

A large green square is positioned in the top left corner of the page. A thin grey line extends from the bottom right corner of this square, ending in a small yellow square. This line and square are positioned to the left of the main title.

Beyond 50.05 Survey

A thin grey line extends from the bottom right corner of the green square in the top left, ending in a small yellow square. This line and square are positioned to the left of the main title.

Published April 2005

Beyond 50.05 Survey

Data Collected by The Roper Public Affairs & Media Group
of NOP World

Report Prepared by The Roper Public Affairs & Media Group
of NOP World

AARP
601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049
<http://www.aarp.org/research>
©Copyright AARP, April 2005
Reprinting with Permission

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

Acknowledgements

The Roper Public Affairs and Media group of NOP World prepared this report under the direction of Linda L. Barrett, Ph.D. We would like to thank Geoff Feinberg at Roper for his work on behalf of this project. An AARP team provided advice and counsel for this study. The team was composed of the following people:

Linda L. Barrett, Senior Research Advisor, AARP Knowledge Management

Andrew Kochera, Senior Policy Advisor, AARP Public Policy Institute

Audrey Straight, Senior Policy Advisor, AARP Public Policy Institute

For additional information about this research, contact Linda L. Barrett at (202) 434-6197.

Table of Contents

I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	1
II. OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH DESIGN	4
III. KEY FINDINGS	5
THE SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT INDEX	12
IV. SOCIAL PRIORITIES	20
V. NEIGHBORING.....	30
VI. VOLUNTEERISM.....	39
VII. JOINING	54
VIII. FOCUS ON RELIGION.....	61
IX. CONTRIBUTING.....	67
THE COMMUNITY ATTACHMENT INDEX.....	74
X. COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS	82
XI. AGING IN PLACE	85
XII. WHAT MAKES AN ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITY?.....	98
XIII. SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT COMMUNITY.....	105
XIV. GETTING AROUND	110
XV. LOCALE OF COMMUNITY AND HOME.....	116
APPENDIX A: METHOD	121
APPENDIX B: SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHY	123
APPENDIX C: SURVEY INSTRUMENT	125

I. Background and Objectives of the Research

The 2004 Civic Involvement survey explores the constellation of issues surrounding how Americans age 50 and over are involved in and attached to their communities and social world.

The study updates a survey undertaken by AARP on the same topic in 1996. The introduction to the earlier report provided the following contextual backdrop:

“Observers of the American scene are in the midst of a vital debate over the current state of America’s social fabric — the intricate set of social ties that bind one American to another. This debate echoes through a number of current arguments related to civility, the ostensible decline in American values, a continuing decline in confidence in government and rates of voter participation, the health of our communities, the plight of the inner cities, the future of America’s youth, and what Robert Putnam calls, in a widely read series of articles (1995a, 1995b, 1996), the decline of ‘social capital’ in America.”

Recall that at this time most Americans had yet to learn the name Osama bin Laden, were unlikely to understand the threat posed by al Qaeda, and were probably only vaguely aware of George W. Bush (unless they were residents of Texas or avid watchers of the Sunday morning talk shows). Indeed, the economy was on an historic upswing, the stock market was booming, and President Clinton was a popular president who won by a landslide that November.

The debate about social capital has certainly made its way in the new millennium, in part propelled by Robert Putnam’s 2000 bestseller, *Bowling Alone*. Yet, the social and political landscape America finds itself in today is dramatically changed from 1996. The fiercely debated impeachment of a President, a bitterly contested Presidential election, the events of September 11th, the newfound unity of the nation in its aftermath, and now a difficult and divisive war in Iraq — all came quickly and without reprieve.

How have these events affected the social fabric of the country? Have the events changed our social worlds and the ways we think about and attach to our communities? This survey provides evidence that the underlying social involvement and sense of community attachment among Americans age 50-plus has remained durable and strong over the past eight years, despite or perhaps because of the whirlwind of dramatic events.

As in 1996, the specific objectives of the research were to measure the following:

Civic engagement:

- Membership in formal organizations
- Measures of a person's level of activity in those organizations in which the person is most active.
- Volunteer activities on behalf of organizations such as charities, schools, hospitals, religious organizations, and civic groups.
- What people do when they volunteer.
- Motivations for volunteering and recruitment into volunteer projects.
- Informal help that people give to others in their family or outside their household.
- Political participation at the local or community level, including voting and working with others to solve local problems.

Connectedness:

- Involvement in a wide range of activities, ranging from making a living to sports and hobbies. The questions carefully distinguished activities that people do by themselves or with members of their own household, and those that tie them socially to others. The latter are used to measure "general social involvement" of each respondent.
- How people define the concept of "community." The survey asked respondents for examples of communities of which they

feel a part or to which they feel strongly connected.

- Indicators of community attachment, such as whether a person plans to be living in the same local area five years from now, or expresses a desire to be more involved in the local community.
- Interactions with neighbors.

Cultural and social orientations of respondents:

- Measures of religious commitment and involvement, especially as these relate to volunteer activity and other social involvements.
- Attitudes about dependency on others.

Demographics and social location of respondents:

- The demographic background and household situation of each respondent, including income, education, race, Hispanic origin, employment and retirement status, marital status, presence of children, and age.
- Residential characteristics such as home ownership, length of local residence, and the urban, suburban, or rural character of residential location.

II. Overview of the Research Design

This report details the findings from a large national survey conducted on behalf of AARP by the Roper Public Affairs team of NOP World.

- 1,005 telephone interviews were conducted among a nationally representative sample of Americans ages 50 and over in the continental United States.
- Random digit dial (RDD) sample was used to ensure the survey is representative of the target population.
- All interviews were conducted by NOP World interviewers with the aid of a computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) program. The average interview length was 34 minutes.
- An oversample survey was conducted among African-American and Hispanic Americans age 50+ to yield a total — when combined with those from the general sample — of 252 African American and 246 Hispanic interviews, allowing for analysis by these subgroups.
- The sampling error for the general population is +/- 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For the African-American and Hispanic oversamples, the margin of error is +/- 6 points at the 95% confidence level.
- Weighting targets were applied to the data to ensure that the sample reflects census projections for adults age 50 or older by age within sex and region criteria. Separate weighting targets were applied to the African American and Hispanic oversamples to ensure that the samples reflect census estimates for these populations by age within sex and region. Percentages in tables reflect weighted data.

Please refer to Appendix A for a full description of the method.

III. Key Findings

Though America has seen remarkable changes and faced many challenges over the past eight years, “stability,” for the most part, is perhaps the best way to describe how Americans age 50-plus have approached their commitments to community and relationships to their social environments.

This stability is evident in two measures first used in the 1996 — the Social Involvement and Community Attachment indices. These indices were constructed from key questions in the survey instrument to get a broad sense of how many of the 50-plus can be considered “very,” “somewhat,” or “not very” involved in their social worlds and their communities.

Despite the momentous events since the earlier study, people in about equal measure today can be classified as “very socially involved” (18%, up only two points), “socially involved” (57%, down two points), and “not very involved” (25%, no change). It may in fact be that the events of September 11, 2001, have only served to solidify attachments.

Similarly, few shifts are observed in the Community Attachment index: “very attached” (31%, up only two points), “attached” (55%, down five points), and “not very attached” (14%, up three points).

The details of these indices are described further in the body of the report.

A Few Shifts In Social Priorities Have Emerged Since 1996

Though the indices show overall stability, there are notable declines in the numbers of Americans age 50-plus who report being “very involved” in several common expressions of social engagement — spending time with home and family (73% today, down 5 points from 1996), on religious activities (37%, down 8 points), on making a living and earning money (36%, down 5 points), and on entertaining and visiting friends (26%, down 8 points).

Moreover, though the 50-plus remain likely to vote in local elections — 61% say they “always” do — compared to the 1996 survey, participation has decreased slightly. About one in five (18%) adults age 50 or older says he or she “rarely” or “never” votes in local elections, compared to 12% in 1996.

Most other activities — including individual hobbies, activities with children, volunteer work, sports or athletics, among others — are as popular today as in 1996.

Neighboring Is a Vital Part of Social Engagement

Americans age 50 and over know and spend time with their neighbors. Virtually all know at least three of their neighbors on a first-name basis (87%), and half (48%) know at least 10. Most (85%) have also had a conversation (beyond just saying “hello”) with a neighbor in the past 3 months; of them, 84% have had such a conversation in the past week (about seven in 10 of all Americans age 50-plus).

Moreover, about half of those surveyed say they visit with neighbors at least once a week (48%) and the majority say they do so at least several times a month (58%).

Visits with neighbors tend to be events that occur spontaneously or informally. Americans age 50-plus are most likely to visit with neighbors in their driveways or on the sidewalk (83%), at their homes (65%), or at their neighbors’ homes (58%).

It should be pointed out, however, that a surprisingly high number — 15% — have not had a conversation with their neighbor in the past three months. Moreover, about one in four says he or she visits with neighbors less often than once every couple of months (23%).

The 50-plus Are Committed Volunteers

Volunteerism is also a key sign of community involvement and the 50-plus are committed to doing their share. Most spend some of their time doing volunteer work — about two in three (63%) say they spend at least an hour in an average month doing so, about four hours on average. And a sizable number — one in three (33%) — say they spend at least ten hours volunteering in an average month.

Religious organizations — by a two-to-one margin relative to any other specific kind of organization or group — are the chief beneficiaries of their volunteer efforts (46%).

Nearly one in four Americans age 50-plus volunteers his or her time to each of several other organizations meant to improve society — a social service organization (23%), organizations that work on health issues or fight disease (22%). Clubs or organizations for older people are also relatively popular recipients of volunteer time from the 50-plus (22%).

Volunteer time for such organizations is spent performing a wide variety of duties. Fund raising is the most common (19%), followed by organizing events (16%), making telephone calls (13%), delivering/preparing/serving meals (12%), helping out at events (12%), and providing transportation (12%).

Volunteerism Motivated Personal Duty and Personal Satisfaction

Asked why they volunteer their time, most say they “wanted to help other people” (78% say it is a “very important” reason) and six in 10 (62%) say they want to “make the community a better place to live.” But they are equally likely to cite personal reasons — “I enjoyed the activity” (66%) and “I wanted to be with people I enjoy” (62%).

Few say they volunteer out of feelings of guilt — “I did not want to say ‘no’ to the person who asked” (18%) or “I felt obligated” (15%). Even fewer say (or admit) they volunteer to “further [their] career” (6%).

Going Beyond Volunteerism — Membership

The 50-plus are joiners: Three in four have joined an organization that caters to their interests or causes.

The most popular organizations, by a large margin, are religious in nature — the majority of Americans age 50-plus are a member of a church, synagogue, or mosque (57%). Such organizations are also the ones the 50-plus say they are most involved with (35%). Other relatively popular organizations include professional societies (21% are members), social service organizations (15%), organizations devoted to health issues (14%), health/sports organizations (14%), and clubs for older people (14%).

These organizations tend to be significant social outlets for the 50-plus. Indeed, three in four (73%) say they meet or talk with people from the group they are most involved with at least once a week, and about half (49%) say they meet at least a few times per week.

Strong Connections to Religious Organizations

Religion remains a critical way for people to connect to their communities. Not only are the 50-plus most likely to volunteer time to and join religious organizations, but half (50%) also attend religious services at least once a week. Only one in six (16%) do so less often than once a month, and a mere 16% *never* attend religious services.

The 50-plus Are Generous Donors

Americans have always been generous when it comes to private giving, especially when it comes to their place of worship — fully three in four of the 50-plus (74%) say they have contributed money to their church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship in the past 12 months. And they are committing no small amount to their place of worship — Indeed, the median amount per person, over a 12-month period, is \$588.

The 50-plus are generous to non-religious organizations as well — seven in 10 (69%) have contributed money in the past 12 months to other kinds of charitable organizations. Those willing to share how much they contribute tell us they have donated an average (median) of \$212 in the past year.

“Community” Defined as a Physical Place More so Than a Social Entity

Asked to define their “community,” the vast majority of Americans age 50-plus mentions some aspect of the place where they live. Formal organizations, such as a church or religious organization, and informal organizations, such as a group of friends or a sports community, are used far less often to define “community,” despite the role these entities may play in their lives.

Home Ownership and Type of Dwelling

Most Americans age 50-plus own their home (87%). Whether they own it or not, they are far and away most likely to live in a single family home (81%). One in 10 (10%) lives in an apartment or condominium.

They are also fairly spread out — one in four (26%) live in a small town; others live in suburbia (23%), “out in the country” (19%) or a rural village (12%).

Family, Affordable Housing, Employment, and Safety are Chief Reasons People Choose Their Communities

What leads people to select a community in the first place? No single reason emerges among the 50-plus, but at least one in 10 say it is because other family lives near here (16%), it offers a better quality of life (14%), it offers affordable housing and low taxes (13%), they relocated for employment (11%), and the safety of the community (10%).

Most Americans age 50-plus say they have either no preference regarding the age mix in their community (48%) or prefer it contain “all different age groups” (37%). This is generally true across age ranges — only 12% of those age 65 and older, for example, would prefer to live in a community where most people are their own age.

Most Are Satisfied with Homes and Community — and Desire to Age in Place

Americans age 50-plus feel sufficiently attached to their communities to want to stay put for at least five years (83%). Indeed, over half — 61% — have lived in their current communities for at least 20 years.

Moreover, most Americans age 50-plus agree they want to stay in their own home for “as long as possible” (84%).

Community Report Card

Asked to “grade” their communities — as in school, assigning grades from “A” (excellent) to “F” (failure) — Americans 50-plus give their communities high marks when it comes to “having safe neighborhoods” (B+, on average) but not for offering affordable housing (C+) or “having good job opportunities” (C).

Communities earn their highest marks for the following: having places to worship (A-); having safe neighborhoods (B+); providing well-run parks, community centers, and recreation centers (B); having or offering opportunities for volunteering (B); having well-designed streets (B); and having accessible public buildings and facilities (B).

Lowest average grades are given to: having entertainment, such as theaters and concerts (C); having walking or bike trails within a half mile of my home (C); offering dependable public transportation (C); and having good job opportunities (C).

Most Feel Their Home Is Equipped to Age in Place, but Some Amenities Are Needed

Most Americans age 50-plus (88%) say their home is able to meet their physical needs as they grow older; half (51%) say their home will meet their physical needs “very well” as they grow older.

Nevertheless, fewer than half say their homes have the following: doorways that are wider than standard for accessibility (37%); an entrance without steps (34%); bathroom aids, such as grab bars or a stool for bathing (33%); or door handles that are levers instead of knobs (24%).

However, most homes do have a number of features that help accommodate aging in place: a driveway or parking space immediately outside the home (94%), a full bath on the main level (85%), a bedroom on the main level (81%, most commonly among those age 65-plus, 86%), an attached garage or covered parking (63%), non-slip floor surfaces (60%), and a half bath on the main level (56%).

Driving

Most Americans 50-plus have driven a car in the past month. Even the majority of those age 75 and older — 87% — say they have driven a car in the last 30 days.

Asked how they would get around if they didn’t have access to a car, few say they would turn to public transportation (only 12%), clearly preferring instead to getting a ride with family or friends (64% — especially women, 69% and the aged 75-plus, 75%).

This general disinclination to use public transportation may be due to the simple fact that most of the 50-plus say no such option exists within a 10-minute walk from their homes (60%).

Part 1: Social Involvement

The Social Involvement Index

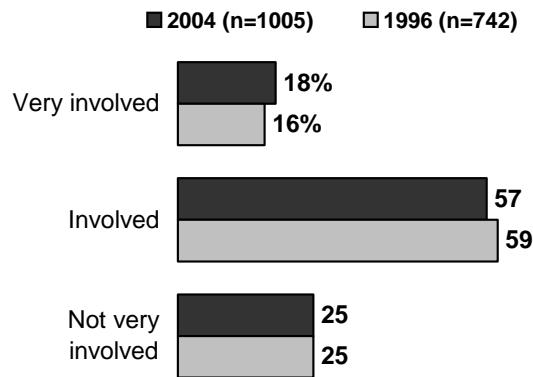
Social Involvement Over Time: Level Unchanged Among 50-plus

Involvement in our social worlds encompasses myriad activities and means of expression, ranging from spending time with friends and family to attending religious services to participating in organized political activities.

