A large, thin, light-brown arc curves from the top right towards the bottom right. A vertical green bar is on the left side. A horizontal line and a vertical line intersect at the bottom right, with a small yellow square at the intersection. A thin grey line extends from the green bar to the intersection point.

# **Survey of AARP Nevada Members: Prescription Drug Affordability**

February 2007



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**Report Prepared by  
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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. We produce *AARP The Magazine*, published bimonthly; *AARP Bulletin*, our monthly newspaper; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, our bimonthly magazine in Spanish and English; *NRTA Live & Learn*, our quarterly newsletter for 50+ educators; and our website, [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org). AARP Foundation is our affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## **Acknowledgements**

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## Methodology

This report is part of a larger survey that explored AARP Nevada members' personal concerns and the issues they view as top legislative priorities for AARP Nevada to work on with the state, as well as volunteerism, AARP opportunities, work or career and retirement plans, health care needs and expenditures, prescription drugs, and utility/energy costs and service.

AARP conducted the AARP Nevada Member Survey from August through September 2006. A random sample of 2,000 AARP members in Nevada, 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. Nevada members returned 804 completed and useable surveys by the cut-off date, providing a 40 percent response rate. Thus, the survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

Survey responses were weighted to reflect the distribution of the age segments in the member population of Nevada. The weighted overall findings are discussed. 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 Nevada membership the actual number of people may be substantial. As of September 2006, the number of individual AARP members in Nevada was 309,482. A full annotated questionnaire is included in the Appendix.

## Survey Highlights

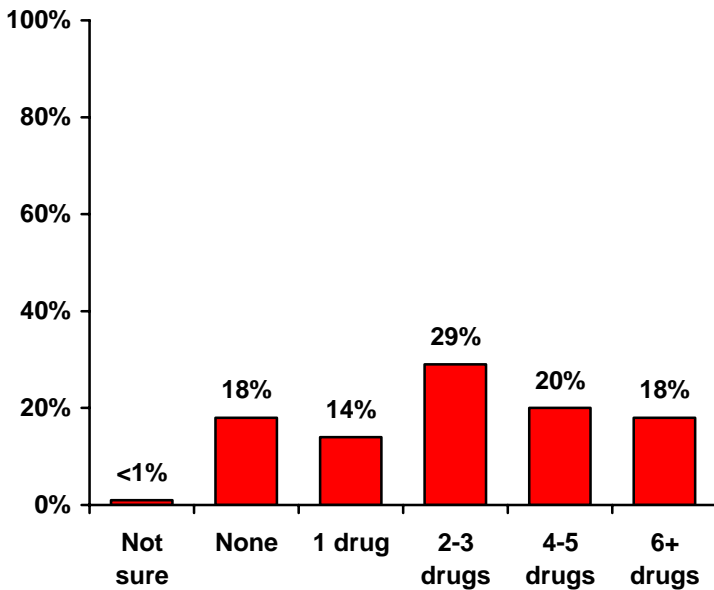
- Two-thirds of AARP Nevada members are extremely (43%) or very (23%) concerned about being able to afford the cost of needed prescription drugs.
- Most (85%) AARP Nevada members have taken prescription medication in the past 12 months prior to the survey, and most (80%) are taking at least one medication on a regular basis.
- Over four in ten (43%) are taking between one and three different medications on a regular basis, over one third (38%) of the members in this state are taking four or more prescription drugs on a regular basis.
- Most members in Nevada (91%) indicate they have some sort of health coverage. For eight in ten members (85%) their health coverage helps pay for prescriptions drugs.
- Almost one-third of all members indicate paying for their prescription drugs presents a major (15%) or minor (26%) problem for them.
- Three in ten (29%) believe they spent \$100 or more per month on their medications, and one in seven (14%) say they paid \$200 or more out of their own pocket each month on their prescriptions.
- Among members who have taken prescription drugs in the past 12 months, one in three (32%) has engaged in one or more potentially dangerous critical practice such as delaying getting a prescription filled or deciding not to fill a prescription in order to afford their medications.
- Most members say they would strongly (54%) or somewhat support (20%) the state offering a prescription drug discount program for low-income, uninsured residents with over half saying they would strongly support such a program.
- Over half (55%) strongly support, and another one in seven (14%) somewhat support, the state requiring that pharmaceutical companies disclose the type and value of gifts they make to physicians and health care professionals.
- Forty-four percent (44%) strongly support, and another one in ten (13%) somewhat support, preventing drug companies from buying prescription information from local pharmacies for marketing purposes.

## Detailed Survey Findings

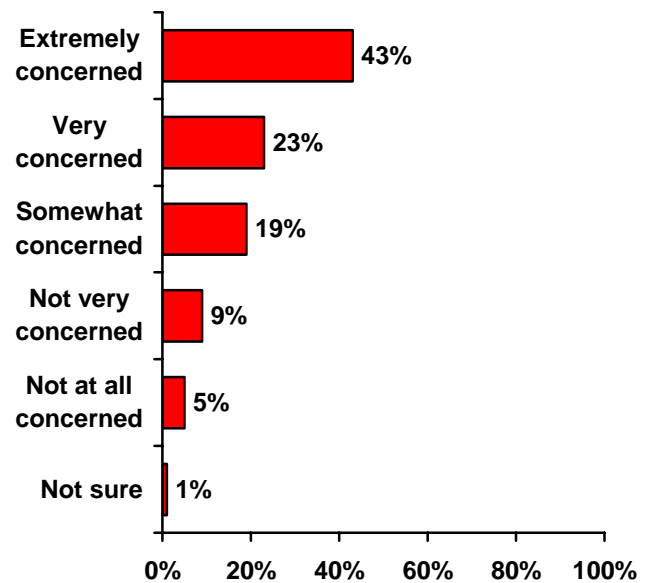
### Medication Intake and Concern about Rx Cost

Most (85%) AARP Nevada members report taking prescription medication in the past 12 months prior to the survey, and most (80%) are taking it on a regular basis. In fact, while over four in ten are taking between one and three prescription medications on a regular basis, almost four in ten members are taking four or more prescription medications on a regular basis. Given the high proportion of members taking prescription medications on basis, their high level of concern about being able to afford the cost of needed prescription drugs is not that surprising – two-thirds of all members are extremely or very concerned.

