%       | 16%                |
| Managing my emotional and physical stress .....                   | 54%        | 35%       | 11%                |
| Making end-of-life decisions .....                                | 41%        | 44%       | 16%                |

## Nursing Home Care

**22. How much of a priority do you think it should be for AARP California to work to improve the quality of nursing homes in California?**

|                 | <u>%</u> |
|-----------------|----------|
| Top priority    | 53       |
| High priority   | 33       |
| Medium priority | 9        |
| Low priority    | 1        |
| Not a priority  | 1        |
| Not sure        | 2        |
| No Response     | 2        |

**23. How strongly would you support or oppose legislation in California to strengthen the enforcement of state standards to protect the health, safety, and rights of nursing home residents?**

|                            | <u>%</u> |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Strongly support           | 79       |
| Somewhat support           | 14       |
| Neither support nor oppose | 3        |
| Somewhat oppose            | *        |
| Strongly oppose            | *        |
| Not sure                   | 2        |
| No Response                | 1        |

**24. California is considering legislation to improve the overall quality of nursing home care, patients' rights, access to care, and the accountability of those who do not comply with the proposed standards. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose each of the following features of this bill.**

|   | Strongly Support | Somewhat Support | Neither Support nor Oppose | Somewhat Oppose | Strongly Oppose | Not Sure | No Response |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|
|   | ▼                | ▼                | ▼                          | ▼               | ▼               | ▼        | ▼           |
| a. Establish a state-wide complaint response system.....  | 65%              | 21%              | 6%                         | *               | 1%              | 2%       | 4%          |
| b. Establish a "first come, first serve" standard to prevent discrimination against nursing home applicants on Medi-Cal.....            | 46%              | 26%              | 14%                        | 2%              | 2%              | 6%       | 5%          |
| c. Strengthen patient's rights.....   | 68%              | 21%              | 5%                         | *               | *               | 1%       | 5%          |
| d. Enforce safety and quality standards with citations, fines, or license revocation for nursing homes that violate those standards.... | 79%              | 14%              | 2%                         | 1%              | *               | 1%       | 3%          |

**25. If a candidate for state office in California supported legislation that improves the quality of nursing home care and protecting residents' rights, how likely would you be to vote for that candidate?**

|                             | <u>%</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Much more likely            | 56       |
| Somewhat more likely        | 28       |
| Would not make a difference | 9        |
| Somewhat less likely        | *        |
| Much less likely            | *        |
| Not sure                    | 4        |
| No Response                 | 2        |

## Personal Concerns

**26. Below is a list of concerns that have been expressed by people age 50 and older. Please check the box that most closely matches your level of concern about each item.**

|  | Extremely<br>concerned | Very<br>concerned | Somewhat<br>concerned | Not very<br>concerned | Not at all<br>concerned | No<br>Response |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
|  | ▼                      | ▼                 | ▼                     | ▼                     | ▼                       | ▼              |
| a. Having Social Security as a base for retirement income.....   | 58%                    | 21%               | 12%                   | 3%                    | 3%                      | 3%             |
| b. Affording the cost of prescription drugs.....   | 47%                    | 29%               | 16%                   | 4%                    | 1%                      | 3%             |
| c. Continuing to drive safely.....   | 39%                    | 33%               | 17%                   | 4%                    | 3%                      | 4%             |
| d. Staying physically active.....  | 50%                    | 31%               | 11%                   | 3%                    | 1%                      | 4%             |
| e. Facing age discrimination in employment.....  | 28%                    | 21%               | 22%                   | 13%                   | 12%                     | 5%             |
| f. Affording my housing costs.....   | 45%                    | 21%               | 17%                   | 8%                    | 6%                      | 5%             |
| g. Having high quality long-term care for myself or a family member.....   | 51%                    | 26%               | 14%                   | 4%                    | 3%                      | 3%             |
| h. Making good financial decisions.....  | 46%                    | 30%               | 14%                   | 4%                    | 2%                      | 3%             |
| i. Being able to get to where I need and want to go if I could not drive.....                                      | 45%                    | 31%               | 15%                   | 4%                    | 2%                      | 3%             |
| j. Having Medicare as a base for retirement health insurance.....  | 54%                    | 25%               | 12%                   | 3%                    | 2%                      | 4%             |
| k. Affording the cost of my utility services.....  | 40%                    | 26%               | 18%                   | 9%                    | 4%                      | 4%             |
| l. Having long-term care services that would allow me or my family member to stay at home as long as possible..... | 55%                    | 25%               | 11%                   | 4%                    | 2%                      | 3%             |
| m. Affording health insurance.....   | 61%                    | 21%               | 10%                   | 3%                    | 2%                      | 3%             |
| n. Assuring my pension benefits and retirement savings are safe.....   | 68%                    | 17%               | 8%                    | 2%                    | 2%                      | 3%             |
| o. Affording the cost of health care.....  | 63%                    | 22%               | 7%                    | 3%                    | 1%                      | 4%             |

|    |  |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| p. | Having good employment opportunities .....                   | 23% | 20% | 20% | 14% | 16% | 6% |
| q. | Being able to stay in my own home as I get older.....        | 57% | 23% | 9%  | 5%  | 3%  | 3% |
| r. | Avoiding consumer fraud that could threaten my savings ..... | 56% | 20% | 12% | 6%  | 2%  | 4% |
| s. | Affording the cost of long-term care.....                    | 53% | 24% | 14% | 4%  | 3%  | 3% |
| t. | Having enough money to meet daily living expenses .....      | 53% | 20% | 13% | 8%  | 4%  | 3% |