In the 1996 AARP Study of Civic Involvement, an index measure — the Social Involvement Index — was created to summarize the extent to which Americans age 50-plus engage with their communities. This index incorporates the range of social involvement in all its diversity.

Using the same measure today, we see that social involvement has changed little in the past eight years: Today, about one in five (18%) of the 50-plus is “very involved,” just over half (57%) are “involved,” while one in four (25%) is “not very involved.”

Social Involvement Index



As we will refer back to the index where appropriate throughout the report, an explanation of how the index was constructed is warranted. The index was created by scoring nine items from one question in the survey instrument:

- Activities with children or teens who don't live with you
- Entertaining and visiting friends, or going out with friends just for fun
- Religious or spiritual activities, including time spent with religious organizations
- Political activities related to the political parties, candidates, or election campaigns
- Working on local issues and neighborhood problems
- Working on public issues or problems at the state or national level
- Volunteer work and charity work for which you are not paid
- Sports, athletics, and fitness activities that you do with other people
- Hobbies or leisure-time pursuits that you do with other people

As well as from a follow-up question:

- Finally, is there anything else you're involved in these days that you do with other people?

For each “very involved” response to the first nine items, respondents were attributed two points; respondents were attributed one point for each “somewhat involved” response. In a follow-up question, anyone who replied that they are involved in some other activity was given one point.

The index has a theoretical range of 0 to 19.

- 10 or higher = “very socially involved”
- 4 to 9 = “somewhat involved”
- 0 to 3 = “not very involved”

The mean score on the Social Involvement Index in 2004 is 6.3.

The Demography of Social Involvement

Personal health status, the presence of a partner or spouse, education (and perhaps curiosity), and income all correlate highly with level of social involvement. Social involvement also relates to age – Americans age 75 or older are less likely than Americans ages 50 to 64 to be “very involved.”

The most socially involved Americans age 50-plus—those who are “very involved”—tend to be in good health and are unlikely to be disabled. They are more likely than less involved Americans age 50-plus to have a college degree and to be living with a spouse or partner. At \$46,000 annually, the “very involved” has a higher median income than those less socially involved.

Social Involvement Index Profile

	Total (1,005) %	Social Involvement Index Rating		
		<u>Very Involved</u> (193) %	<u>Involved</u> (588) %	<u>Not very involved</u> (224) %
Male	45	46	43	48
Female	55	54	57	52
50 - 64 years old	56	59	57	57
65-plus years old	44	41	43	43
75-plus years old	20	10	20	22
Median age	62	62	62	63
Median household income	\$38K	\$46K	\$39K	\$27.5K
Employed	41	47	40	39
Unemployed	13	7	13	19
Retired	45	46	46	42
Disabled	42	30	41	51
<u>Health and well-being</u>				
Excellent	28	40	29	18
Good	48	52	47	47
Fair	18	7	19	23
Poor	6	1	4	11
High school grad or less	59	45	59	71
Some college	14	16	14	12
College grad or more	24	37	25	15
Living with spouse/partner	71	78	74	59
Not living with spouse/partner	28	19	26	40
Married	81	86	82	77
Separated	7	6	6	10
Divorced	21	19	19	28
Widowed	16	10	15	20
1 Adult in HH	24	17	23	31
2+ Adults in HH	76	83	77	69
Kids in HH	11	10	10	14
Hispanic	5	6	5	4
Caucasian	87	82	89	85
African American	5	9	4	3

Perhaps surprisingly, the 50-plus who are “very involved” are as likely to be retired as still working — retirement from work apparently does not mean retirement from social activities.

Hispanics are less likely to be socially “very involved” (12%) than either African Americans (21%) or whites (17%).

Social Involvement Index Profile by Key Demographics

	Sex		Age		
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>75+</u>
Unweighted base	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%
Very involved	18	18	19	17	10
Involved	55	58	56	57	61
Not very involved	27	24	25	26	29

	Employment Status		
	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>	<u>Retired</u>
Unweighted base	(423)	(115)	(465)
	%	%	%
Very involved	21	9	18
Involved	55	56	58
Not very involved	24	35	24

	Ethnicity			
	<u>White</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
Unweighted base	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%
Very involved	17	21	12	19
Involved	58	57	44	45
Not very involved	25	22	45	36

**Caution: small base.

Self-Reported Feelings of Involvement and Support

Asked directly, Americans age 50-plus are likely agree with that they are “involved with the world and people around [them]” (85%). This feeling is true irrespective of sex and age, though Hispanics are somewhat less likely to agree with this notion than are whites (76% versus 86%, respectively).

Moreover, most feel they have the personal support they need — 86% strongly agree that they “have friends and family who are there for me.” Eight in ten (79%) say “there are people I can count on to help me if I really need it” sounds “a lot like me.” Women are particularly likely to agree with these statements, though African-Americans and, especially, Hispanics, are less likely than are whites.

It should be noted, however, that one in five — 21% — say they “frequently feel isolated from other people.” This sentiment is most likely to be expressed by Hispanics (35%).

Feelings of Social Engagement
- % Say "Strongly" or "Somewhat Agree" -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>75+</u>
Unweighted base	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
I am involved with the world and people around me	85	82	87	85	85	85
I frequently feel isolated from other people	21	23	19	24	17	18

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u>	<u>Af-Am</u>	<u>Hisp.</u>	<u>Other</u>
Unweighted base	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)*
	%	%	%	%	%
I am involved with the world and people around me	85	86	82	76	74
I frequently feel isolated from other people	21	19	24	35	25

Q40. "Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements..."

Feeling of Social Support

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		50-64 (558) %	Age	
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %		65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %

% "strongly agree":

I have friends and family who are there for me ²	86	81	89	84	88	87
---	----	----	----	----	----	----

% say "sounds a lot like me":

There are people I can count on to help me if I really need it ¹	79	74	84	78	81	82
---	----	----	----	----	----	----

	Total (1,005) %	Ethnicity			
		White (861) %	Af-Am (252) %	Hisp. (246) %	Other (50)* %

% "strongly agree":

I have friends and family who are there for me ²	86	88	76	67	84
---	----	----	----	----	----

% say "sounds a lot like me":

There are people I can count on to help me if I really need it ¹	79	81	65	41	64
---	----	----	----	----	----

¹Q16. "I'm going to read a list of statements. For each one, would you please tell me whether this sounds a lot, a little, or not at all like something you would say."

²Q40. "Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements..."

IV. Social Priorities

Less Involvement in Home, Family, Religion Among Other Activities

Americans age 50-plus engage in a wide variety of activities both inside and outside the home.

Although the Social Involvement Index shows little change in overall levels of involvement, the actual types of activities the 50-plus spend their time on have changed somewhat over the past eight years. Some of these shifts suggest changing priorities among the 50-plus.

For example, since 1996 there have significant declines in the numbers of Americans age 50-plus who report being “very involved” in:

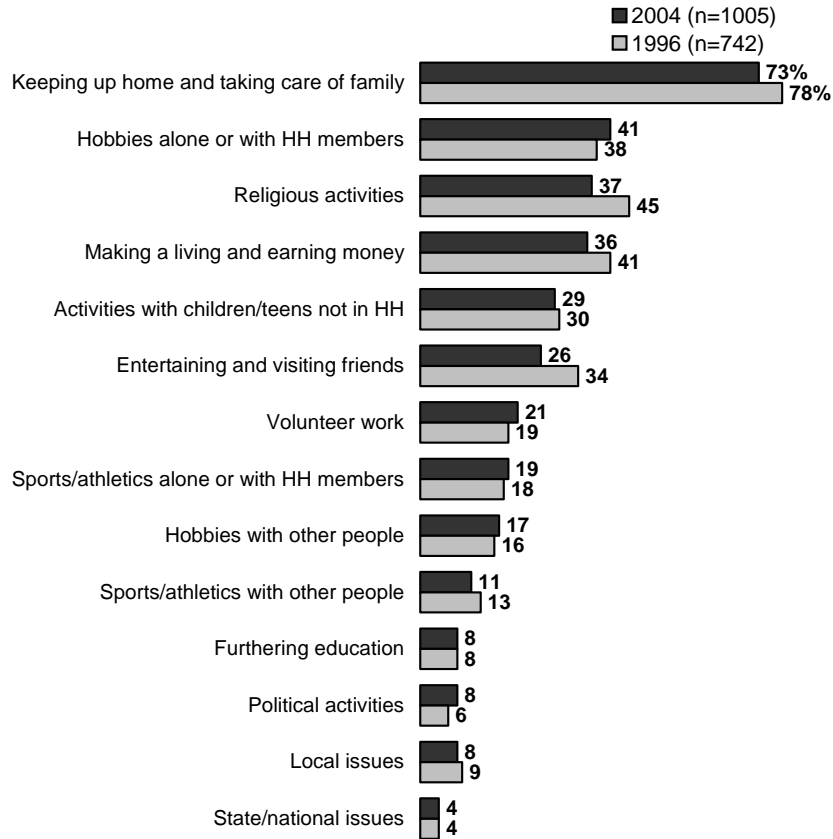
- Home and family (73% today, down 5 points from 1996),
- Religious activities (37%, down 8 points),
- Making a living and earning money (36%, down 5 points), and
- Entertaining and visiting friends (26%, down 8 points).

Most other activities — including individual hobbies, activities with children, volunteer work, sports or athletics, among others — remain at about 1996 levels.

Consistent with findings from the 1996 study, keeping up one’s home or taking care of family is by far the most prevalent form of social involvement among the 50-plus (73% say they are “very involved” with it). As might be expected, those who own their home are even more likely than those who rent to be very involved in keeping it up (75% vs. 59%). Individual hobbies are cited next, but at a distant 41%.

Social Priorities
- % Say "Very Involved" -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.



Q1. "We are interested in learning how Americans are spending their time these days. I am going to read a list of types of activities that people get involved in, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you feel that you are very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that activity these days. First, how about [ACTIVITY]? These days, are you very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that?" [IF NECESSARY:] "By involvement we mean how much time you spend on something, compared to other people."

Some Groups Involved in More Activities than Others

As people age, it can become more difficult to stay involved in certain activities. Americans age 75 and older, those in poorer health, those who cannot drive themselves, and those who are disabled are less involved than their counterparts in many activities. Indeed, fewer than half of Americans age 50-plus in fair or poor health — as well as those who are disabled — strongly agree with the statement “I am able to pursue interests and hobbies” (40% in fair/poor health and 45% of disabled versus 62% of all Americans age 50-plus). Likewise, the oldest Americans — those age 75-plus — are relatively unlikely to be involved in most activities.

There are also notable differences by demographic subgroups:

- Women are especially likely to say they are “very involved” with keeping up their homes/taking care of their families (76% versus 69% of men), hobbies or leisure pursuits (45% versus 36%, respectively), religious or spiritual activities (41% versus 32%), and entertaining or visiting with friends (30% versus 22%).
- African-Americans are more likely to be “very involved” with religious or spiritual activities (54%) and activities with children or teens whom they don’t live with (37%), relative to other groups.
- Hispanics show less social involvement with a variety of activities — six of the 14 activities asked about. They are, however, twice as likely as whites (though not African-Americans) to say they are very involved in “furthering [their] education” (16% versus 7%, respectively).

Social Priorities (by Sex and Age)
 - % Say "Very Involved" -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
(Unweighted base)						
Keeping up my home or taking care of family who live with me	73	69	76	78	67	63
Hobbies or leisure-time pursuits I do by myself or just with members of my household	41	36	45	44	36	36
Religious or spiritual activities, including time spent with religious organizations	37	32	41	33	41	39
Making a living and earning money	36	41	33	55	11	8
Activities with children or teens who don't live with me	29	27	30	30	27	19
Entertaining and visiting friends, or going out with friends just for fun	26	22	30	26	27	20
Volunteer work and charity work for which I am not paid	21	24	18	19	24	18
Sports, athletics, and fitness activities that I do by myself or just with members of my household	19	20	18	21	17	10

Continues...

Q1. "We are interested in learning how Americans are spending their time these days. I am going to read a list of types of activities that people get involved in, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you feel that you are very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that activity these days. First, how about [ACTIVITY]? These days, are you very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that?" [IF NECESSARY:] "By involvement we mean how much time you spend on something, compared to other people."

Social Priorities (by Sex and Age) Cont'd.
- % Say "Very Involved" -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
Hobbies or leisure-time pursuits that I do with other people	17	19	16	18	17	14
Sports, athletics, and fitness activities that I do with other people	11	13	10	12	10	8
Furthering my education	8	11	6	11	5	6
Working on local issues and neighborhood problems	8	11	5	8	7	3
Political activities related to the political parties, candidates, or election campaigns	8	9	8	8	8	7
Working on public issues or problems at the state or national level	4	7	2	6	3	2

Q1. "We are interested in learning how Americans are spending their time these days. I am going to read a list of types of activities that people get involved in, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you feel that you are very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that activity these days. First, how about [ACTIVITY]? These days, are you very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that?" [IF NECESSARY:] "By involvement we mean how much time you spend on something, compared to other people."

Social Priorities (by Ethnicity)
- % Say "Very Involved" -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u> (1,005) %	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u> (861) %	<u>African American</u> (252) %	<u>Hispanic</u> (246) %	<u>Other</u> (50)** %
(Unweighted base)					
Keeping up my home or taking care of family who live with me	73	73	72	60	72
Hobbies or leisure-time pursuits I do by myself or just with members of my household	41	41	32	19	40
Religious or spiritual activities, including time spent with religious organizations	37	36	54	28	34
Making a living and earning money	36	36	40	36	40
Activities with children or teens who don't live with me	29	27	37	22	35
Entertaining and visiting friends, or going out with friends just for fun	26	27	20	10	36
Volunteer work and charity work for which I am not paid	21	20	17	9	22
Sports, athletics, and fitness activities that I do by myself or just with members of my household	19	19	22	11	23
Hobbies or leisure-time pursuits that I do with other people	17	17	18	9	18
Sports, athletics, and fitness activities that I do with other people	11	11	10	6	16
Furthering my education	8	7	15	16	14
Working on local issues and neighborhood problems	8	7	14	6	10
Political activities related to the political parties, candidates, or election campaigns	8	7	11	6	11
Working on public issues or problems at the state or national level	4	3	9	3	9

Q1. "We are interested in learning how Americans are spending their time these days. I am going to read a list of types of activities that people get involved in, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you feel that you are very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that activity these days. First, how about [ACTIVITY]? These days, are you very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that?" [IF NECESSARY:] "By involvement we mean how much time you spend on something, compared to other people."

**Caution: small base.

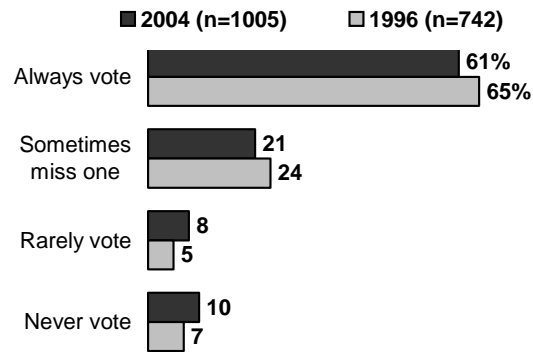
Voting and Social Involvement

Political involvement is a vital form of social involvement — one in which the 50-plus are especially likely to participate. For example, the majority of Americans age 50-plus (61%) say they “always” vote in local elections, while about one in five says he or she sometimes misses an election

Compared to the 1996 survey, however, participation has decreased slightly. About one in five (18%) adults age 50 or older says he or she “rarely” or “never” votes in local elections, compared to 12% in 1996. Declines in voting among the 50-plus are surprising, as the 2004 survey was fielded during a Presidential election year, while the 1996 study was not. Historical trends suggest that respondents can overstate their voting participation in major election years. Hence, the declines may, in fact, suggest greater deterioration in voting — a somewhat troubling possibility.

Self-Reported Local Election Voting Frequency

Base: Americans age 50 and over.