**Number of Different Rx Medications  
Taken on Regular Basis  
(AARP Members, Weighted N=804)**



**Level of Concern:  
Being Able to Afford Cost of Rx Drugs  
(AARP Members, Weighted N=804)**



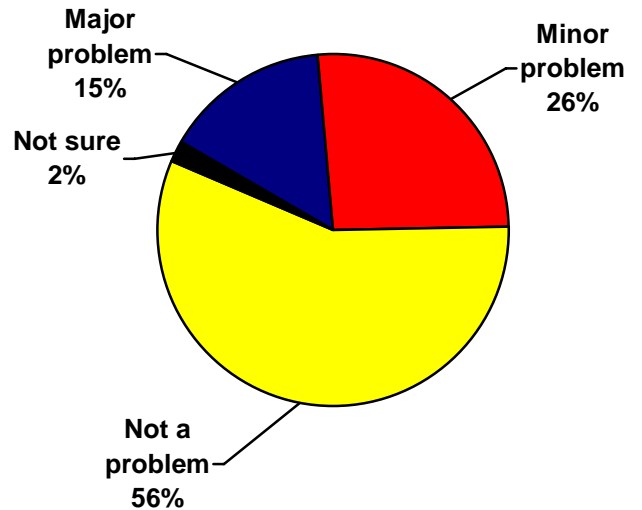
## Health Coverage and Difficulty Paying for Prescription Medication

Considering that nine in ten members (91%) in Nevada indicate they have some sort of health coverage, and that for eight in ten (85%) their health coverage helps pay for prescriptions drugs, it is notable that four in ten members report that paying for their prescription medications has been a major or minor problem for them in the past 12 months.

**Health Coverage**  
(AARP Members, Weighted N=804)

Through current/former employer	43%
Medicare	42%
Through spouse's current/former employer	15%
Through individually purchased plan	11%
Medi-gap	7%
Other government program	6%
Other	10%
None	4%
Not sure	<1%

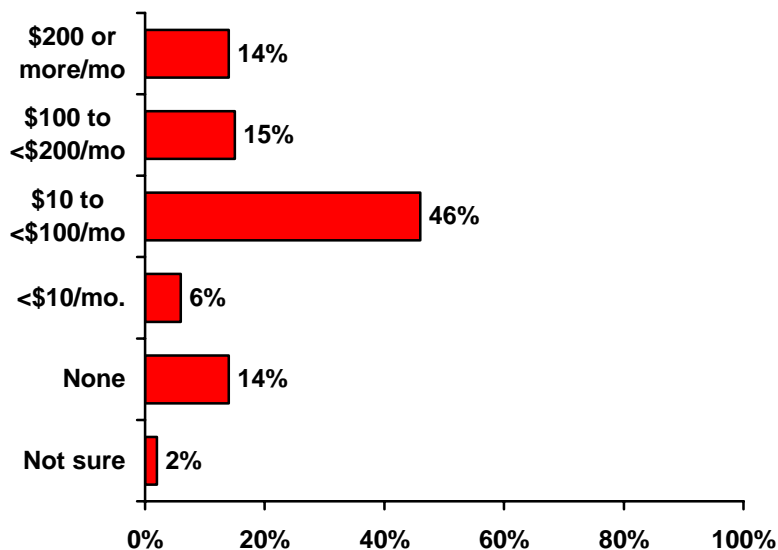
**Degree of Problem Paying for Rx Drugs**  
(AARP Members, Weighted N=804)



## Financial and Personal Expense of Prescription Drugs

In the twelve months prior to receiving this survey, over half of all AARP Nevada members estimate having spent up to \$100 out of their pocket each month on their prescription drugs. Just under a third believe they spent \$100 or more per month on their medications, and one in seven say they paid \$200 or more out of their own pocket each month on their prescriptions. Moreover, many members indicate facing difficult decisions when buying their medications. Among four potentially dangerous measures taken to afford prescription drugs, specifically delaying getting a prescription filled, not filling a prescription, taking less medication than prescribed to make it last, or cutting back on necessities such as food or utilities; one in six say they delayed getting a prescription filled or decided not to fill a prescription in the past twelve months because of the cost of the drug. Slightly more than one in ten say they have taken less medicine than prescribed to make it last longer or cut back on necessities like food or utilities to afford their medications. Additional analysis shows that among members who have taken prescription drugs in the past 12 months, one in three (32%) have engaged in one or more of these potentially dangerous practices to afford their medications, and one in ten (11%) have engaged in three or all four of them.<sup>1</sup>

**Out-of-Pocket Expense**  
(AARP Members, Weighted N=804)



**Measures Taken to Afford Prescription Drugs**  
(AARP Members, Weighted N=804)

Measure Taken	% Yes
Ordered Rx by mail or internet in US	26%
Delayed getting Rx filled	17%
Decided not to fill Rx	17%
Taken less than prescribed to make last	14%
Cut back on necessities – food, utilities	12%
Ordered Rx by mail or internet from another county	5%
Traveled to another country to buy less costly medication	4%