## About You

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

### D1. Were you registered to vote for the last state elections?

|             | <u>%</u> |
|-------------|----------|
| Yes         | 88       |
| No          | 7        |
| No Response | 6        |

### D2. Thinking about your state elections for California's Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, how often would you say you vote?

|                        | <u>%</u> |
|------------------------|----------|
| Always                 | 71       |
| Most of the time       | 14       |
| About half of the time | 3        |
| Seldom                 | 3        |
| Never                  | 3        |
| No Response            | 6        |

### D3. How would you characterize your political views?

|                   | <u>%</u> |
|-------------------|----------|
| Conservative      | 27       |
| Moderate          | 41       |
| Liberal           | 19       |
| None of the above | 5        |
| No Response       | 8        |

**D4. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?**

|             | <u>%</u> |
|-------------|----------|
| Democrat    | 46       |
| Republican  | 26       |
| Independent | 11       |
| Other       | 4        |
| Not sure    | 5        |
| No Response | 8        |

**D5. How interested are you in California's state government activities that affect residents age 50 and older?**

|                       | <u>%</u> |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Extremely interested  | 49       |
| Very interested       | 33       |
| Somewhat interested   | 9        |
| Not very interested   | 1        |
| Not at all interested | *        |
| Not sure              | 1        |
| No Response           | 6        |

**D6. Do you have access to a personal computer at home, at work, or some other place?**

|             | <u>%</u> |
|-------------|----------|
| Yes         | 68       |
| No          | 25       |
| No Response | 7        |

**D7. Have you applied for the new Medicare Prescription Discount Card?**

4% Yes  
 87% No  
 9% No Response

**D7a. If NO: Are you going to apply for this card? (n=766)**

16% Yes    30% No    40% Not sure    13% No Response

**D8. What is your current marital status?**

|                                  | <u>%</u> |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Now married                      | 43       |
| Not married, living with partner | 4        |
| Widowed                          | 23       |
| Divorced                         | 18       |
| Separated                        | 2        |
| Never married                    | 4        |
| No Response                      | 6        |

**D9. What is the highest level of education that you completed?**

|   | <u>%</u> |
|---|----------|
| Less than high school                                 | 4        |
| High school graduate or equivalent                    | 14       |
| Some college or technical training beyond high school | 38       |
| College graduate (4 years)                            | 18       |
| Post-graduate or professional degree                  | 19       |
| No Response   | 7        |

**D10. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**

|  | <u>%</u> |
|--|----------|
| Employed or self-employed <u>full-time</u> | 24       |
| Employed or self-employed <u>part-time</u> | 12       |
| Retired and not working                    | 52       |
| Other such as homemaker                    | 3        |
| Unemployed and looking for work            | 3        |
| No Response                                | 7        |

**D11. What is your race?**

|                                   | <u>%</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| White or Caucasian                | 75       |
| Black or African American         | 6        |
| Hispanic, Spanish, Latino         | 6        |
| Asian                             | 3        |
| Native American or Alaskan Native | 1        |
| Other: _____                      | 1        |
| No Response                       | 9        |

**D12. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2004?**

|                      | <u>%</u> |
|----------------------|----------|
| Less than \$10,000   | 6        |
| \$10,000 to \$19,999 | 14       |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 15       |
| \$30,000 to \$39,999 | 12       |
| \$40,000 to \$49,999 | 10       |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 14       |
| \$75,000 or more     | 20       |
| No Response          | 9        |



**D13. What is your age as of your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ years**

|             | <u>%</u> |
|-------------|----------|
| 50-59       | 26       |
| 60-74       | 43       |
| 75+         | 28       |
| No Response | 3        |

**D14. Are you male or female?**

|             | <u>%</u> |
|-------------|----------|
| Male        | 43       |
| Female      | 56       |
| No Response | 1        |

**D15. What is your 5-digit zip code? WRITE IN YOUR ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_**

**D16. What county do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_**

**D17. Do you own or rent a home?**

|             | <u>%</u> |
|-------------|----------|
| Own         | 74       |
| Rent        | 18       |
| Neither     | 6        |
| No Response | 3        |

*Thank you for completing this survey.*

**Please use the postage-paid envelope and return it no later than July 29, 2005 to State Member Research, AARP, 601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049.**

**AARP**  
**Knowledge Management**  
**For more information please contact Jennifer H. Sauer (202) 434-6207**