Q17. "Think about the local elections that have been held over the past 10 years, that is, elections for local office like mayor or town council. We find that people are sometimes not able to vote because they're not registered, they don't have time, or they have trouble getting to the polls. Do you always vote in local elections, do you sometimes miss one, do you rarely vote, or do you never vote in local elections?"

Voting Frequency by Key Demographics

The survey does confirm a durable fact about Americans politics — that senior Americans vote. Two in three (66%) Americans age 65-plus say they “always” vote in local elections, compared to just over half (56%) of those ages 50 to 64.

By ethnicity, Hispanics indicate they are the least likely to vote — in fact, they are as likely to say they “never” vote (35%) as to say they “always” do (36%).

Self-Reported Local Election Voting Frequency

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
(Unweighted base)						
I always vote	61	60	61	56	66	67
I sometimes miss one	21	21	20	23	18	17
I rarely vote	8	8	8	8	8	9
I never vote	10	10	10	12	8	8
Not a citizen	*	1	*	1	*	-
Don't know	*	-	*	-	*	-

	Total (1,005) %	Ethnicity			
		White (861) %	African American (252) %	Hispanic (246) %	Other (50)** %
(Unweighted base)					
I always vote	61	61	62	36	42
I sometimes miss one	21	22	19	14	27
I rarely vote	8	7	4	5	10
I never vote	10	10	13	35	20
Not a citizen	*	*	1	8	1
Don't know	*	*	1	1	-

Q17. "Think about the local elections that have been held over the past 10 years, that is, elections for local office like mayor or town council. We find that people are sometimes not able to vote because they're not registered, they don't have time, or they have trouble getting to the polls. Do you always vote in local elections, do you sometimes miss one, do you rarely vote, or do you never vote in local elections?"

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

V. Neighboring

Fifty-plus on a First-name Basis

Interaction with neighbors — or “neighboring” — is critical to social engagement and sustaining livable communities.

Nine in 10 Americans age 50-plus know at least three of their neighbors on a first-name basis (87%), and half (48%) know at least 10. This is true of both sexes and across age ranges. Only about one in 10 knows two or fewer of their neighbors by first name.

Familiarity with one’s neighbors appears to increase with age, as the 75-plus group is most apt to know 10 or more neighbors by name (53% vs. an average of 48% of respondents). This may partly reflect the length of time they have spent in their current residence.

Number of Neighbors Know on a First-Name Basis

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u> (348)	<u>Women</u> (657)	<u>50-64</u> (558)	<u>65+</u> (447)	<u>75+</u> (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	3	2	4	3	3	5
1 or 2	8	8	8	10	5	6
3 to 5	24	27	21	24	24	18
6 to 9	15	14	16	15	16	15
10 or more	48	47	50	47	50	53
Doesn't apply/no neighbors	*	1	*	*	*	*
Don't know	1	1	1	1	2	3
Mean	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.0	7.4	7.5
Median	8.8	8.4	9.0	8.4	9.0	9.2

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u> (861)	<u>African American</u> (252)	<u>Hispanic</u> (246)	<u>Other</u> (50)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
None	3	3	3	11	-
1 or 2	8	7	12	15	17
3 to 5	24	23	23	34	22
6 to 9	15	16	20	15	10
10 or more	48	49	40	25	46
Doesn't apply/no neighbors	*	*	*	-	-
Don't know	1	1	2	*	5
Mean	7.2	7.3	6.7	5.2	6.8
Median	8.8	9.0	7.2	4.1	8.4

Q13. "About how many neighbors do you know on a first-name basis?" [IF NECESSARY:] "Neighbors are people who live within a short walk or a short drive of your home."

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

Conversing with Neighbors

Most Americans age 50-plus (85%) have had a conversation (beyond just saying “hello”) with a neighbor in the past 3 months, and of them 84% have had such a conversation in the past week (about seven in 10 of all Americans age 50-plus).

- It should be pointed out, however, that a surprisingly high number — 15% — have not had a conversation with their neighbor in the past three months.
- We saw earlier that Hispanics had the fewest contacts with their neighbors; in turn, they are also among the least likely to have had a conversation that goes beyond “hello” (71% versus an average of 84%).

By a wide margin, homeowners are more likely to converse with their neighbors than those who rent their home — 87% of homeowners have had a conversation with their neighbors in the past three months compared to 73% of those who rent. Here again, the difference may reflect the length of time renters and homeowners have lived in their current residence—which tends to be much higher among those who own.

- Despite stereotypes suggesting women are more “chatty” than men, there are no significant differences by sex.

Whether or Not Have Had Conversation With Neighbor in Past 3 Months

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
(Unweighted base)						
Have had conversation with neighbor beyond just saying "hello" in past 3 months	85	84	86	84	86	84
Have not	15	16	14	15	14	16
Don't know	*	*	-	*	-	-

	Total (1,005) %	Ethnicity			
		White (861) %	African American (252) %	Hispanic (246) %	Other (50)** %
(Unweighted base)					
Have had conversation with neighbor beyond just saying "hello" in past 3 months	85	86	81	71	84
Have not	15	14	19	28	16
Don't know	*	*	-	1	-

Q11. "In the past 3 months, have you had a conversation with any of your neighbors, either in person or on the telephone — beyond just saying hello?" [IF NECESSARY:] "Neighbors are people who live within a short walk or a short drive of your home."

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

Whether or Not Have Had Conversation With Neighbor in Past Week

Base: Americans age 50 and over who have had a conversation with neighbor, beyond saying "hello," in past 3 months.

	Total (871)	Sex		Age		
		Men (295)	Women (576)	50-64 (481)	65+ (390)	75+ (174)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Have had conversation with neighbor beyond just saying "hello" in past week	84	83	84	81	87	89
Have not	16	17	16	19	12	11
Don't know	*	-	*	-	*	*

	Total (871)	Ethnicity			
		White (753)	African American (206)	Hispanic (186)	Other (43)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
Have had conversation with neighbor beyond just saying "hello" in past week	84	84	86	92	83
Have not	16	16	14	8	17
Don't know	*	*	-	-	-

Q12. "Have you had a conversation with any of your neighbors, beyond saying hello, in the past week?"

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

Visiting with Neighbors

Again suggesting that neighboring is a crucial factor in social involvement by the 50-plus, about half of those surveyed say they visit with neighbors at least once a week (48%) and the majority say they do so at least several times a month (58%). A surprising number, however, say they visit with neighbors less often than once every couple of months (23%).

- Hispanics are somewhat less likely than average to say they visit with neighbors at least once a week (36%).
- Men are more likely than women to visit with their neighbors at least once a week, 53% versus 44%, respectively.

Visits with neighbors tend to be events that often occur spontaneously or informally. Americans age 50-plus are most likely to visit with neighbors in their driveways or on the sidewalk (83%), at their homes (65%), or at their neighbors homes (58%).

Engagement in the community is highly related to one's social involvement. Most Americans age 50-plus who are very socially involved have met with neighbors in their home (82%), whereas fewer than half (47%) of those who are *not* very socially involved have done the same.

Frequency Visit With Neighbors (by Sex and Age)

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005)	Sex		Age		
		Men (348)	Women (657)	50-64 (558)	65+ (447)	75+ (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>About once a week or more</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>46</u>
Several times a day	4	7	2	2	7	11
About once a day	8	8	8	6	10	9
A few times per week	20	21	20	22	19	14
About once a week	16	17	15	16	16	13
<u>A few times per month or less often</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>52</u>
A few times per month	10	10	10	9	11	12
About once a month	11	9	12	12	9	9
Once every couple of months	7	8	6	7	7	8
Less often	23	18	27	26	20	23
Don't know	1	1	1	*	1	2

Q14. "About how often do you visit your neighbors, or do your neighbors visit you? Would you say several times a day, about once a day, several times a week, about once a week, several times a month, about once a month, once every couple of months, or less often?"

* Less than .5% mentions

Frequency Visit With Neighbors (by Ethnicity)

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
<u>About once a week or more</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>47</u>
Several times a day	4	4	4	4	6
About once a day	8	7	7	5	12
A few times per week	20	21	16	14	21
About once a week	16	17	14	13	8
<u>A few times per month or less often</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>53</u>
A few times per month	10	11	8	5	12
About once a month	11	10	13	8	17
Once every couple of months	7	6	5	8	-
Less often	23	22	30	37	24
Don't know	1	1	3	5	-

Q14. "About how often do you visit your neighbors, or do your neighbors visit you? Would you say several times a day, about once a day, several times a week, about once a week, several times a month, about once a month, once every couple of months, or less often?"

**Caution: small base

Locations Where Have Met With Neighbors in Past Month

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u> (1,005) %	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u> (348) %	<u>Women</u> (657) %	<u>50-64</u> (558) %	<u>65+</u> (447) %	<u>75+</u> (197) %
(Unweighted base)						
In the driveway or on the sidewalk	83	84	83	86	80	79
At my home	65	67	64	67	64	64
At my neighbor's home	58	60	57	59	57	48
At a local store or business	50	49	50	50	49	47
In a neighborhood church, synagogue, or mosque	43	42	43	35	53	57
In a neighborhood restaurant	32	34	30	31	32	36
In an outdoor locale in my neighborhood such as a park, beach, or green	28	30	25	30	24	20
In a neighborhood school	16	16	15	18	13	11
In a local clubhouse in neighborhood	14	16	13	12	18	18
At a bus stop	3	2	3	3	2	1

	<u>Total</u> (1,005) %	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u> (861) %	<u>African American</u> (252) %	<u>Hispanic</u> (246) %	<u>Other</u> (50)** %
(Unweighted base)					
In the driveway or on the sidewalk	83	84	72	63	79
At my home	65	66	52	52	62
At my neighbor's home	58	60	51	52	56
At a local store or business	50	48	47	50	53
In a neighborhood church, synagogue, or mosque	43	41	46	49	45
In a neighborhood restaurant	32	33	19	20	17
In an outdoor locale in my neighborhood such as a park, beach, or green	28	26	29	29	25
In a neighborhood school	16	14	16	15	13
In a local clubhouse in neighborhood	14	13	12	16	18
At a bus stop	3	1	16	15	3

Q15. "Where have you met or visited with your neighbors in the past month? Have you met or visited with your neighbors..."

**Caution: small base

VI. Volunteerism

Most 50-plus Fit in Time to Volunteer

Volunteerism is another element of social involvement that can provide the 50-plus with both a sense of accomplishment and enjoyment. Perhaps more so than younger Americans, those age 50-plus are likely to spend some of their time doing volunteer work — about two in three (63%) say they spend at least an hour in an average month doing so, about 4 hours on average. And a sizable number — one in three (33%) — say they spend at least 10 hours volunteering in an average month.

- The oldest Americans are least likely to donate their time. For example, whereas 29% of 50-64 year olds say they do not volunteer their time, more than four in 10 (44%) of those 75 and older say the same.
- Over half of Hispanics (56%) say they do not volunteer their time in an average month.

Among those Americans age 50-plus who volunteer their time, surprisingly few devoted their volunteering energies to just one organization (20%) in the past year. In fact, just as many (22%) donated their time to at least *four* organizations.

Time Spent Volunteering In Average Month

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u> (348)	<u>Women</u> (657)	<u>50-64</u> (558)	<u>65+</u> (447)	<u>75+</u> (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
No time at all	32	34	30	29	36	44
1-4 hours	17	17	17	21	13	12
5-9 hours	13	11	15	13	13	14
10-24 hours	22	22	21	20	24	18
25-49 hours	7	6	8	8	5	5
50 hours or more	4	6	3	5	4	2
Don't know	4	3	5	3	5	5
Refused	1	1	*	1	*	1
Mean	10.5	11.2	10.0	11.1	9.7	7.3
Median	4	4	4	4	4	2

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u> (861)	<u>African American</u> (252)	<u>Hispanic</u> (246)	<u>Other</u> (50)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
No time at all	32	31	34	56	31
1-4 hours	17	18	18	16	19
5-9 hours	13	14	10	6	13
10-24 hours	22	21	17	18	14
25-49 hours	7	7	8	2	9
50 hours or more	4	4	2	*	2
Don't know	4	4	10	3	10
Refused	1	1	-	-	-
Mean	10.5	10.1	9.4	4.2	9.5
Median	4	4	3	-	3

Q22. "About how many hours per month, on the average, do you spend volunteering? Just your best estimate is fine." [IF RESPONDENT CAN'T GIVE AVERAGE, ASK:] "Please describe the amount of time you spent volunteering in the last 12 months"

**Caution: small base

**Number of Organizations Americans Age 50-Plus Volunteered Time To
In Past 12 Months**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005)	Sex		Age		
		Men (348)	Women (657)	50-64 (558)	65+ (447)	75+ (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
None	32	32	32	31	33	36
<u>1-3</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>49</u>
1	20	20	21	19	22	25
2	14	14	14	12	17	11
3	12	14	11	13	11	12
<u>4 or more</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>
4	10	10	11	12	8	9
5	5	4	6	5	5	4
6	3	4	2	4	2	1
7	2	2	2	2	1	1
8	1	2	*	1	1	*
9	*	-	*	*	-	-
10	*	*	-	*	-	-

	Total (1,005)	Ethnicity			
		White (861)	African American (252)	Hispanic (246)	Other (50)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
None	32	32	37	46	34
<u>1-3</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>41</u>
1	20	21	20	23	12
2	14	14	16	14	16
3	12	13	9	6	13
<u>4 or more</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>25</u>
4	10	10	8	5	18
5	5	5	4	2	7
6	3	2	3	1	1
7	2	2	-	2	-
8	1	1	2	*	-
9	*	*	1	-	-
10	*	*	1	-	-

Q18. "Now I would like to get an accurate count of all the groups or organizations that you volunteer for, including social clubs, religious organizations, or any kind of organized group at all. First, have you volunteered for any [GROUP] in the past 12 months?"

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

Many Ways to Volunteer

How do the 50-plus volunteer their time? Religious organizations — by a two-to-one margin over any other specific types of organizations or groups — is the chief beneficiary of their volunteer efforts: About half — 46% — have volunteered time a religious organization, such as a church, temple, or mosque, in the past 12 months.

- African-Americans are especially likely to have volunteered time to such an organization — 51% in the past twelve months — especially when compared to Hispanics (37%).

Nearly one in four Americans age 50-plus volunteered time to other organizations meant to improve society — a social service organization (23%), organizations that work on health issues or fight disease (22%).

Clubs or organizations for older people are also relatively popular recipients of volunteer time from the 50-plus (22%).

**Types of Organizations Americans Age 50-Plus Have Volunteered Time To
In Past 12 Months (by Sex and Age)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
Unweighted base						
Religious organizations, including a church, temple, or mosque	46	43	49	44	48	49
Social service organizations	23	23	22	24	20	20
Organizations that work on health issues or fight disease	22	21	22	23	20	16
Clubs or organizations for older people	22	19	23	19	25	24
Hobby, garden, recreation or computer groups	17	18	16	20	12	11
Professional societies, trade or business associations with individual memberships	15	19	12	19	10	6
Neighborhood or homeowners associations	15	16	13	15	14	14
PTA, PTO, or school support groups	14	14	13	19	7	5
Health clubs, sports clubs, athletic leagues, or country clubs	11	13	8	12	9	7
Scouts or other youth organizations	11	10	11	13	7	6

Q18. *“Now I would like to get an accurate count of all the groups or organizations that you volunteer for, including social clubs, religious organizations, or any kind of organized group at all. First, have you volunteered for any [GROUP] in the past 12 months?”*

**Types of Organizations Americans Age 50-Plus Have Volunteered Time To
In Past 12 Months (by Ethnicity)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
Unweighted base	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Religious organizations, including a church, temple, or mosque	46	46	51	37	38
Social service organizations	23	21	20	13	31
Organizations that work on health issues or fight disease	22	22	20	7	12
Clubs or organizations for older people	22	22	18	12	20
Hobby, garden, recreation or computer groups	17	16	13	12	20
Professional societies, trade or business associations with individual memberships	15	15	12	5	16
Neighborhood or homeowners associations	15	14	14	8	20
PTA, PTO, or school support groups	14	12	16	9	19
Health clubs, sports clubs, athletic leagues, or country clubs	11	11	6	11	10
Scouts or other youth organizations	11	10	10	10	6

Q18. *"Now I would like to get an accurate count of all the groups or organizations that you volunteer for, including social clubs, religious organizations, or any kind of organized group at all. First, have you volunteered for any [GROUP] in the past 12 months?"*

**Caution: small base

Why Volunteer?