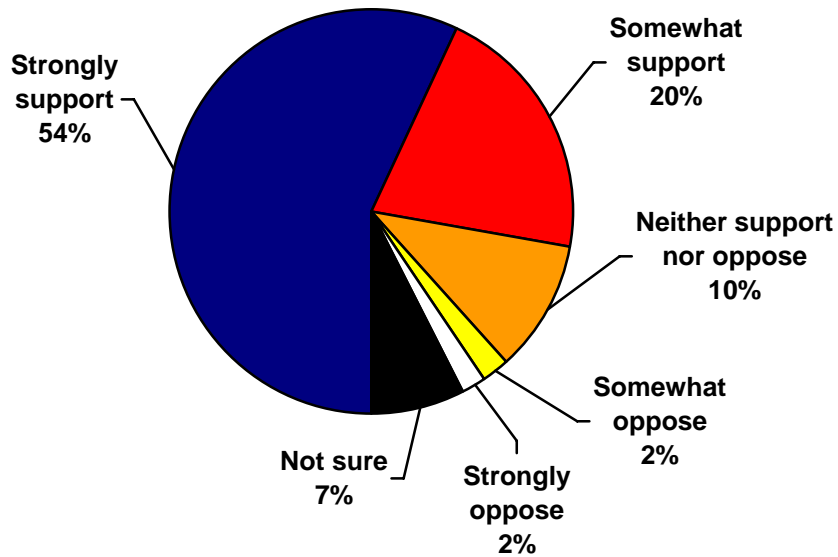
<sup>1</sup> A count was performed to determine the number and proportion of members engaged in more than just one of the four factors viewed as critical.



## Support for State Prescription Drug Program

When asked if they had ever heard of, read about, or seen any information about the Nevada Senior Rx prescription drug program, over one-third (36%) of AARP members in the state say they had. Interestingly, even though six in ten (59%) indicate they are not familiar with the state prescription drug program, most members say they would support the state offering a prescription drug discount program for low-income, uninsured residents with over half saying they would strongly support such a program (see Appendix, Annotated Survey, Questions 25 and 26).

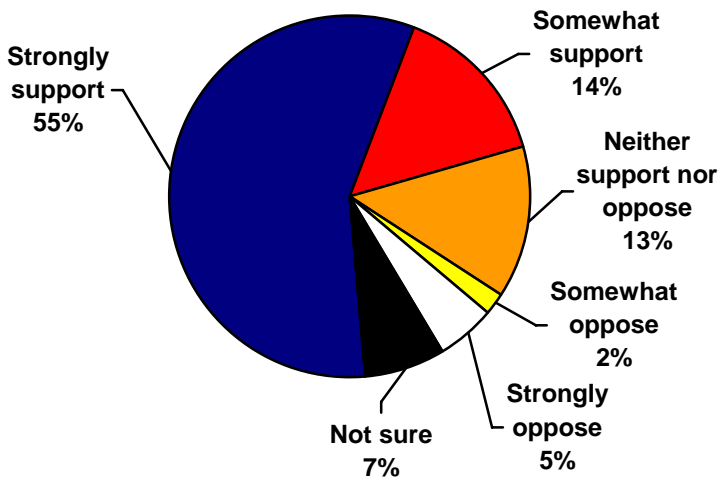
### Support/Opposition to State Rx Drug Program for Low-Income and Uninsured Residents (AARP Members, Weighted N=804)



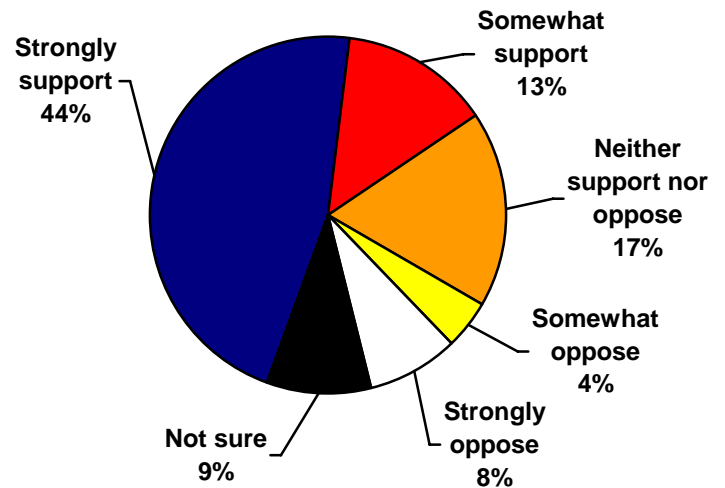
## Support for Drug Company Gift Disclosure and Purchase of Rx Information From Pharmacies

AARP members in Nevada also show support for two other legislative proposals designed to help reduce the cost of prescription drugs for the consumer. One proposal aims to encourage pharmaceutical companies or manufacturers to lower or eliminate extravagant expenditures by requiring them to disclose the type and cost of their gifts to physicians and other health care professionals who prescribe drugs. The other proposal would restrict drug companies from obtaining doctors' prescription information from local pharmacies to use for marketing purposes. Over half of all members show support for each proposal. Over half strongly support the state requiring that pharmaceutical companies disclose the nature and value of gifts to physicians and health care professionals, and forty-four percent strongly support preventing drug companies from buying prescription information from local pharmacies for marketing purposes.