The 50-plus are motivated to volunteer for both altruistic and personal reasons. Indeed, while most want to give something back to their communities and other causes, the 50-plus are almost equally motivated by the enjoyment of and social aspects of volunteering.

Most say they “wanted to help other people” (78% say it is a “very important” reason) and six in 10 (62%) say they want to “make the community a better place to live.” But they are equally likely to cite personal reasons — “I enjoyed the activity” (66%) and “I wanted to be with people I enjoy” (62%).

- Women are especially likely to say they volunteer to help others (83%).
- African-Americans are particularly likely to volunteer to improve their communities (79%).

Few say they volunteer out of feelings of guilt — “I did not want to say ‘no’ to the person who asked” (18%) or “I felt obligated” (15%). Even fewer say (or admit) they volunteer to “further [their] career” (6%).

Further suggesting that helping other people and the community are motivating forces behind Americans’ decisions to volunteer, more than half (58%) strongly agree that “I have been able to influence others’ lives in positive ways.” Moreover, most “very (socially) involved” Americans age 50-plus feel that they have had a positive impact on others (86%), compared to just 57% of those “somewhat involved” and 42% of those “not very involved.”

**Chief Reasons Why Americans Age 50-Plus Volunteer
(by Sex and Age)**

- % Say "Very Important" Reason -

Base: Americans age 50 and over who spend some time volunteering in an average month.

	Total (716) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (234) %	Women (482) %	50-64 (414) %	65+ (302) %	75+ (123) %
(Unweighted base)						
I wanted to help other people	78	71	83	77	79	78
I enjoyed the activity	66	65	67	65	67	59
I wanted to make the community a better place to live	62	62	63	61	64	66
I wanted to be with people I enjoy	62	60	63	61	64	62
I wanted to work with people who share my ideals	52	55	49	52	51	49
Because of my religious commitment	39	39	38	35	44	46
I wanted to learn about the issue or problem	32	36	30	35	28	20
I did not want to say "no" to the person who asked	18	20	16	19	17	20
I felt obligated	15	16	15	14	17	19
I wanted to further my job or career	6	10	3	10	1	2

Q24. "Please think about the last time you decided to take on a volunteer assignment. I'm going to read you a list of reasons people give us for volunteering. Please tell me if each of these reasons was very important, somewhat important, or not very important in your decision to volunteer..."

**Chief Reasons Why Americans Age 50-Plus Volunteer
(by Ethnicity)
- % Say "Very Important" Reason -**

Base: Americans age 50 and over who spend some time volunteering in an average month.

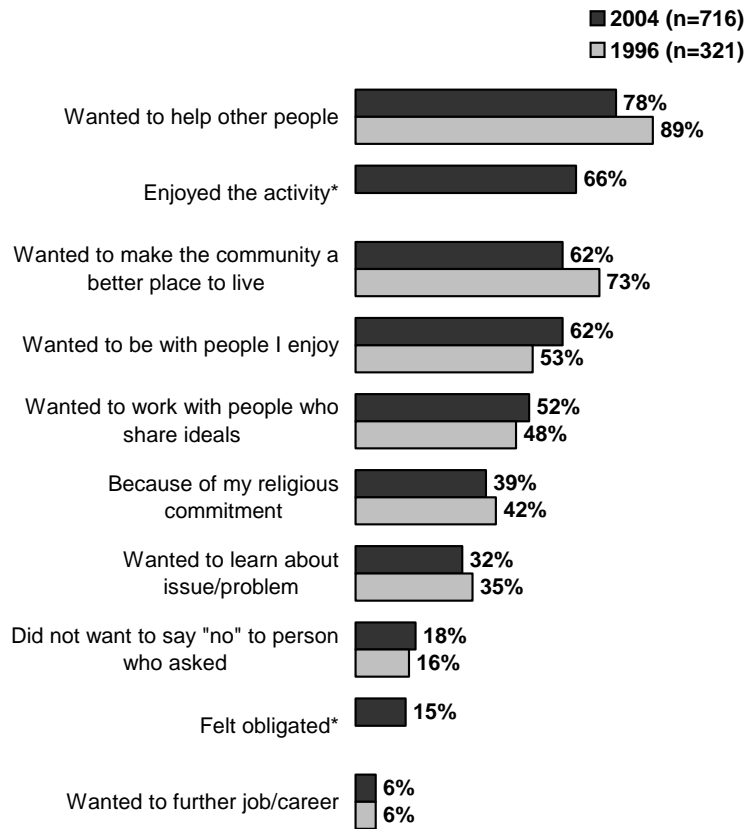
	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(716)	(614)	(176)	(122)	(37)**
	%	%	%	%	%
I wanted to help other people	78	77	84	61	79
I enjoyed the activity	66	66	71	67	48
I wanted to make the community a better place to live	62	60	79	62	69
I wanted to be with people I enjoy	62	62	69	56	50
I wanted to work with people who share my ideals	52	51	53	63	37
Because of my religious commitment	39	38	51	52	23
I wanted to learn about the issue or problem	32	29	52	43	43
I did not want to say "no" to the person who asked	18	16	32	30	24
I felt obligated	15	16	37	14	8
I wanted to further my job or career	6	4	27	24	11

Q24. "Please think about the last time you decided to take on a volunteer assignment. I'm going to read you a list of reasons people give us for volunteering. Please tell me if each of these reasons was very important, somewhat important, or not very important in your decision to volunteer..."

**Caution: small base

**Chief Reasons Why Americans Age 50-Plus Volunteer
- % Say "Very Important" Reason -**

Base: Americans age 50 and over who spend some time volunteering in an average month (N = 716)



Q24. "Please think about the last time you decided to take on a volunteer assignment. I'm going to read you a list of reasons people give us for volunteering. Please tell me if each of these reasons was very important, somewhat important, or not very important in your decision to volunteer."

* Items not asked in the 1996 study

Why Not Volunteer?

About one in three Americans age 50-plus spend *no* time volunteering in an average month. Why not? Lack of time is among the most commonly cited reasons (and most socially acceptable), but health problems and a lack of interest are equally common reasons.

Just over three in 10 50-plus who do not volunteer say they are simply not interested in doing so (31%), with men (42%) especially likely to cite lack of interest. And many say, “health problems prevent me” (30%, especially those age 75-plus, 45%) or “I was too busy” (30%, most often cited by women, 38%).

Very few (3%) say they are “too old” to volunteer.

Reasons Why Americans Age 50-Plus Do Not Volunteer

Base: Americans age 50 and over who do not spend time volunteering in an average month. Most common responses.

	Total (289)	Sex		Age		
		Men (114)	Women (175)	50-64 (144)	65+ (145)	75+ (74)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Not interested	31	42	21	32	30	34
Health problems prevented me	30	27	33	20	40	45
I was too busy	30	22	38	36	24	13
It was too difficult for me to get to the activity	9	6	12	7	11	13
The activity would take up too much time	5	4	5	3	6	5
Too old	3	3	3	-	6	9
Don't know	1	3	*	*	3	4
Refused	2	2	2	2	2	2

	Total (289)	Ethnicity			
		White (247)	African American (76)**	Hispanic (124)	Other (13)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
Not interested	31	33	34	19	-
Health problems prevented me	30	27	30	25	62
I was too busy	30	32	26	39	23
It was too difficult for me to get to the activity	9	8	3	5	7
The activity would take up too much time	5	5	2	3	-
Too old	3	3	6	14	-
Don't know	1	2	-	-	-
Refused	2	2	6	2	-

Q23. "Please tell me, why have you not been able to volunteer?"

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

Many Forms of Volunteering—But Fundraising Comes First

Americans age 50-plus spend their volunteer time in a wide variety of activities. Fund raising is those most common (19%, with 50 to 64 year olds leading the way, 23%), followed by:

- Organizing events (16%)
- Making telephone calls (13%)
- Delivering/preparing/serving meals (12%)
- Helping out at events (12%), and
- Providing transportation (12%).

**How Americans Age 50-Plus Spend Their Time Volunteering
(by Sex and Age)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over. Most common responses.

	Total (1,005)	Sex		Age		
		Men (348)	Women (657)	50-64 (558)	65+ (447)	75+ (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Fund raising	19	16	21	23	13	12
Organize events	16	18	15	21	10	8
Making telephone calls	13	12	14	14	11	13
Delivering/preparing/serving meals	12	11	13	11	13	15
Staffing/helping out at events	12	11	13	14	9	8
Driving, providing transportation to people	12	10	13	14	9	8
Teaching, tutoring	9	6	12	11	8	8
Personal counseling	7	9	6	9	6	4
Other physical labor	7	9	5	9	4	2
Other management	5	7	4	7	4	3
Selling goods	5	6	5	7	3	4
Other clerical	5	4	5	5	4	4
Child care	5	2	8	6	4	3
Financial counseling	4	6	3	5	3	1
Other financial work	4	5	4	4	4	*
Speaking, lecturing, staffing exhibits	4	4	3	5	3	2
Health care, nurse's aide	4	3	6	5	4	4
Don't know	12	12	12	11	14	14
Refused	24	25	23	24	25	27

Q21. "Please think about all of your volunteer roles. What types of activities do you do as a volunteer?"

**How Americans Age 50-Plus Spend Their Time Volunteering
(by Ethnicity)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over. Most common responses.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Fund raising	19	19	14	6	9
Organize events	16	16	11	5	18
Making telephone calls	13	13	8	2	15
Delivering/preparing/serving meals	12	11	12	7	8
Staffing/helping out at events	12	13	18	8	9
Driving, providing transportation to people	12	11	15	2	5
Teaching, tutoring	9	9	13	5	9
Personal counseling	7	8	10	4	3
Other physical labor	7	6	4	1	20
Other management	5	5	4	3	7
Selling goods	5	5	7	3	7
Other clerical	5	4	7	4	2
Child care	5	5	9	3	3
Financial counseling	4	4	5	1	5
Other financial work	4	5	4	1	2
Speaking, lecturing, staffing exhibits	4	4	9	2	1
Health care, nurse's aide	4	4	3	5	3
Don't know	12	13	13	1	10
Refused	24	24	29	57	15

Q21. "Please think about all of your volunteer roles. What types of activities do you do as a volunteer?"

**Caution: small base

VII. Joining

Organizations That Attract Joiners Among the 50-plus

Actually joining an organization can suggest a stronger commitment than volunteering one's time. The 50-plus are joiners: Three in four have joined an organization that caters to their interests or causes.

The most popular organizations, by a large margin, are religious in nature — over half of Americans age 50-plus are a member of a church, synagogue, or mosque (57%; women are more likely than men to join, 60% versus 52%, respectively).

Other relatively popular organizations include professional societies (21%, especially among men, 26%, and 50 to 64 year olds, 28%), social service organizations (15%), organizations devoted to health issues (14%), health/sports organizations (14%), and clubs for older people (14%).

- In line with the fact that they are less likely than the general population to volunteer their time, Hispanics are less likely to join organizations (45% are not members of any — about twice as many as the general 50-plus population, 21%).

**Organizations Americans Age 50-Plus Are Most Likely to Join
(by Sex and Age)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
Religious organizations, including a church, temple, or mosque	57	52	60	54	60	62
Professional societies, trade or business associations with individual memberships	21	26	17	28	11	10
Social service organizations	15	18	12	17	12	8
Organizations that work on health issues or fight disease	14	16	12	15	13	11
Health clubs, sports clubs, athletic leagues, or country clubs	14	16	12	16	11	8
Clubs or organizations for older people	14	16	11	11	17	16
Hobby, garden, recreation or computer groups	13	16	11	17	8	6
Neighborhood or homeowners associations	11	13	9	12	9	10
PTA, PTO, or school support groups	6	7	6	9	2	2
Scouts or other youth organizations	4	5	4	6	3	2
None	21	21	20	21	20	19
Don't know	5	4	6	5	5	7

Q18b. "Which of these types of organizations are you a member of, if any?" [IF NECESSARY:] "'Membership' usually means that your name is on a list of members, that you have certain privileges like voting or getting a newsletter, and often that you have a membership card. Just making a contribution or supporting the organization does not always make you a member."

**Organizations Americans Age 50-Plus Are Most Likely to Join
(by Ethnicity)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Religious organizations, including a church, temple, or mosque	57	56	60	40	60
Professional societies, trade or business associations with individual memberships	21	21	14	6	15
Social service organizations	15	14	10	4	22
Organizations that work on health issues or fight disease	14	13	12	6	14
Health clubs, sports clubs, athletic leagues, or country clubs	14	15	10	7	19
Clubs or organizations for older people	14	14	12	6	18
Hobby, garden, recreation or computer groups	13	14	12	6	6
Neighborhood or homeowners associations	11	10	14	10	20
PTA, PTO, or school support groups	6	6	13	3	12
Scouts or other youth organizations	4	5	7	4	6
None	21	19	23	45	19
Don't know	5	5	5	4	-

Q18b. "Which of these types of organizations are you a member of, if any?" [IF NECESSARY:] "'Membership' usually means that your name is on a list of members, that you have certain privileges like voting or getting a newsletter, and often that you have a membership card. Just making a contribution or supporting the organization does not always make you a member." (Q.18b)

**Caution: small base

Strong Connections to Religious Organizations

Americans age 50-plus are not only most likely to join a religious organization, they also say it is the organization they are most involved with (35%, especially those age 75-plus, 46%, and African-Americans, 44%).

The organizations people age 50-plus are most committed to tend to be significant social outlets for them. Indeed, three in four (73%) say they meet or talk with people from the group they are most involved with at least once a week, and about half (49%) say they meet at least a few times per week.

**Organizations Americans Age 50-Plus Say They Are Most Involved With
(by Sex and Age)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over who are involved in a group, club, or charitable organization.

(Unweighted base)	Total (837) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (286) %	Women (551) %	50-64 (472) %	65+ (365) %	75+ (157) %
Religious organizations, including a church, temple, or mosque	35	34	36	32	40	46
Clubs or organizations for older people	6	8	5	5	8	7
Professional societies, trade or business associations with individual memberships	5	7	3	6	3	2
Health clubs, sports clubs, athletic leagues, or country clubs	5	6	5	5	5	3
Social service organizations	5	5	5	7	2	1
Hobby, garden, recreation or computer groups	3	4	3	5	1	1
Neighborhood or homeowners associations	3	4	3	4	3	2
Organizations that work on health issues or fight disease	3	3	3	4	2	*
PTA, PTO, or school support groups	1	*	2	2	*	-
Scouts or other youth organizations	1	1	1	2	*	*
None	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	3	5	1	2	4	3
Refused	29	25	32	27	31	33

Q19. "In which one of the groups are you most involved? You don't have to give me the name of the group if you don't wish to." [IF NECESSARY, PROBE:] "Which one of these groups is the most important to you?"

* Less than .5% mentions

**Organizations Americans Age 50-Plus Say They Are Most Involved With
(by Ethnicity)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over who are involved in a group, club, or charitable organization.

	Total (837)	Ethnicity			
		White (719)	African American (203)	Hispanic (163)	Other (42)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
Religious organizations, including a church, temple, or mosque	35	34	44	29	32
Clubs or organizations for older people	6	7	5	3	11
Professional societies, trade or business associations with individual memberships	5	5	3	*	5
Health clubs, sports clubs, athletic leagues, or country clubs	5	5	2	5	2
Social service organizations	5	5	-	4	6
Hobby, garden, recreation or computer groups	3	4	3	5	1
Neighborhood or homeowners associations	3	3	1	6	19
Organizations that work on health issues or fight disease	3	3	2	2	1
PTA, PTO, or school support groups	1	1	3	3	3
Scouts or other youth organizations	1	1	1	1	-
None	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	3	3	2	1	6
Refused	29	29	34	40	12

Q19. "In which one of the groups are you most involved? You don't have to give me the name of the group if you don't wish to." [IF NECESSARY, PROBE:] "Which one of these groups is the most important to you?"