**Support for Requiring Drug Company Disclosure of Nature and Value of Gifts**  
(AARP Members, Weighted N=804)



**Support for Restricting Drug Companies From Buying Prescription Information from Pharmacies**  
(AARP Members, Weighted N=804)



## Summary of Findings

The data from this survey clearly show that the affordability and hence access to prescription medications is a high concern and one that members in Nevada believe should be top priority for the state office to work on. Among a list of ten possible issues AARP Nevada could focus on in the coming months, eighty-six percent of members in the state rank ensuring access to prescription drugs first – eighty-six percent report this as a top or high priority issue for the state office (see Appendix, Annotated Survey, Question 16).

This finding is not surprising given that most members are taking at least one drug on a regular basis, and just under a third are taking two to three prescription drugs on a regular basis and paying at least \$100 per month out-of-pocket for their medication. However, perhaps most interesting is that while most members report having some sort of health coverage and prescription drug coverage, forty-one percent indicate that paying for their medications has been a major or minor problem for them in the 12 months previous to completing this survey. In fact, some members report having to make difficult decisions in order to be able to afford their medications such as delaying getting a prescription filled, taking less than prescribed to make it last longer, not filling the prescription, or cutting back on necessities like food or utilities.

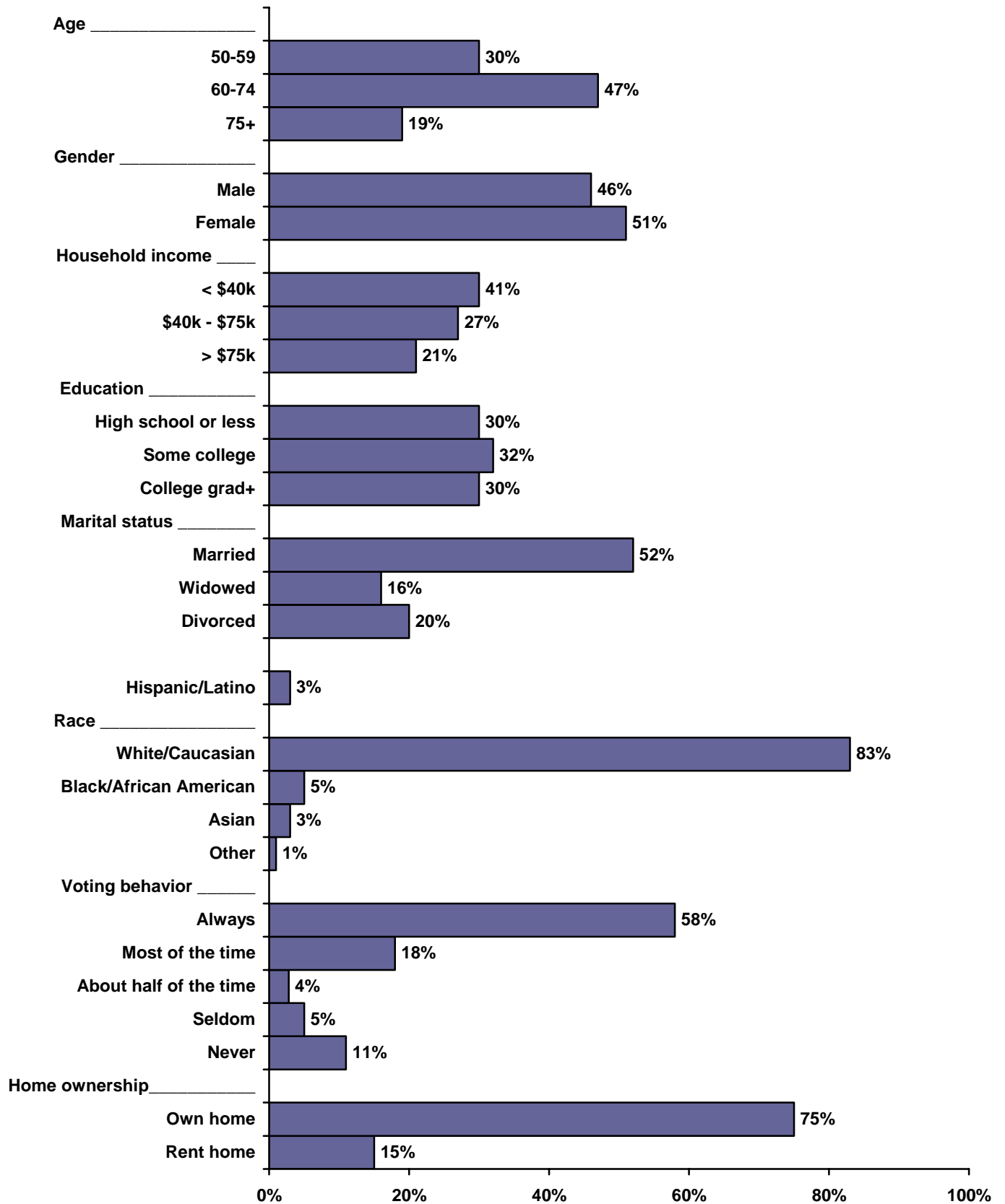
There is great support among Nevada members regardless of age and income level for a state prescription drug discount program, similar to the Nevada Senior Rx and Disability Rx programs, which will help low income, uninsured residents. Members also support two other proposals intended to ultimately make prescription drug costs more affordable – requiring pharmaceutical companies to disclose the nature and value of gifts they give to physicians and health care professionals, and restricting pharmaceutical companies from purchasing patient prescription information from local pharmacies. Roughly half support each of these proposals. Nearly seven in ten support requiring pharmaceutical company disclosure of the nature and value of gifts to physicians and health care professionals, and nearly six in ten support restricting drug companies from buying prescription information from pharmacies. Very few members oppose either of these proposals.