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

How Often Meet With Other Members of Favored Organization

Base: Americans age 50 and over who are involved in a group, club, or charitable organization.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
(Unweighted base)	(837)	(286)	(551)	(472)	(365)	(157)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>About once a week or more</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>76</u>
Several times a day	5	6	4	5	5	6
About once a day	8	8	8	8	8	11
A few times per week	36	33	38	34	38	35
About once a week	24	26	22	25	23	23
<u>A few times per month or less often</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>
A few times per month	6	7	6	8	5	6
About once a month	11	13	9	11	11	7
Once every couple of months	3	1	4	3	2	3
Less often	7	7	6	7	7	8
Don't know	1	-	1	*	1	*

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(837)	(719)	(203)	(163)	(42)**
	%	%	%	%	%
<u>About once a week or more</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>64</u>
Several times a day	5	4	5	7	6
About once a day	8	8	8	11	7
A few times per week	36	36	42	24	19
About once a week	24	24	19	25	32
<u>A few times per month or less often</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>36</u>
A few times per month	6	6	6	5	8
About once a month	11	12	11	10	15
Once every couple of months	3	3	6	*	2
Less often	7	6	2	11	11
Don't know	1	1	1	6	-

Q20. "About how often would you say you meet or talk with people from the group you are most involved with?"

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

VIII. Focus on Religion

Majorities Attend Services

The survey findings reconfirm the well-established fact that America remains a very religious society. Half of Americans age 50-plus (50%) attend religious services at least once a week, while only one in six (16%) do so less often than once a month. Only 16% *never* attend religious services.

- Women and Americans age 65 and older are especially likely to attend at least once a week (56% and 61%, respectively).

**Frequency Americans Age 50-Plus Attend Religious Services
(by Sex and Age)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Every week or more often</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>65</u>
More than once a week	17	14	20	12	24	25
Every week	33	29	36	29	38	40
<u>Nearly every week to once a month (net)</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>
Nearly every week	5	6	5	6	5	2
2 or 3 times a month	7	6	7	8	5	4
Once a month	5	5	4	5	4	3
<u>Less often than once a month</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>
Several times a year	8	9	7	9	7	6
Once a year	4	5	3	6	1	1
Less often than once/year	5	7	3	5	4	3
Never/not religious	16	19	14	19	13	15
Don't know	1	1	*	1	*	1

Q27. "How often do you attend religious services?"

* Less than .5% mentions

**Frequency Americans Age 50-Plus Attend Religious Services
(by Ethnicity)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Every week or more often</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>37</u>
More than once a week	17	17	25	22	5
Every week	33	33	30	28	32
<u>Nearly every week to once a month (net)</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>14</u>
Nearly every week	5	5	6	5	2
2 or 3 times a month	7	6	11	6	9
Once a month	5	4	7	9	3
<u>Less often than once a month</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>27</u>
Several times a year	8	8	6	8	17
Once a year	4	4	5	4	7
Less often than once a year	5	5	1	4	2
Never/not religious	16	17	8	12	22
Don't know	1	*	1	1	-

Q27. "How often do you attend religious services?"

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

Religious Organizations Draw 50-plus Volunteers

Not only are Americans 50-plus likely to attend religious services, of those who volunteer their time, two in three (63%) donate some of that time to activities sponsored by a religious organization. Indeed, one in three (32%) spend “nearly all” or “most” of their volunteer time on such activities.

- Americans age 65-plus and African-Americans are most likely to spend the bulk of their volunteer time with religious organizations (39% of each of these groups).

These numbers have remained remarkably stable since the question was asked in the 1996 survey.

Amount of Volunteer Time Devoted to Religious Organizations

Base: Americans age 50 and over who spend some time volunteering in an average month.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
(Unweighted base)	(716)	(234)	(482)	(414)	(302)	(123)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Nearly all/most of it	32	31	33	28	39	39
Nearly all of it	14	11	16	10	20	17
Most of it	18	20	17	18	19	22
Some of it	31	29	32	31	31	33
None of it	36	39	35	41	29	26
Don't know	1	2	*	1	1	2

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(716)	(614)	(176)	(122)	(37)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Nearly all/most of it	32	34	39	31	14
Nearly all of it	14	14	24	16	6
Most of it	18	20	15	15	8
Some of it	31	27	41	19	51
None of it	36	38	18	45	34
Don't know	1	1	2	4	-

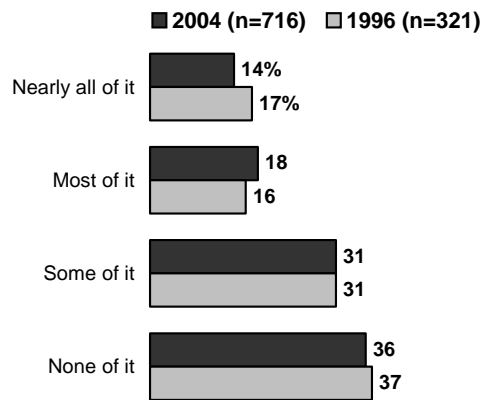
Q26. "About how much of your time as a volunteer is work that is sponsored or organized by religious organizations? Would you say..."

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

Amount of Volunteer Time Devoted to Religious Organizations

Base: Americans age 50 and over who spend some time volunteering in an average month.



Q26. "About how much of your time as a volunteer is work that is sponsored or organized by religious organizations?"

IX. Contributing

Most Support Place of Worship with Dollars

Americans have always been generous when it comes to private giving, especially when it comes to their place of worship — fully three in four of the 50-plus (74%) say they have contributed money to their church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship in the past 12 months.

- Women, Americans age 65-plus, and African-Americans — the people most likely to volunteer their time to religious organizations — are also the most likely to have made a donation in the past year (79%, 78%, and 82%, respectively).

People 50-plus are committing no small amount to their place of worship. Indeed, the median amount over a 12-month period is \$588.

Proportion of Americans Age 50-Plus Who Have Contributed Money to Place of Worship in Past 12 Months

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
(Unweighted base)						
Have contributed money to place of worship in past 12 months	74	68	79	70	78	79
Have not	26	32	21	29	22	21
Don't know	*	*	*	*	-	-
Refused	*	*	*	*	*	*

	Total (1,005) %	Ethnicity			
		White (861) %	African American (252) %	Hispanic (246) %	Other (50)** %
(Unweighted base)					
Have contributed money to place of worship in past 12 months	74	73	82	65	66
Have not	26	27	18	35	31
Don't know	*	*	-	*	3
Refused	*	*	-	-	-

Q28. *"In the past 12 months, have you happened to contribute any money to a church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship?"*

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

Amount Contributed to Place of Worship in Past 12 Months

Base: Americans age 50 and over who have made a contribution to a place of worship in the past 12 months.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
(Unweighted base)	(734)	(232)	(502)	(386)	(348)	(155)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under \$100	11	12	11	13	10	8
\$100 - \$299	10	8	11	11	8	8
\$300 - \$499	5	5	5	6	4	5
\$500 - \$999	7	7	7	7	8	9
\$1000 - \$1499	10	12	8	8	12	13
\$1500 or more	15	18	13	15	15	11
Don't know	26	22	28	24	28	27
Refused	20	18	21	21	19	23
Median	\$588	\$960	\$502	\$493	\$955	\$730

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(734)	(622)	(207)	(163)	(34)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Under \$100	11	10	15	28	20
\$100 - \$299	10	9	8	15	13
\$300 - \$499	5	6	3	8	1
\$500 - \$999	7	8	16	7	4
\$1000 - \$1499	10	10	8	1	-
\$1500 or more	15	15	13	7	30
Don't know	26	25	30	37	10
Refused	20	21	11	6	26
Median	\$588	\$600	\$525	\$112	\$708

Q29. "How much money, in total would you say you have contributed to your church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship in the past year?"

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

Charitable Giving Extends to Secular Organizations

Americans age 50-plus are generous to non-religious organizations as well — seven in 10 (69%) have contributed money in the past 12 months to other charitable organizations.

- White Americans are most likely to have made such a contribution (70%); Hispanics are the least likely (42%). African-Americans fall somewhere between (58%).

As with religious contributions, when asked how much they have contributed to places besides their place of worship, many Americans prefer not to share that information with our interviewers (33%). Of those who did, they say have donated an average (median) of \$212 in the past year.

**Proportion of Americans Age 50-Plus Who Have Contributed to Charity
Other Than Place of Worship in Past 12 Months**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
(Unweighted base)						
Have contributed to charity besides place of worship in past 12 months	69	68	70	69	69	67
Have not	29	30	28	29	29	30
Don't know	1	2	1	1	1	2
Refused	1	1	1	1	2	2

	Total (1,005) %	Ethnicity			
		White (861) %	African American (252) %	Hispanic (246) %	Other (50)** %
(Unweighted base)					
Have contributed to charity besides place of worship in past 12 months	69	70	58	42	51
Have not	29	27	41	58	44
Don't know	1	1	1	*	5
Refused	1	1	*	-	-

Q30. "In the past 12 months have you contributed money to any other charitable organization or group, aside from your place of worship?"

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

Amount Contributed to Non-Religious Charities in Past 12 Months

Base: Americans age 50 and over who have made a contribution to a charitable organization (in addition to or instead of a place of worship) in the past 12 months.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>75+</u>
(Unweighted base)	(734)	(252)	(482)	(411)	(323)	(136)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under \$100	15	16	15	14	17	20
\$100 - \$299	22	21	23	22	22	18
\$300 - \$499	7	7	6	8	5	4
\$500 - \$999	9	12	6	12	4	4
\$1000 - \$1499	6	7	4	6	6	4
\$1500 or more	8	11	6	11	5	3
Don't know	19	15	23	15	25	27
Refused	14	11	17	13	16	20
Median	\$212	\$281	\$190	\$278	\$182	\$104

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
(Unweighted base)	(734)	(644)	(145)	(121)	(28)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Under \$100	15	16	31	35	15
\$100 - \$299	22	22	14	25	6
\$300 - \$499	7	6	6	2	17
\$500 - \$999	9	9	10	5	14
\$1000 - \$1499	6	6	3	6	10
\$1500 or more	8	8	2	9	15
Don't know	19	18	28	11	15
Refused	14	15	6	7	9
Median	\$212	\$212	\$105	\$96	\$457

Q31. "How much money, in total would you say you have given to organizations other than your place of worship in the past year?"

**Caution: small base

Part 2: Community Attachment

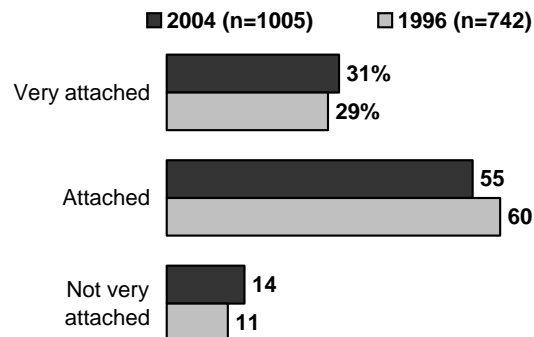
The Community Attachment Index

Feelings of attachment to one's community stem from a complex cocktail of factors — how long one has been in the area and lived in their present home, whether or not they wish to stay, desire to be involved (or more involved) in the community, relationships with neighbors, and so forth.

In order to summarize the extent to which the 50-plus feel attached to their communities — in all its ways — an index was created in the 1996 study called the Community Attachment Index. This index, much like the Social Involvement Index, allows us to track over time the waxing and waning of feelings of community attachment.

Looked at today, we see that feelings of community attachment, as with social involvement, have changed remarkably little in the past eight years: one in three (31%) is “very attached” (up only 2 points since 1996), slightly over half — 55% — are “attached” (down 5 points), and 14% are “not very attached” (up 3 points).

Community Attachment Index



The index was created by scoring responses to items culled from a number of questions in the survey instrument (questions 3, 7, 11, 13 and 16) as follows:

- We often hear people talking about some community, or about things going on in their communities. If I were to ask you about "your community," what community would come to mind? (Place, town, city, or community mention = 1 point)
- Would you like to be living in the same local community 5 years from now? ("Yes" = 1 point)
- In the past 3 months, have you had a conversation with any of your neighbors, either in person or on the telephone — beyond just saying hello? ("Yes" = 1 point)
- About how many neighbors do you know on a first-name basis? (6 to 9 = 1 point; 10 or more = 2 points)
- "I would like to be more involved in my local community" ("Sounds a lot like me" response = 1 point)
- "I feel I have little or nothing in common with the people in my local community" ("Does not sound like me at all" response = 1 point)

The Index has a theoretical range of 0 to 7. Respondents with a score of 6 or 7 are "very attached." — 31% of Americans age 50 or older. Those with a score of 3 to 5 are considered "attached" (55%). Finally, those scoring 0 to 2 on the index are categorized as "not very attached" (14%).

The mean Community Attachment Index score is 4.4.

The Demography of Community Attachment

The most “attached” Americans age 50-plus tend to be in good health (83% say they are in “good” or “excellent” health), relatively few are disabled (35%), and most are living with a spouse or partner (76%). About one in three (32%) have a college degree and they have a higher median income than less attached Americans age 50-plus (\$43,300 on average versus \$34,200 of the “not very attached”).

Community Attachment Index Profile

	Community Attachment Index Rating			
	Total	Very Attached	Attached	Not very attached
Unweighted base	(1,005)	(334)	(543)	(128)
	%	%	%	%
Male	45	41	46	52
Female	55	59	54	48
50 - 64 years old	57	55	56	66
65+ years old	43	44	44	35
75+ years old	18	21	17	20
Median age	62	63	62	59
Median household income	\$38	\$43.3K	\$36.2K	\$34.2K
Employed	41	37	40	43
Unemployed	13	13	12	21
Retired	45	51	45	36
<u>Health and well-being</u>				
Excellent	28	35	27	21
Good	48	48	49	42
Fair	18	14	18	25
Poor	6	2	6	12
Disabled	42	35	42	56
High school grad or less	59	53	60	70
Some college	14	12	15	12
College grad or more	24	32	22	15
Living with spouse/partner	71	76	71	61
Not living with spouse/partner	28	23	29	38
Married	81	87	80	74
Separated	7	8	6	9
Divorced	21	18	21	28
Widowed	16	14	16	17
1 Adult in HH	24	20	24	30
2+ Adults in HH	76	80	76	70
Kids in HH	11	7	13	12
White	87	87	87	84
Hispanic	5	2	7	3
African American	5	5	4	8

Whites (32%) are more likely than both African Americans (20%) and Hispanics (11%) to be “very attached”

Community Attachment Index by Key Demographics

	Sex		Age		
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>75+</u>
Unweighted base	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%
Very attached	28	33	30	32	34
Attached	56	55	54	57	50
Not very attached	16	12	16	11	15

	Employment Status		
	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>	<u>Retired</u>
Unweighted base	(423)	(115)	(465)
	%	%	%
Very attached	27	29	34
Attached	58	49	55
Not very attached	15	22	11

	Ethnicity			
	<u>White</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
Unweighted base	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%
Very attached	32	20	11	40
Attached	54	63	62	44
Not very attached	14	17	27	16

** Caution: small base

Other Measures

Americans age 50-plus seem generally satisfied with the extent to which they are engaged with their communities. Few (17%) say it “sounds a lot like me” that “I feel I have little or nothing in common with the people in my local community”

At the same time, most seem at ease with their current level of community involvement, as relatively few “would like to be more involved in my local community” (20% say it sounds “a lot like me”).

Feelings of Community Engagement
- % Say "Sounds a Lot Like Me" -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
Unweighted base	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
I would like to be more involved in my local community	20	25	16	16	25	23
I feel I have little or nothing in common with the people in my local community	17	20	15	17	17	13

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	Af-Am	Hisp.	Other
Unweighted base	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)*
	%	%	%	%	%
I would like to be more involved in my local community	20	20	17	21	15
I feel I have little or nothing in common with the people in my local community	17	15	25	28	24

Q16. "I'm going to read a list of statements. For each one, would you please tell me whether this sounds a lot, a little, or not at all like something you would say."