## Recommendations Based on Survey Findings

Should AARP Nevada pursue encouraging the state to consider the implementation of any of the legislative proposals tested in this survey, they will have the support of most members; however, AARP Nevada should consider providing members, and residents in general, with more detailed information about each of the proposals to garner more support. Such education and information could help them make a more definitive decision particularly if asked to vote or show their support for either in the future.

Finally, the data clearly show that lower income members are taking more medications and ultimately paying more, even though many have some sort of health and/or prescription drug coverage. In addition, these lower income members are more likely to utilize possibly detrimental measures to afford their medications. Education, information, or advocacy campaigns will have to address the specific needs of these members.

## Demographic Profile of Nevada AARP Members (N=804)



**APPENDIX**  
**Annotated Survey**

## 2006 AARP NEVADA MEMBER SURVEY

AARP Members Weighted N =804; Response Rate =40%; Sampling Error =+/- 3.5 %)  
(Percentages may add to more than 100% due to rounding)

### Personal Concerns

1. 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 Concerned <u>%</u>	Very Concerned <u>%</u>	Somewhat Concerned <u>%</u>	Not very Concerned <u>%</u>	Not at all Concerned <u>%</u>	Not sure <u>%</u>	No Answer <u>%</u>
a. Affording the cost of prescription drugs .....	41	31	15	6	4	<.5	4
b. Having Social Security as a base for retirement income ....	43	24	15	9	4	1	4
c. Affording the cost of my energy services .....	37	28	20	7	3	<.5	6
d. Having Medicare as a base for retirement health insurance.....	42	29	15	6	3	2	4
e. Having a state budget that maintains essential health and social services .....	35	32	18	6	2	2	5
f. Staying in my own home as long as possible as I get older.....	50	24	11	6	4	1	4
g. Having access to affordable assisted-living facilities or communities .....	34	28	22	8	2	1	4
h. Having enough money to meet daily living expenses ....	50	21	13	7	4	0	4
i. Having good employment opportunities.....	19	16	21	16	20	2	7
j. Assuring my pension benefits and retirement savings are safe.....	54	18	11	5	4	1	6
k. Affording the cost of health care .....	59	22	9	3	3	0	4
l. Affording my housing costs ..	45	22	16	7	6	1	4

**2. Listed below are some opportunities AARP Nevada could provide members to address member interests and concerns. Please indicate whether or not you would take part in the following types of activities if they were offered in your community.**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not sure</b>	<b>No Answer</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
a. Attend workshop series or several meetings, or classes, on topics of interest or concern to me.....	34	28	32	6
b. Attend one-time educational events on topics of interest or concern to me .....	51	24	19	6
c. Participate in activities to improve state laws, policies, regulations, or practices that affect me .....	30	32	32	7
d. Volunteer my time to an AARP activity in my own community.....	18	38	37	6
e. Receive written information on topics of interest or concern to me .....	70	15	9	6
f. Receive email on topics of interest or concern to me .....	30	50	12	7
g. Attend AARP Chapter meetings in my community.....	20	39	35	6

**3. Below are ways in which AARP Nevada could share information with residents age 50 and older about their activities and opportunities. Would you like to learn about AARP Nevada:**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not sure</b>	<b>No Answer</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
a. By mail .....	77	13	3	6
b. From an email .....	25	57	7	12
c. By visiting the AARP website .....	38	41	10	12
d. By calling a toll-free number .....	36	43	10	11
e. In the major newspaper/news stories .....	55	26	9	10
f. In local community newspapers.....	57	25	8	10
g. In local senior or aging related news periodicals.....	47	31	12	10
h. On television – news or other program.....	61	22	9	9
i. At local event or activity .....	27	39	23	11
j. On radio – news or other program .....	40	37	13	11
k. Through AARP volunteer, staff, or Chapter member.....	24	43	23	11
l. Other (specify) _____ .....	2	20	16	63



## Volunteerism

**4. In the last 12 months, have you volunteered any of your time for free to any local or national organizations or groups such as charities, schools, hospitals, religious organizations, associations, or civic groups?**

28%	Yes	→	<b>4a. <u>IF YES</u>, which ONE way best describes how you currently volunteer? (n=229)</b>
69%	No		51% I volunteer occasionally during the year for special projects
3%	No Answer		18% I usually spend about the same amount of time volunteering each month
			28% I volunteer a regular amount of time each month AND extra hours for special projects
			4% No Answer

**5. How interested would you be in volunteering for AARP:**

	Extremely interested <u>%</u>	Very interested <u>%</u>	Somewhat interested <u>%</u>	Not too interested <u>%</u>	Not at all interested <u>%</u>	Not Sure <u>%</u>	No Answer <u>%</u>
occasionally during the year for special projects.....	2	8	21	16	37	11	5
about the same amount of time each month.....	1	2	11	16	44	13	13
a regular amount of time each month PLUS extra hours for special projects.....	1	2	7	16	49	13	13

**6. Which of the following factors would motivate you enough to be involved as a volunteer for AARP? [Check (✓) ALL that apply]**

<u>%</u>	
31	Opportunity to learn about issues that affect people 50 and over
27	Opportunity to develop new friendships
27	Opportunity for fun and socializing
22	Opportunity to affect public policy
26	Opportunity to help older people in the community
18	Opportunity to use my professional and leadership skills
26	Opportunity to make a difference on issues that are important to me
25	A way to stay active/busy
34	None of these factors motivate me
10	No Answer

**7. Which of the following topics might interest you enough to be involved as a volunteer for AARP? [Check (✓) ALL that apply]**