X. Community Characteristics

Community Is a Place – Not a State of Mind for the 50-plus

The 50-plus view the idea of community in very literal terms: asked to define their “community,” the vast majority of Americans age 50-plus mention some aspect of the place where they live. Formal organizations, such as a church or religious organization, and informal organizations, such as a group of friends or a sports community, are used far less often to define “community.”

How Americans Age 50-Plus Describe Their "Community" (by Sex and Age)

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
Place (town, city, community, etc.) (net)	55	56	55	55	55	58
City/town	43	45	41	43	43	45
Formal organization (church, religious organization, organization for older people, etc.) (net)	9	6	11	8	10	11
Informal organization (friends, schoolmates, recreational or sports communities, etc.) (net)	4	6	3	4	4	4
Church/religious	4	4	5	4	5	5
Rural	3	2	3	4	1	2
Small	3	2	3	3	2	2
Don't know	9	11	7	9	9	6
Refused	13	12	14	13	12	13

Q3. "We often hear people talking about some community, or about things going on in their communities. If I were to ask you about 'your community,' what community would come to mind?" [IF NECESSARY:] "Could you give me an example of a community you are a part of? Could you give me any other examples of communities you are a part of?"

How Americans Age 50-Plus Describe Their "Community" (by Ethnicity)

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Place (town, city, community, etc.) (net)	55	55	43	46	55
City/town	43	45	28	22	32
Formal organization (church, religious organization, organization for older people, etc.)	9	9	8	6	12
Informal organization (friends, schoolmates, recreational or sports communities, etc.) (net)	4	4	3	8	12
Church/religious	4	4	7	5	8
Rural	3	3	3	*	2
Small	3	2	1	*	6
Don't know	9	9	12	7	3
Refused	13	13	15	18	14

Q3. "We often hear people talking about some community, or about things going on in their communities. If I were to ask you about 'your community,' what community would come to mind?" [IF NECESSARY:]
 "Could you give me an example of a community you are a part of? Could you give me any other examples of communities you are a part of?"

**Caution: small base
 * Less than .5% mentions

XI. Aging in Place

Most Desire – and Plan – to Stay in Current Community

“Aging in place” has been a subject of growing concern as the demography of America becomes older and more and more boomers plan to retire. To what extent do Americans plan to stay where they are as they age — and what do they want to do?

The majority has been living in their current community for at least 20 years, if not their whole lives (61%). And they have no desire to leave.

Without question, Americans age 50-plus feel sufficiently attached to their communities to want to stay put for at least five years (83%).

- This is slightly less true of 50 to 64 year olds (79% compared to 88% of those 65-plus), but some of them may be planning to retire to a different community. Yet those who want to stay where they are still represent a solid majority, indicating social engagement and attachment with their communities.
- African-Americans are least likely to want to stay in their current communities (72% compared to 83% of whites and 86% of Hispanics).

**Whether or Not Would Like to Be Living In Same Community
5 Years From Now**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u> (348)	<u>Women</u> (657)	<u>50-64</u> (558)	<u>65+</u> (447)	<u>75+</u> (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Would like to be living in same local community 5 years from now	83	82	84	79	88	89
Would not	14	15	13	18	9	7
Don't know	3	3	3	3	3	5

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u> (861)	<u>African American</u> (252)	<u>Hispanic</u> (246)	<u>Other</u> (50)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
Would like to be living in same local community 5 years from now	83	83	72	86	77
Would not	14	14	23	12	18
Don't know	3	3	5	3	5

Q7. "Would you like to be living in the same local community 5 years from now?"

**Caution: small base

How Long the 50-Plus Have Lived In Their Communities

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u> (348)	<u>Women</u> (657)	<u>50-64</u> (558)	<u>65+</u> (447)	<u>75+</u> (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than one year	3	3	3	3	3	2
1-2 years	3	3	3	3	3	1
3-5 years	7	10	5	8	7	5
6-10 years	12	13	11	12	11	7
11-19 years	14	12	15	15	12	12
20+ years, but not all my life	46	45	47	44	49	55
All my life	15	13	16	15	16	18
Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refused	*	*	-	*	-	-

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u> (861)	<u>African American</u> (252)	<u>Hispanic</u> (246)	<u>Other</u> (50)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
Less than one year	3	4	2	3	2
1-2 years	3	3	8	9	5
3-5 years	7	6	6	13	18
6-10 years	12	12	11	13	8
11-19 years	14	13	12	15	19
20+ years, but not all my life	46	47	52	38	42
All my life	15	15	9	7	6
Don't know	-	-	-	2	-
Refused	*	*	-	-	-

Q5. *“Some of the questions I’d like to ask you will refer to your local community. For some people, this would mean the town or village in which they live, or it could be their neighborhood. For some people, it could be their subdivision or development. By local community I mean your area of the city, metro area, or county, just around where you live. How long have you lived in your local community?” (Q.5)*

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

Most Desire to Stay in Current Home

Not only do they want to stay in their communities, but most Americans age 50-plus agree they want to stay in their own home for “as long as possible” (84%).

- As with desire to stay in their community, 50 to 64 year olds are somewhat less likely to concur (78% compared to 93% of those 65-plus). It may be that the prospect of leaving one’s home seems a long way off for those who have not reached retirement age. Likewise, the idea of relocation during retirement may be a bit more idealized by those age 50 to 64.

Preference for Staying In Current Residence for "as Long as Possible"

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Strongly/somewhat agree</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>95</u>
Strongly agree	74	71	77	66	84	86
Somewhat agree	10	12	9	12	9	9
<u>Strongly/somewhat disagree</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
Somewhat disagree	8	8	7	10	4	3
Strongly disagree	8	9	6	12	2	1
Don't know	*	1	*	*	*	1
Refused	*	*	-	-	*	-

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Strongly/somewhat agree</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>82</u>
Strongly agree	74	75	64	72	71
Somewhat agree	10	10	15	14	11
<u>Strongly/somewhat disagree</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>17</u>
Somewhat disagree	8	8	10	6	11
Strongly disagree	8	8	11	5	5
Don't know	*	*	1	3	-
Refused	*	-	-	-	1

Q8. "Now I'd like to ask a question about your home. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'What I'd really like to do is stay in my current residence for as long as possible.'"

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

The 50-plus Feel “In Control” in Their Current Living Situation

Perhaps part of the reason the 50-plus show little inclination toward moving is because they feel they have control of their lives in their current situations. Indeed, majorities *strongly* agree with each of the following statements:

- I am able to take care of myself (88%),
- I am able to make choices about things that affect how I age (68%),
- I am able to meet all of my needs and some of my wants (67%),
- I will be able to cope with the challenges of my later years (62%), and
- I am able to adjust to changes that are related to aging (60%)

Though majorities of men strongly agree with these statements, women are especially likely to do so. However, African-Americans and, especially, Hispanics, are *less* likely to agree with these sentiments than are whites.

When it comes to finances, Americans show somewhat less confidence, though still half strongly agree that “I feel optimistic about my finances as I grow older (51%), and 79% somewhat or strongly agree. Men and whites are most likely to feel confidence on this measure.

Feelings of Control (by Sex and Age)
- % "Strongly Agree" -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
Unweighted base	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
I am able to take care of myself	88	87	89	88	89	88
I am able to make choices about things that affect how I age	68	59	76	66	71	67
I am able to meet all of my needs and some of my wants	67	63	71	65	70	66
I will be able to cope with the challenges of my later years	62	56	67	61	64	64
I am able to adjust to changes that are related to aging	60	55	64	58	64	64
I feel optimistic about my finances as I grow older	51	56	47	45	59	59

Q40. "Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements..."

Feelings of Control (by Ethnicity)
- % "Strongly Agree" -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u>	<u>Af-Am</u>	<u>Hisp.</u>	<u>Other</u>
Unweighted base	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)*
	%	%	%	%	%
I am able to take care of myself	88	90	83	72	88
I am able to make choices about things that affect how I age	68	69	68	48	50
I am able to meet all of my needs and some of my wants	67	69	52	36	58
I will be able to cope with the challenges of my later years	62	64	52	54	47
I am able to adjust to changes that are related to aging	60	60	58	60	59
I feel optimistic about my finances as I grow older	51	52	48	44	41

Q40. "Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements..."

Many Believe Their Houses Are Equipped to “Age in Place”

Americans age 50-plus resoundingly want to stay put as they age. Yet a serious issue for our aging population is whether or not their homes will accommodate their needs as they grow older.

Most Americans age 50-plus (88%) believe their homes are able to meet their physical needs as they grow older; half (51%) say their home will meet their physical needs “*very well*” as they grow older.

- This is particularly true of those age 65 and older (61% say their homes will meet their physical needs “*very well*”), presumably because they have outfitted their homes for such purposes by the time they reach this age or have simply adjusted to navigating their homes as they are. As a point of comparison, only 43% of those age 50 to 64 make the same claim.
- Hispanics are relatively unlikely to say their homes will meet their needs “*very well*” as they grow older (32% compared to 51% of whites). This is presumably due to the fact that they are more likely to live in apartments that they do not own.

Extent to Which Americans Age 50-Plus Feel Their Homes Will Meet Their Physical Needs as They Grow Older

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Very/somewhat well</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>98</u>
Very well	51	57	46	43	61	68
Somewhat well	37	33	40	40	33	30
<u>Not too/not well at all</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
Not too well	8	6	9	11	4	2
Not well at all	4	3	4	5	1	-
Don't know	1	*	1	*	1	*

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Very/somewhat well</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>88</u>
Very well	51	51	44	32	61
Somewhat well	37	38	35	32	27
<u>Not too/not well at all</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>12</u>
Not too well	8	7	12	23	10
Not well at all	4	3	8	11	2
Don't know	1	1	2	3	*

Q46. "Considering the items we just covered, how well do you think your home is able to meet your physical needs as you grow older?"

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

Houses Could be Better Prepared for “Aging in Place”

Though many Americans feel their homes are adequately outfitted for aging in place, fewer than half say their homes have the following:

- Doorways that are wider than standard for accessibility (37%)
- An entrance without steps (34%)
- Bathroom aids, such as grab bars or a stool for bathing (33%; though nearly half of those 75-plus — the people most in need of such aids — do, 47%)
- Door handles that are levers instead of knobs (24%)

However, most homes do have the following features needed for successful aging in place:

- A driveway or parking space immediately outside the home (94%)
- A full bath on the main level (85%)
- A bedroom on the main level (81%, most commonly among those age 65-plus, 86%)
- An attached garage or covered parking (63%)
- Non-slip floor surfaces (60%)
- A half bath on the main level (56%)

**Prevalence of Home Features Desirable for Aging in Place
(by Sex and Age)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

(Unweighted base)	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
A driveway or parking space immediately outside the home	94	95	93	92	95	97
A full bath on the main level	85	86	84	82	88	88
A bedroom on the main level	81	81	81	77	86	87
An attached garage or covered parking	63	61	65	61	67	65
Non-slip floor surfaces	60	55	63	55	66	68
A half bath on the main level	56	57	56	55	58	50
A public sidewalk immediately outside the home	46	48	45	43	50	45
Doorways that are wider than standard for accessibility	37	36	39	34	42	42
An entrance without steps	34	35	34	32	38	37
Bathroom aids, such as grab bars/stool for bathing	33	28	37	27	41	47
Door handles that are levers instead of knobs	24	29	20	22	26	27

Q45. "Does your current home have..."

**Prevalence of Home Features Desirable for Aging in Place
(by Ethnicity)**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u> (1,005) %	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u> (861) %	<u>African American</u> (252) %	<u>Hispanic</u> (246) %	<u>Other</u> (50)** %
(Unweighted base)					
A driveway or parking space immediately outside the home	94	95	84	77	89
A full bath on the main level	85	85	83	82	84
A bedroom on the main level	81	82	79	84	79
An attached garage or covered parking	63	65	41	47	54
Non-slip floor surfaces	60	59	62	37	61
A half bath on the main level	56	57	55	52	52
A public sidewalk immediately outside the home	46	46	59	67	49
Doorways that are wider than standard for accessibility	37	36	37	36	36
An entrance without steps	34	34	40	38	25
Bathroom aids, such as grab bars/stool for bathing	33	33	34	27	26
Door handles that are levers instead of knobs	24	24	35	27	26

Q45. "Does your current home have..."

**Caution: small base

XII. What Makes an Attractive Community?

Proximity of Family, Quality of Life, Cost of Living, and Jobs Are Leading Attractions of Communities for the 50-plus

People select a community in which to live for a variety of reasons. No consensus emerges among the 50-plus, but at least one in 10 say:

- Other family lives near here (16% — especially important to women, 21%, and those age 65-plus, 19%)
- Better quality of life (14%)
- Affordable housing and low taxes (13%)
- Relocated for employment (11%), and
- Safety of the community (10%)

More than one in 10 African-Americans also say they selected their community on the basis of their house or home (18%), because it is a friendly neighborhood (15%), because it is easy to get around (12%), and because it is a good school district (12%).

Primary Reasons Selected Community to Settle In (by Sex and Age)

Base: Americans age 50 and over who have not lived in current community all their lives. Most common responses.

	Total (871)	Sex		Age		
		Men (312)	Women (559)	50-64 (484)	65+ (387)	75+ (168)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Other family lives near here	16	11	21	14	19	20
Better quality of life	14	13	15	15	13	15
Affordable housing, low taxes	13	15	11	13	13	10
I relocated for my job	11	11	11	11	11	10
It's a safe community	10	11	9	12	7	7
I chose on the basis of my home/house	9	11	8	9	9	14
Good school district	9	8	9	11	6	8
I/my spouse was born/grew up here	8	7	9	7	8	7
Friendly neighborhood	8	10	6	8	8	13
Close to services, shops	7	5	8	7	6	4
Friends live near here	6	7	5	6	6	6
Layout/design of community in general	6	7	6	6	7	8
Good place to raise kids	5	5	4	6	3	4
It's easy to get around community	4	6	3	4	4	6
Amenities for people my age	4	5	3	4	5	6
Easy commute to work	4	4	4	6	3	1
Rural/not too populated	4	3	5	5	3	1
Don't know	1	1	*	*	1	*
Refused	2	2	2	2	2	*

Q6. "What are the reasons you first selected this community?"

* Less than .5% mentions

Primary Reasons Selected Community to Settle In (by Ethnicity)

Base: Americans age 50 and over who have not lived in current community all their lives. Most common responses.

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(871)	(744)	(228)	(231)	(47)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Other family lives near here	16	17	14	12	11
Better quality of life	14	14	12	15	19
Affordable housing, low taxes	13	11	15	15	16
I relocated for my job	11	12	6	10	11
It's a safe community	10	9	14	15	8
I chose on the basis of my home/house	9	10	18	9	3
Good school district	9	9	12	7	8
I/my spouse was born/grew up here	8	8	8	3	2
Friendly neighborhood	8	7	15	9	5
Close to services, shops	7	7	8	7	9
Friends live near here	6	5	5	7	19
Layout/design of community in general	6	6	8	7	12
Good place to raise kids	5	4	6	8	4
It's easy to get around community	4	4	12	6	4
Amenities for people my age	4	4	4	5	6
Easy commute to work	4	4	8	8	6
Rural/not too populated	4	5	-	2	1
Don't know	1	1	1	5	1
Refused	2	1	2	5	-

Q6. "What are the reasons you first selected this community?"

**Caution: small base

Few Prefer “50-plus” Communities

Many Americans 50-plus are living in retirement communities — whether naturally occurring or intentional. Do they want to be living mostly with people their age?

Actually, no. Most say they have either no preference regarding the age mix in their community (48%) or prefer it contain “all different age groups” (37%). This is generally true across age ranges — only 12% of those age 65 and older, for example, would prefer to live in a community where most people are their own age.

- Nearly one in four (22%) 50-plus Hispanics would prefer to live in a community surrounded mostly by people of their own age. Still, the majority has no preference or prefers a mix of ages (71%).
- African Americans and Hispanics are more likely than whites to want to live near people their age (17% and 22%, respectively, versus 10% of whites).

Preferred Age of Community Residents

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
No preference	48	54	43	48	47	46
All different age groups	37	30	44	38	36	31
Same age	10	9	11	9	12	15
Younger	3	5	1	3	3	5
Older	1	2	1	1	2	3
Don't know	*	*	*	*	*	*

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
No preference	48	46	51	55	66
All different age groups	37	39	28	16	24
Same age	10	10	17	22	4
Younger	3	3	1	2	1
Older	1	1	3	2	5
Don't know	*	*	*	3	-

Q47. "Do you prefer to live in a community where people are mostly about the same age as you, generally older than you, generally younger than you, all different ages, or do you have no preference?" (Q.47)

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)

Nearly one in four Americans age 50-plus (37%) report living in a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) — communities in which the majority of its residents are age 50 or older and have lived there for many years, though the community is not age-restricted.

- Virtually all (98%) Hispanics 50-plus report living in a NORC, whereas 36% of whites and 43% of African-Americans describe their community as a NORC. With the exception of ethnicity, however, residents of NORCs are demographically similar to Americans age 50-plus who do not live in such a community.

Americans age 50-plus who say they live in a NORC score especially high on the Community Attachment Index, indicating NORCs are desirable places to live for their residents.

Proportion of Americans Age 50-Plus Living in Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
NORC (net)	37	37	38	39	35	40
The majority of my neighbors over 50 have lived here for many years	68	67	69	68	68	72
A majority of my neighbors are age 50 and older	54	55	52	52	56	62
I live in an age-restricted community	10	12	8	6	16	17
Not NORC	63	63	62	61	65	60

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
NORC (net)	37	36	43	98	51
The majority of my neighbors over 50 have lived here for many years	68	68	79	98	62
A majority of my neighbors are age 50 and older	54	51	60	100	68
I live in an age-restricted community	10	9	15	2	4
Not NORC	63	64	57	2	49

Q43. "Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your local community."

**Caution: small base

XIII. Satisfaction With Current Community

Community Report Card

Many Americans age 50-plus say they choose their communities based on affordable housing, jobs, and safety.

Asked to “grade” their communities — as in school, assigning grades from “A” (excellent) to “F” (failure) — Americans 50-plus give their communities high marks when it comes to “having safe neighborhoods” (B+, on average) but not for offering affordable housing (C+) or “having good job opportunities” (C). Despite the fact that their communities have perhaps disappointed them somewhat on the things most important to them, Americans 50-plus want to stay where they are for the foreseeable future.

Communities earn their highest marks for the following:

- Having places to worship (A-)
- Having safe neighborhoods (B+)
- Providing well-run parks, community centers, and recreation centers (B)
- Having or offering opportunities for volunteering (B)
- Having well-designed streets (B)
- Having accessible public buildings and facilities (B)

Lowest average grades are given to:

- Having entertainment, such as theaters and concerts (C)
- Having walking or bike trails within a half mile of my home (C)
- Offering dependable public transportation (C)
- Having good job opportunities (C)

Community Report Card (by Sex and Age)
- Mean Grade Assigned ("A," "B," "C," "D," or "F") -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005)	Sex		Age		
		Men (348)	Women (657)	50-64 (558)	65+ (447)	75+ (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Having places to worship	A-	B+	A-	A-	A-	A-
Having safe neighborhoods	B+	B+	B	B+	B+	B
Providing well-run parks, community centers, and recreation centers	B	B	B	B	B	B
Having or offering opportunities for volunteering	B	B	B	B	B	B
Having well-designed and maintained streets	B	B	B	B	B	B
Having accessible public buildings and facilities	B	B-	B	B-	B	B-
Having affordable shopping	B-	B	B-	B-	B	B
Having convenient places for public events and meetings	B-	B-	B	B-	B	B
Having a place where older people socialize	B-	B-	B	B-	B	B
Having a hospital in the community	B-	B-	B-	C+	B	B
Providing a wide variety of services to help maintain independence as I grow older	B-	B-	C+	C+	B-	B-
Offering transportation alternatives for people with disabilities or health problems	B-	C+	B-	C+	B-	B-
Having an outdoor maintenance service	C+	C+	C+	C+	B-	C+
Having an adequate supply of affordable housing	C+	C+	C+	C+	C+	B-

Continues...

Q42. "For each of the following characteristics, please grade your local community as an A, B, C, D or F, where A is excellent and F is failure. First..."

Community Report Card (by Sex and Age) Cont'd.
- Mean Grade Assigned ("A," "B," "C," "D," or "F") -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005) %	Sex		Age		
		Men (348) %	Women (657) %	50-64 (558) %	65+ (447) %	75+ (197) %
Having a grocery store within a half mile from home	C+	C+	C+	C+	C+	C+
Having sidewalks going to where I want to go	C+	C+	C+	C+	C+	C+
Having a variety of housing options for persons with different physical abilities	C+	C+	C+	C+	C+	C
Connecting older and younger people in the community	C+	C+	C+	C	C+	C+
Having a health-monitoring service	C+	C	C+	C	B-	C+
Having a drug store within a half mile from home	C+	C	C+	C	C+	B-
Having entertainment, such as theaters and concerts	C	C+	C	C	C+	C
Having walking or bike trails within a half mile of my home	C	C	C	C	C+	C+
Offering dependable public transportation	C	C	C	C	C	C
Having good job opportunities	C	C	C-	C	C	C

Q42. "For each of the following characteristics, please grade your local community as an A, B, C, D or F, where A is excellent and F is failure. First..."

Community Report Card (by Ethnicity)
- Mean Grade Assigned ("A," "B," "C," "D," or "F") -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total (1,005)	Ethnicity			
		White (861)	African American (252)	Hispanic (246)	Other (50)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
Having places to worship	A-	A-	B+	B	B+
Having safe neighborhoods	B+	B+	B-	B	B
Providing well-run parks, community centers, and recreation centers	B	B	B-	B	B-
Having well-designed and maintained streets	B	B	B-	B	B
Having accessible public buildings and facilities	B	B	C+	B-	B
Having or offering opportunities for volunteering	B	B	C+	C+	B
Having affordable shopping	B-	B	B-	B	B-
Having convenient places for public events and meetings	B-	B	B-	C+	C+
Having a hospital in the community	B-	B-	B-	B	B
Having a place where older people socialize	B-	B-	B-	B-	B
Providing a wide variety of services to help maintain independence as I grow older	B-	B-	C+	B-	C+
Offering transportation alternatives for people with disabilities or health problems	B-	C+	B-	B	C+
Having a grocery store within a half mile from home	C+	C+	B	B	C+
Having a drug store within a half mile from home	C+	C+	B	B	C+
Having sidewalks going to where I want to go	C+	C+	B-	B	C+
Having an adequate supply of affordable housing	C+	C+	C+	C+	C+
Having an outdoor maintenance service	C+	C+	C	B-	C+
Having a health-monitoring service	C+	C+	C	B-	C

Continues...

Q42. "For each of the following characteristics, please grade your local community as an A, B, C, D or F, where A is excellent and F is failure. First..." (Q.42)

**Caution: small base

Community Report Card (by Ethnicity) Cont'd.
- Mean Grade Assigned ("A," "B," "C," "D," or "F") -

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Having a variety of housing options for persons with different physical abilities	C+	C+	C	C+	C+
Connecting older and younger people in the community	C+	C+	C	C+	C
Offering dependable public transportation	C	C	B-	B	C-
Having walking or bike trails within a half mile of my home	C	C	C	C+	C
Having entertainment, such as theaters and concerts	C	C	C	C	C
Having good job opportunities	C	C	C	C	C

Q42. "For each of the following characteristics, please grade your local community as an A, B, C, D or F, where A is excellent and F is failure. First..." (Q.42)

**Caution: small base

XIV. Getting Around

Driving

Most Americans 50-plus have driven a car in the past month. Even the majority of those age 75 and older — 87% — say they have driven a car in the last 30 days.

- Whites are more significantly more likely than either African-Americans or Hispanics to driven a car in the past month (91% versus 69% and 70%, respectively).

Whether or Not Have Driven a Car/Vehicle in Past Month

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
		%	%	%	%	%
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
Have driven car/vehicle in past month	89	91	88	92	85	87
Have not	11	9	12	8	15	13

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
		%	%	%	%
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
Have driven car/vehicle in past month	89	91	69	70	70
Have not	11	9	31	30	30

Q35. "Have you driven a car or other motor vehicle in the last month?"

**Caution: small base

Even Without a Car, Public Transportation Is Not the Preferred Option

Asked how they would get around if they didn't have access to a car, few say they would turn to public transportation (only 12%), clearly preferring instead to getting a ride with family or friends (64% — especially women, 69% and the aged 75-plus, 75%).

This general disinclination to use public transportation may be due to the simple fact that most of the 50-plus say no such option exists within a 10-minute walk from their homes (60%).

- African-Americans and Hispanics are also unlikely to say they would rely on public transportation if a car were not available to them (25% and 32%, respectively), even though the majority of them (67% and 73%) say such transportation is within a 10-minute walk from their homes.

Transportation Would Use If Didn't Have Access to a Car

Base: Americans age 50 and over who have driven a motor vehicle in the past month. Most common responses.

	Total (899)	Sex		Age		
		Men (322)	Women (577)	50-64 (520)	65+ (379)	75+ (165)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Get a ride with family or friends	64	58	69	61	68	75
Take public transportation	12	15	9	13	11	5
Walk	9	12	8	11	7	3
Take a senior or community van	5	4	6	4	7	7
Take a taxi	3	3	2	3	2	2
Take transportation provided to person with disabilities	3	3	2	4	1	2
None	*	*	-	*	-	-
Don't know	3	3	3	3	4	5

	Total (899)	Ethnicity			
		White (783)	African American (172)	Hispanic (168)	Other (40)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
Get a ride with family or friends	64	65	49	30	46
Take public transportation	12	11	25	32	25
Walk	9	10	7	6	13
Take a senior or community van	5	5	8	7	4
Take a taxi	3	3	4	10	-
Take transportation provided to person with disabilities	3	3	5	11	1
None	*	*	-	-	-
Don't know	3	3	2	4	10

Q36. "If for some reason you could no longer drive, which one of the following alternatives would you most likely use?"

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

**Proportion Who Have Public Transportation Within
10-Minute Walk From Home**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u> (348)	<u>Women</u> (657)	<u>50-64</u> (558)	<u>65+</u> (447)	<u>75+</u> (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
There is public transportation within a 10-minute walk from my home	39	41	37	37	42	40
There is not	60	59	61	62	57	59
Don't know	1	*	2	1	1	1

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u> (861)	<u>African American</u> (252)	<u>Hispanic</u> (246)	<u>Other</u> (50)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
There is public transportation within a 10-minute walk from my home	39	36	67	73	40
There is not	60	62	33	26	60
Don't know	1	1	-	1	*

Q37. "Is there public transportation within a 10-minute walk of your home?"

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

Lack of Transportation

Relatively few Americans age 50-plus are unable to engage in desired activities “frequently” or “occasionally” because they lack transportation (12%), even those age 75-plus (15%).

- It should be noted, however, that a large number of African-Americans (31%) and, to a lesser degree, Hispanics (22%) say they miss doing something they want to do at least occasionally because they do not have the transportation needed to there.

**Frequency Americans Age 50-Plus Are Unable to Do Something
Due to Lack of Transportation**

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	Total	Sex		Age		
		Men	Women	50-64	65+	75+
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Frequently/occasionally	12	12	12	10	15	15
Frequently	5	5	6	5	6	4
Occasionally	7	7	7	5	9	11
Rarely/Never	87	88	87	89	85	84
Rarely	14	15	13	13	16	18
Never	73	73	73	77	69	66
Don't know	1	-	1	*	1	1

	Total	Ethnicity			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Frequently/occasionally	12	11	31	22	17
Frequently	5	4	17	12	8
Occasionally	7	6	14	10	9
Rarely/Never	87	89	66	74	83
Rarely	14	15	16	19	10
Never	73	74	49	55	73
Don't know	1	1	3	4	-

Q38. "How often do you miss doing something that you would like to do because you do not have transportation? Would you say frequently, occasionally, rarely, or never?"

**Caution: small base
* Less than .5% mentions

XV. Locale of Community and Home

The 50-plus Can Be Found in the Country, the Suburbs, and the City

Asked specifically to describe the place where they live, Americans age 50-plus, like younger Americans, are fairly spread out — they live in “small towns” (26%), suburbia (23%; inner suburbs are 10%, outer suburbs are 13%), urban areas (19%) as well as “out in the country” (19%) and a rural village (12%).

- Hispanics are most likely to say they live in an urban area (50%). Many also live in a small town (29%).
- African-Americans are also especially likely to live in the city (36%). Over half (56%) live in the city or in an inner suburb.

Type of Location Where Americans Age 50-Plus Live

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>75+</u>
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(348)	(657)	(558)	(447)	(197)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Small town	26	26	26	26	26	22
Urban	19	20	18	18	20	23
Out in the country	19	20	17	20	17	21
Outer suburb	13	12	14	12	14	13
Rural village	12	9	14	13	10	8
Inner suburb	10	12	9	9	12	13
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u>	<u>African American</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>
(Unweighted base)	(1,005)	(861)	(252)	(246)	(50)**
	%	%	%	%	%
Small town	26	27	19	29	29
Urban	19	17	36	50	31
Out in the country	19	19	8	4	12
Outer suburb	13	13	9	5	5
Rural village	12	12	5	5	16
Inner suburb	10	10	20	5	7
Don't know	1	1	3	3	-

Q4. "Would you describe the area where you live as..."

**Caution: small base

Most of the 50-plus Live in a Single Family Home, and They Are Likely to Own It

The aging American population does not seem to be migrating *en masse* to assisted living centers. In fact, the 50-plus are far and away most likely to live in a single family home (81%). One in 10 (10%) live in an apartment or condominium.

- Most likely to live in a single family home are those 50 to 64 years old (85%).
- Reflecting the fact that they are likely to live in an urban environment, African-Americans and Hispanics are somewhat less likely than whites to live in a single family home (66% and 63%, respectively) and more likely to live in an apartment or condominium (18% and 25%).

Most Americans age 50-plus also own their home (87%). This is true irrespective of sex and age.

- African-Americans and Hispanics, however, are less likely to own their home (68% and 60%, respectively) than are whites (89%).

Type of Dwelling

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u> (348)	<u>Women</u> (657)	<u>50-64</u> (558)	<u>65+</u> (447)	<u>75+</u> (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Single family home	81	83	80	85	77	77
Apartment or condominium	10	10	10	9	11	12
Mobile home or trailer	5	5	6	4	8	7
Duplex or townhouse	3	2	3	2	3	3
Some other type of structure	3	2	3	2	4	6
Retirement home	*	*	1	-	1	2
Dormitory	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	*	-	*	*	*	*

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u> (861)	<u>African American</u> (252)	<u>Hispanic</u> (246)	<u>Other</u> (50)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
Single family home	81	84	66	63	63
Apartment or condominium	10	8	18	25	24
Mobile home or trailer	5	5	3	4	9
Duplex or townhouse	3	2	11	7	4
Some other type of structure	3	2	6	1	1
Retirement home	*	*	1	*	-
Dormitory	-	-	-	*	-
Other	*	*	-	*	-

Q10. "And what kind of place are you living in — is it a..."

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

Prevalence of Home Ownership Among the 50-Plus

Base: Americans age 50 and over.

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Sex</u>		<u>Age</u>		
		<u>Men</u> (348)	<u>Women</u> (657)	<u>50-64</u> (558)	<u>65+</u> (447)	<u>75+</u> (197)
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Own	87	88	86	85	89	87
Rent	12	12	12	13	10	11
Home belongs to family member	1	1	1	1	1	1
Retirement home	*	-	*	-	1	1
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	*	-	*	*	*	*

	<u>Total</u> (1,005)	<u>Ethnicity</u>			
		<u>White</u> (861)	<u>African American</u> (252)	<u>Hispanic</u> (246)	<u>Other</u> (50)**
(Unweighted base)	%	%	%	%	%
Own	87	89	68	60	75
Rent	12	9	29	36	25
Home belongs to family member	1	1	2	3	-
Retirement home	*	-	-	*	-
Other	-	-	1	-	-
Don't know	*	*	*	1	-

Q9. "Now I have some questions about your home and neighborhood. Do you own your own home, or are you renting?"