<u>%</u>	
23	Prescription drug affordability and access
24	Energy/utility rate and service
17	Consumer protection
24	Health care reform
20	Long-term care: assisted living, nursing home quality
17	Fun and leisure
23	National issues like Medicare and Social Security
9	Voter education
12	Outreach and community education – health fairs, forums, community meetings, etc.
6	Other: (specify) _____
33	Not sure
18	No Answer

**8. Please check (✓) the top TWO ways in which you would like to learn about AARP volunteer opportunities in your community.**

<u>%</u>	
57	Mail
18	Email
17	From the AARP website
24	Announcement in local newspaper(s)
17	Announcement on local TV station(s)
5	Announcement on local radio station(s)
5	At a meeting where AARP programs and activities are described
2	Other: (specify) _____
14	Not sure
11	No Answer

## Work and Retirement

9. Check (✓) the ONE that best describes your present employment situation:

<u>%</u>	
26	Employed full-time
3	Employed part-time
3	Self-employed full-time
2	Self-employed part-time
2	Unemployed and looking for work
1	Retired and working <u>again</u> full-time
5	Retired and working <u>again</u> part-time
3	Retired and <u>looking</u> for work
43	Retired, NOT working, and NOT looking for work
5	Other
7	No Answer

10. Whether or not you are currently working or retired, how likely is it that you will work at some point beyond retirement?

<u>%</u>	
21	Extremely likely
11	Very likely
15	Somewhat likely
7	Not too likely
36	Not at all likely → <b>SKIP TO QUESTION 15</b>
4	Not sure
5	No Answer

**11. How much of a factor are each of the following in your decision to work beyond retirement? (n=471)**

	<b>Major factor</b>	<b>Minor factor</b>	<b>Not a factor at all</b>	<b>No Answer</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
a. Health insurance coverage.....	49	14	22	15
b. To pay for prescription drugs .....	41	20	22	17
c. Enjoy the job/enjoy working .....	42	22	16	20
d. Need/want the extra income .....	61	22	7	10
e. Need to fulfill requirements for employer pension plan.....	10	9	53	29
f. Vision and/or dental benefits.....	36	17	28	19
g. Build up/maintain savings .....	47	22	15	16
h. Build up/maintain retirement account .....	35	20	25	20
i. Other: (specify).....	5	1	11	83

**12. Thinking about future work plans, how likely would you be to work beyond retirement for an employer that offered any of the following: (n=471)**

	<b>Extremely likely</b>	<b>Very likely</b>	<b>Somewhat likely</b>	<b>Not too likely</b>	<b>Not at all likely</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>No Answer</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
a. Phased retirement positions .....	16	11	12	9	15	18	19
b. Flexible work schedules (Flex Time) ..	38	24	15	4	8	5	7
c. Job sharing .....	15	10	14	12	16	13	21
d. Mentoring opportunities.....	12	9	15	16	17	10	22
e. Incentive pay .....	24	16	14	7	13	9	17
f. Professional training & educational opportunities.....	17	11	12	13	18	9	20
g. Professional advancement opportunities.....	15	8	10	12	22	10	22

**13. Again, thinking about future work plans, what type of job situation would you most prefer: [Check (✓) only ONE] (n=471)**

%

- 7 Contract work – project-by-project
- 31 Part-time with benefits
- 14 Part-time, benefits not necessary
- 12 Full-time with benefits
- 2 Full-time, benefits not necessary
- 2 Job share with other employee with benefits
- 3 Phased retirement position with benefits
- 5 Consultant – when needed basis
- 3 Other: (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Not sure
- 15 No Answer

**14. How important are each of the following to you when thinking about working beyond retirement: (n=471)**

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	Not Sure	No Answer
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
a. A job that allows me to use my skills and experience.....	39	26	16	4	4	3	8
b. A new career in different industry .....	7	5	19	17	23	10	19
c. A new career in same industry ...	5	8	21	18	21	7	20
d. A job with less responsibility than my current position.....	8	13	14	17	23	7	18
e. A job more suited to my family or personal schedule or lifestyle .....	26	24	13	6	13	4	14
f. Starting/running my own business.....	8	7	8	10	40	10	17
g. Staying in my current/old job at reduced hours.....	12	6	14	11	30	10	18

**15. Whether or not you are currently looking for a job, which of the following resources do you think would best help those Nevada residents ages 50 and older who are searching for a job to find one? [Check (✓) ALL that apply]**

<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>	
51	One-stop Career Center (Federal, State, county, city government)	20	Occupational, industry or company newsletters, fliers, bulletins
23	Professional employment agencies	16	Leaders or employees of companies
24	Company human resource offices	30	Temporary job placement agencies
30	Internet job boards	37	Job/employment fairs
42	Family, friends, word of mouth	37	Sunday newspaper classified section
24	Leaders or employees of community organizations, centers, universities, churches	2	Other: (specify) _____
11	Not sure	6	No Answer

### State Legislative Issues

**16. To be more effective, AARP Nevada wants to work on the most important issues facing members in the state. How much of a priority do you think it should be for AARP Nevada to work on the following?**

	<b>Top Priority</b>	<b>High Priority</b>	<b>Medium Priority</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>	<b>Not a Priority</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>No Answer</b>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
a. Ensure access to affordable prescription drugs.....	55	31	6	1	1	1	5
b. Ensure the affordability of energy rates and services.....	48	34	9	1	1	1	5
c. Improve energy assistance programs for low and fixed income residents.....	39	31	17	3	2	2	6
d. Strengthen consumer protections on energy issues .....	34	31	19	3	2	3	8
e. Help residents remain in own home as they age.....	48	28	13	2	2	2	6
f. Expand human services & assistance programs for low income and older Nevadans.....	38	33	14	4	2	2	6
g. Expand Medicaid, the government health program for low income.....	34	25	20	7	4	3	7
h. Strengthen protections against elder abuse, neglect, exploitation.....	47	28	13	3	1	2	7
i. Ensuring workers age 50 and older have access to jobs, promotions, employee benefits.....	43	29	16	3	1	2	7

## Prescription Drugs

**17. How concerned are you about being able to afford the cost of needed prescription drugs?**

<u>%</u>	
43	Extremely concerned
23	Very concerned
19	Somewhat concerned
9	Not very concerned
5	Not at all concerned
1	Not sure
2	No Answer

**18. Have you taken any prescription drugs in the past 12 months?**

<u>%</u>	
85	Yes
13	No
<.5	Not sure
2	No Answer

**19. Approximately how many different prescription medications do you take on a regular basis— a daily, weekly, monthly, or some other recurring basis?**

<u>%</u>	
18	0 – None
14	1 prescription medication
29	2-3 prescription medications
20	4-5 prescription medications
18	6 or more prescription medications
<.5	Not sure
2	No Answer

**20. In the past 12 months, approximately how much have you spent each month out of your own pocket for prescription drugs?**

<u>%</u>	
14	None
6	Less than \$10 per month
24	\$10 but less than \$50 per month
22	\$50 but less than \$100 per month
15	\$100 but less than \$200 per month
12	\$200 but less than \$500 per month
2	\$500 or more per month
2	Not sure
3	No Answer

**21. Has paying for prescription medications been a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem for you in the past 12 months?**

<u>%</u>	
15	A major problem
26	A minor problem
56	Not a problem
2	Not sure
3	No Answer

**22. Many people face difficult decisions when buying prescription medications. Have you done any of the following in the past 12 months?**

	Yes <u>%</u>	No <u>%</u>	Not Sure <u>%</u>	No Answer <u>%</u>
a. Delayed getting a prescription filled? .....	17	75	<.5	8
b. Taken less medicine than prescribed to make it last longer? .....	14	76	1	9
c. Cut back on items such as food, fuel, or electricity to afford prescription drugs? .....	12	79	1	9
d. Decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost of the drug? .....	17	73	1	10
e. Ordered your prescription drugs by mail or Internet from a <u>company in the U.S.</u> because they cost less? .....	26	65	<.5	9
f. Ordered your prescription drugs from a company in <u>another country</u> via the mail or Internet because they cost less? .....	5	86	1	9
g. Traveled to Mexico or another country to purchase prescription drugs because they cost less? .....	4	86	1	9

**23. Which of the following best describes your sources for health coverage?**

<u>%</u>	[Check (√) <u>ALL</u> that apply]
24	Health insurance through your current employer
19	Health insurance through your former employer
8	Health insurance through <u>spouse's current</u> employer
7	Health insurance through <u>spouse's former</u> employer
11	Health insurance through individually purchased plan
42	Medicare, government health insurance program for persons age 65 and older
2	Medicaid, government health insurance program for low income families
6	Some other government program
7	Medi-gap, a supplement plan that covers costs not paid by Medicare
10	Other: (specify) _____
4	None – not covered by any type of health coverage → <b>SKIP TO QUESTION 25</b>
<.5	Not sure → <b>SKIP TO QUESTION 25</b>
5	No Answer



**24. Does this health coverage help pay for prescription drugs? (n=730)**

<u>%</u>	
85	Yes
10	No
2	Not sure
4	No Answer

**25. Have you ever heard of, read about, or seen any information about the Nevada Senior Rx prescription drug program?**

<u>%</u>	
36	Yes
59	No
5	No Answer

**26. How strongly would you support or oppose Nevada offering a state prescription drug discount program for low-income, uninsured residents?**

<u>%</u>	
54	Strongly support
20	Somewhat support
10	Neither support or oppose
2	Somewhat oppose
2	Strongly oppose
7	Not sure
5	No Answer

**27. Sales representatives from pharmaceutical companies sometimes provide doctors and other healthcare professionals with free meals, trips, entertainment, and gifts. Currently in Nevada, the pharmaceutical industry is not required to disclose the type and cost of gifts given to physicians and other health care professionals. How strongly do you support or oppose Nevada requiring that pharmaceutical companies disclose the type and cost of gifts given to physicians?**

<u>%</u>	
55	Strongly support
14	Somewhat support
13	Neither support or oppose
2	Somewhat oppose
5	Strongly oppose
7	Not sure
5	No Answer

**28. Currently in Nevada, the information on the drugs each doctor prescribes is not confidential. Pharmacies sell this information to drug companies that in turn use it to help them market their products to doctors. How strongly do you support or oppose Nevada restricting drug companies from obtaining doctors' prescription information from local pharmacies?**

<u>%</u>	
44	Strongly support
13	Somewhat support
17	Neither support or oppose
4	Somewhat oppose
8	Strongly oppose
9	Not sure
5	No Answer

### **Energy Rates and Service**

**29. Thinking in general about your home energy rates, would you say they are reasonable or not reasonable?**

<u>%</u>	
33	My energy rates are reasonable
52	My energy rates are not reasonable
13	Not sure
3	No Answer

**30. How easy is it for you to understand your energy bills?**

<u>%</u>	
18	Extremely easy
39	Very easy
27	Somewhat easy
7	Not too easy
4	Not easy at all
3	Not sure
2	No Answer

**31. Thinking of your current household finances, how difficult is it for you these days to pay your energy bill?**

<u>%</u>	
5	Extremely difficult
8	Very difficult
27	Somewhat difficult
34	Not too difficult
23	Not at all difficult
2	Not sure
2	No Answer

**32. To the best of your knowledge, does Nevada offer assistance programs to residents to help pay energy bills?**

%  
 45 Yes  
 7 No  
 45 Not sure  
 3 No Answer

**33. In the past 12 months, have you applied to an assistance program to help you pay your energy bills?**

3% Yes  
 94% No →  
 3% No Answer

33a. <u>If NO</u> , which of the following best describes why you have never applied for such assistance: (n=754)	
46%	I'm not eligible
2%	I get financial help from family when needed
1%	I get financial help from other sources when needed
20%	I don't want or need help from government/state
13%	Don't know much/enough about such programs
6%	Didn't know assistance programs were available in Nevada
12%	No Answer

**34. Has a public hearing on utility rates and services ever been held in your community?**

%  
 41 Yes  
 11 No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 36**  
 44 Not sure  
 4 No Answer

**35. Have you ever attended a public hearing in your community on utility rates and services? (n=681)**

%  
 5 Yes  
 87 No  
 5 Didn't know I could  
 3 No Answer

**36. Have you ever contacted the Public Utility Commission about your energy rates or services?**

<u>%</u>	
12	Yes
79	No
5	Didn't know I could
4	No Answer

**37. How strongly do you agree or disagree that consumers like yourself can have an effect on the rates and service policies of utility companies?**

<u>%</u>	
14	Strongly agree
22	Somewhat agree
13	Neither agree or disagree
16	Somewhat disagree
19	Strongly disagree
13	Not sure
3	No Answer

**38. In Nevada, a Consumer Bill of Rights exists that requires energy companies to follow a set of uniform consumer protection policies. However, this bill of rights provides only limited protection against service shut-off. Energy companies in Nevada can shut service off to a home that has not paid their bill when the temperatures get as high as 105 degrees or as cold as 15 degrees across the state.**

**How important is it to you that Nevada revises its shut-off rules to prevent service termination during the winter and summer months for all Nevadans?**

<u>%</u>	
42	Extremely important
27	Very important
15	Somewhat important
5	Not too important
3	Not at all important
5	Not sure
3	No Answer

## Home and Community Based Services

Home and community-based services allow older individuals to remain in their homes as they age. Such services often include home delivered meals, help with chores and personal care, home health care, and adult day care.

**39. How important is it to you that home and community-based services be available in your community?**

<u>%</u>	
44	Extremely important
32	Very important
14	Somewhat important
3	Not too important
1	Not at all important
3	Not sure
4	No Answer

**40. How strongly would you support or oppose Nevada increasing state funds to expand home and community-based services in Nevada?**

<u>%</u>	
48	Strongly support
28	Somewhat support
10	Neither support or oppose
3	Somewhat oppose
3	Strongly oppose
5	Not sure
4	No Answer

## About You

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

**D1. Are you male or female?**

<u>%</u>	
46	Male
51	Female
4	No Answer

**D2. What is your 5-digit zip code? WRITE IN YOUR ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**D3. What county do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_**

<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>	
56	Clark	1	Humboldt
15	Washoe	1	Lander
3	Carson City	<.5	Lincoln
3	Nye	<.5	Pershing
3	Douglas	<.5	Esmeralda
2	Elko	<.5	Storey
2	Lyon	<.5	Cleveland County, OK
1	Churchill	<.5	Berrien County, MI
1	White Pine	13	No Answer
1	Mineral		

**D4. What is your age as of your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ years**

<u>%</u>	
30	50-59
47	60-74
19	75+
5	No Answer

**D5. Do you own or rent a home?**

<u>%</u>	
75	Own
15	Rent
5	Neither
5	No Answer

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

<u>%</u>	
4	Yes, at work
50	Yes, at home
12	Yes, at both home and work
26	No → <b>SKIP TO QUESTION D8</b>
9	No Answer

**D7. Do you have access to the Internet or the ability to use online services such as America Online (AOL)? (n=523)**

<u>%</u>	
92	Yes,
6	No
2	No Answer

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

<u>%</u>	
52	Now married
4	Living with partner
16	Widowed
20	Divorced
1	Separated
4	Never married
4	No Answer

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

<u>%</u>	
9	0-12 <sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)
21	High school graduate (or equivalent)
22	Post-high school education (no degree)
11	2-year college degree
14	4-year college degree
5	Post-graduate study (no degree)
12	Graduate or professional degree (s)
8	No Answer

**D10. What is your race?**

<u>%</u>	
83	White or Caucasian
5	Black or African American
3	Hispanic, Spanish, Latino
3	Asian
<.5	Native American or Alaskan Native
1	Other: _____
5	No Answer

**D11. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2005?**

<u>%</u>	
4	Less than \$10,000
12	\$10,000 to \$19,999
14	\$20,000 to \$29,999
11	\$30,000 to \$39,999
12	\$40,000 to \$49,999
16	\$50,000 to \$74,999
21	\$75,000 or more
11	No Answer

**D12. Thinking about your state elections for Nevada Governor and Legislators in the past 10 years, how often would you say you vote?**

**%**

58	Always
18	Most of the time
4	About half the time
5	Seldom
11	Never
1	Not sure
3	No Answer

**Thank you for completing this survey.  
Please use the postage-paid envelope and return it no later than  
September 8, 2006 to State Member Research, AARP, 601 E Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20049.**



**AARP**  
**Knowledge Management**  
**For more information contact Jennifer H. Sauer at:**  
**202.434.6207 or email [jsauer@aarp.org](mailto:jsauer@aarp.org)**