**Caution: small base

* Less than .5% mentions

Appendix A: Method

This section provides an overview of the research and sampling methods used for the study.

A. Questionnaire Design

The questionnaire builds upon the 1996 AARP Civic Involvement study and includes many of the questions from the earlier study. New questions were added to add new insights into livable communities and how they foster social involvement and community attachment.

B. Field Method

The survey was conducted by telephone, between June 3, 2004, and July 11, 2004, using Roper's CATI (computer-assisted telephone interviewing) system.

Interviews were conducted by NOP's telephone interviewers, in centralized telephone facilities. All interviewers assigned to the study received special study-specific training for this assignment and were monitored throughout the interviewing period.

Interviews for the Hispanic oversample were conducted at bi-lingual phone centers where respondents could answer the survey in either Spanish or English.

C. Sample Design

The survey was conducted among a nationally representative sample of 1,005 people, 50 years of age or older.

Hispanic and African American oversamples were also included to yield a total, when combined with those from the general sample, of 252 African American and 246 Hispanic interviews.

Sampling Households

Random-digit-dialing (RDD) procedures were used to select a nationally representative sample (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) of households who were screened to identify people age 50 and over.

Oversamples of African Americans and Hispanics

Targeted-RDD sampling procedures were used to decrease the number of households that needed to be screened to locate eligible African American and Hispanic respondents for the oversample interviews. A targeted sampling methodology was used to stratify phone numbers by the density of African Americans and Hispanics in the area where the phone numbers were located. Phone numbers were disproportionately sampled, selecting larger samples of those in high-density areas and smaller samples from those with low density. Post-survey weighting, described below, was used to correct for this disproportionate sampling so that the final weighted data reflect the actual incidences of the African American and Hispanic populations.

For both the African-American and Hispanic oversamples, the sampling frame excluded areas with household incidences of the target population of 5% or less. The remaining sampling frame covered 90% of target population.

Margin of Sampling Error

The sampling error for the general population is +/- 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For the African-American and Hispanic oversamples, the margin of error is +/- 6 points at the 95% confidence level.

D. Weighting

Weighting targets were applied to the data to ensure that the sample reflects census projections for adults age 50 or older by age within sex and region criteria. Separate weighting targets were applied to the African American and Hispanic oversamples to ensure that the samples reflect census estimates for these populations by age within sex and region.

Appendix B: Sample Demography

Sample Demography			
	Total N (un-weighted)	Un-weighted %	Weighted %
<u>Age</u>			
50-64	558	56	57
65-74	250	25	24
75+	197	20	18
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	348	35	45
Female	657	65	55
<u>Employment</u>			
Employed	423	42	41
Unemployed	115	11	13
Retired	465	46	45
Disabled	377	38	42
<u>Education</u>			
High school grad or less	358	36	59
Trade/technical/vocational training	39	4	2
Some college	241	24	14
College grad or more	365	36	24
<u>Living arrangement</u>			
With spouse or partner	611	61	71
Not living with spouse or partner	385	38	28
<u>Marital Status</u>			
Married	781	78	81
Separated	76	8	7
Divorced	228	23	21
Widowed	202	20	16
<u>Adults in Household</u>			
One	336	33	24
Two or more	664	66	76

Continues...

Sample Demography (Cont'd.)

	Total N (unweighted)	Unweighted %	Weighted %
<u>Children Under 18 in Household</u>			
Yes	108	11	11
No	896	89	89
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>			
White (non-Hispanic)	861	86	84
African American (non-Hispanic)	49	5	5
Hispanic	41	4	5
Other	50	5	6
<u>Household Income</u>			
Under \$20K	176	18	19
\$20K- under \$50K	317	32	35
\$50K or more	322	32	28

Appendix C: Survey Instrument

POSTED SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE¹

Notes: All percentages are based on total respondents from the general population (n=1005) unless otherwise noted.

* = Less than 0.5%

INTRO

HELLO, My name is _____ and I'm calling from the Roper Poll. We are conducting a survey on a number of topics and would like to include the views of someone in your household.

AS NECESSARY:

- Your answers to this survey are completely confidential.
- We are a research company and we don't sell anything. No one will ever try to sell you something as a result of this survey.
- The survey should take about 25 minutes.

S1 Our study requires that I speak to one particular person in your household. To know who that person is, I need to know how many people in your household are between the ages of 18 and 49?

_____ RANGE (0-10)
0 _____ DON'T KNOW/REFUSED...97 (THANK AND TERMINATE)

S2 And how many are 50 years of age or older?

0 _____(RANGE 0-10) (IF ONE GO TO S3A. IF MORE THAN ONE GO TO S3B)
1 None.....0 (THANK AND TERMINATE)
2 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED97 (THANK AND TERMINATE)

S3A (IF ONE PERSON 50 OR OLDER IN S2) May I speak with that person?

- 0 YES, RESPONDENT IS THAT PERSON ..1 (CONTINUE)
- 1 YES, NEW PERSON ON LINE 2.....(REPEAT INTRODUCTION)
- 2 NO, NOT AVAILABLE 3.....(SCHEDULE QUALIFIED CALLBACK)
- 3 NO, REFUSED 4.....(THANK AND TERMINATE)

S3B (IF MORE THAN ONE PERSON 50 OR OLDER IN S2. CATI TO RANDOMLY ASK 1 OR 2]

- a. May I speak with a man age 50 or older who is at home now? (IF NO MAN, ASK TO SPEAK WITH A WOMAN 50 OR OLDER)
- b. May I speak with a woman age 50 or older who is at home now? (IF NO WOMAN, ASK TO SPEAK WITH A MAN 50 OR OLDER)

- 0 YES, RESPONDENT IS THAT PERSON ..1 (CONTINUE)
- 1 YES, NEW PERSON ON LINE 2.....(REPEAT INTRODUCTION)
- 2 NO, NOT AVAILABLE 3.....(SCHEDULE QUALIFIED CALLBACK)
- 3 NO, REFUSED 4.....(THANK AND TERMINATE)

S3C May I please speak with the person in your household who is 50 years of age or older?

- YES, RESPONDENT IS THAT PERSON1 (CONTINUE)
- YES, NEW PERSON ON LINE 2.....(REPEAT INTRODUCTION)
- NO, NOT AVAILABLE 3.....(SCHEDULE QUALIFIED CALLBACK)
- NO, REFUSED 4.....(THANK AND TERMINATE)

- S4 CONFIRM: Are you 50 years of age or older?
- 0 YES1 (CONTINUE)
 - 1 NO.....2 (GO BACK TO S3B IF MORE THAN 1 OVER 50; GO TO S3C IF ONE OVER 50).....
 - 2 REFUSED.....3 (THANK & TERMINATE)

NOTE: ETHNICITY QUESTIONS WILL BE MOVED UP FRONT FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC OVERSAMPLES

1. We are interested in learning how Americans are spending their time these days. I am going to read a list of types of activities that people get involved in, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you feel that you are very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that activity these days. (First,) how about _____? These days, are you very involved, somewhat involved, or not really involved in that? [IF NECESSARY: "By involvement we mean how much time you spend on something, compared to other people"]

	VERY INVOLVED	SOMEWHAT INVOLVED	NOT REALLY INVOLVED	DONT KNOW, NOT SURE
[ROTATE]	%	%	%	%
a. Making a living and earning money?	36	12	52	*
b. Keeping up your home or taking care of family who live with you?	73	16	11	*
c. Activities with children or teens who don't live with you?	29	30	42	*
d. Furthering your education?	8	16	75	*
e. Entertaining and visiting friends, or going out with friends just for fun?	26	49	25	*
f. Religious or spiritual activities, including time spent with religious organizations?	37	32	31	*
g. Political activities related to the political parties, candidates, or election campaigns?	8	27	65	*
h. Working on local issues and neighborhood problems?	8	30	62	*
i. Working on public issues or problems at the state or national level?	4	18	78	-
j. Volunteer work and charity work for which you are not paid?	21	33	46	*

k. Sports, athletics, and fitness activities that you do by yourself or just with members of your household?	19	36	45	*
l. Sports, athletics, and fitness activities that you do with other people? [IF NECESSARY: "With people not in your household."]	11	21	67	*
m. Hobbies or leisure-time pursuits you do by yourself or just with members of your household?	41	44	15	*
n. Hobbies or leisure-time pursuits that you do with other people? [IF NECESSARY: "With people not in your household."]	17	40	42	*

2. Finally, is there anything else you're involved in these days that you do with other people? [IF NECESSARY: "With people not in your household."]

- 1 YES [SPECIFY:] 22%
- 2 NO 77
- 3 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE 1

3. We often hear people talking about some community, or about things going on in their communities. If I were to ask you about "your community," what community would come to mind? [IF NECESSARY: Could you give me an example of a community you are a part of? Could you give me any other examples of communities you are a part of?]

DO NOT READ LIST

0	Place	55%
	Town/city	43
	Community (neighborhood, retirement community) ..	7
	State	1
1	Formal organization	9%
	Church/religious organization	5
	Health care organization	1
	Community organization	2
2	Informal organization	4%
	Friends/neighbors	2
	Family	1
	
3	Other (SPECIFY)	10%
4	None	*
	DON'T KNOW	9%
	REFUSED	13%

Community: Definition and Ties

4. Would you describe the area where you live as...
- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | an urban area (like in a city) | 19% |
| 2 | a suburban area | 23 |
| | inner suburb | 10 |
| | outer suburb | 13 |
| 3 | a small town, | 26 |
| 4 | a rural village, | 12 |
| 5 | or out in the country? | 19 |
| | DON'T KNOW, CAN'T SAY | 1 |

5. Some of the questions I'd like to ask you will refer to your local community. For some people, this would mean the town or village in which they live, or it could be their neighborhood. For some people, it could be their subdivision or development. By local community I mean your area of the city, metro area, or county, just around where you live.

How long have you lived in your local community?

[READ ONLY IF NECESSARY]

1	LESS THAN ONE YEAR	3%
2	ONE TO TWO YEARS.....	3
3	THREE TO FIVE YEARS	7
4	SIX TO TEN YEARS	12
5	ELEVEN TO NINETEEN YEARS.....	14
6	TWENTY YEARS OR MORE, BUT NOT ALL MY LIFE	46
7	ALL MY LIFE	15
8	NOT SURE/REFUSED	*

IF "ALL MY LIFE" GO TO Q7

6. What are the reasons you first selected this community?

Among those who have not lived in community all their life (n=871)

1	Affordable (Housing, low taxes).....	13%
2	Good school district	9
3	Better quality of life	14
4	Other family lives near here.....	16
5	Friends live near here.....	6
6	I relocated for my job.....	11
7	It's a safe community.....	10
8	Close to services, shops	7
9	Amenities for people my age	4
10	I chose on the basis of my home/house	9
11	It's easy to get around this community	4
12	Availability of public transportation.....	1
13	Easy commute to work.....	4
14	Good place to raise kids.....	5
15	Friendly neighborhood.....	8
16	Layout/Design of community in general	6
17	Other (SPECIFY).....	28
Y	Don't Know/Refused	3

7. Would you like to be living in the same local community 5 years from now?

- 1 YES 83%
- 2 NO..... 14
- 3 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE.....3

8. Now I'd like to ask a question about your home. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: "What I'd really like to do is stay in my current residence for as long as possible"

- 4 Strongly agree 74%
- 3 Somewhat agree10
- 2 Somewhat disagree8
- 1 Strongly disagree8
- Y Don't know*
- Refused*

Neighbors and Kin, Tenure and type of dwelling

9. Now I have some questions about your home and neighborhood. Do you own your own home, or are you renting?

- 1 OWNS [DWELLING IS OWNER-OCCUPIED] 87%
- 2 RENTS 12
- 3 OTHER [SPECIFY:] 1
- 4 DK/NA *

10. And what kind of place are you living in--is it a...

- 1 single family home,..... 81%
- 2 a duplex or townhouse,3
- 3 an apartment or condominium10
- 4 a mobile home or trailer,.....5
- 5 a dormitory,..... -
- 6 or some other type of structure? [SPECIFY:].....3
- 7 DK/NA

11. In the past 3 months, have you had a conversation with any of your neighbors, either in person or on the telephone--beyond just saying hello? [DEFINITION IF NECESSARY: "Neighbors are people who live within a short walk or a short drive of your home."]

- 1 YES 85%
- 2 NO.....15
- 3 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE.....*

12. (IF YES IN Q11) Have you had a conversation with any of your neighbors, beyond saying hello, in the past week?

- 1 YES 84%
- 2 NO.....16
- 3 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE.....*

13. About how many neighbors do you know on a first-name basis? [DEFINITION IF NECESSARY: "Neighbors are people who live within a short walk or a short drive of your home."]

- [READ ONLY IF NECESSARY]
- 1 NONE 3%
 - 2 1 OR 28
 - 3 3 TO 524
 - 4 6 TO 915
 - 5 10 OR MORE48
 - 6 R HAS NO NEIGHBORS--ISOLATED DWELLING*
 - 7 DON'T KNOW/NO ANSWER1

14. About how often do you visit your neighbors, or do your neighbors visit you? Would you say several times a day, about once a day, several times a week, about once a week, several times a month, about once a month, once every couple of months, or less often?

- 8 Several times a day 4%
- 7 About once a day8
- 6 A few times per week20
- 5 About once a week16
- 4 A few times per month10
- 3 About once a month11
- 2 Once every couple of months7
- 1 Less often23
- Y Don't Know1

Deleted: 1

15. Where have you met or visited with your neighbors in the past month? Have you met or visited with your neighbors

LOCATIONS	Yes
[ROTATE]	%
a. In an outdoor locale in your neighborhood such as a park, beach, or green	28
b. In a local clubhouse in your neighborhood	14
c. In a neighborhood restaurant	32
d. In a neighborhood school	16
e. In a neighborhood church, synagogue, or mosque	43
f. At your home	65
g. At your neighbor's home	58
h. At a local store or business	50
i. In the driveway or on the sidewalk	83
j. At a bus stop (INTERVIEWER NOTE: ANY TYPE OF BUS STOP – SCHOOL, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, ETC.)	3

Motivation and Isolation

16. I'm going to read a list of statements. For each one, would you please tell me whether this sounds a lot, a little, or not at all like something you would say.

The first/next statement is _____. [IF NECESSARY: "Does that sound a lot, a little, or not at all like something you would say?"]

STATEMENT [ROTATE]	SOUNDS A LOT LIKE	SOUNDS A LITTLE LIKE	DOESN'T SOUND AT ALL LIKE	DON'T KNOW, NOT SURE
a. I would like to be more involved in my local community. [IF NECESSARY: "By local community I mean your area of the city or county or metropolitan area where you live."]	17	36	46	1
b. I'd hate to have to depend on other people.	50	23	27	*
c. There are people I can count on to help me if I really need it.	79	15	6	*
d. I'd hate for other people to have to depend on me.	20	25	54	1
e. I feel I have little or nothing in common with the people in my local community.	12	23	64	1

Efficacy

Now some questions about local government:

17. Think about the local elections that have been held over the past ten years, that is, elections for local office like mayor or town council. We find that people are sometimes not able to vote because they're not registered, they don't have time, or they have trouble getting to the polls. Do you always vote in local elections, do you sometimes miss one, do you rarely vote, or do you never vote in local elections?

- 1 ALWAYS VOTE..... 61%
- 2 SOMETIMES MISS ONE.....21
- 3 RARELY VOTE.....8
- 4 NEVER VOTE.....10
- 5 NOT A CITIZEN [VOLUNTEERED].....*
- 6 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....*

Group Membership and Activity/Volunteering

18. Now I would like to get an accurate count of all the groups or organizations that you volunteer for, including social clubs, religious organizations, or any kind of organized group at all.

First, have you volunteered for any _____ (insert group type) in the past 12 months?

	<u>YES</u>
[ROTATE]	%
a. Religious organizations, including a church, temple, or mosque?	46
c. Professional societies, trade or business associations w/ individual memberships	15
f. Organizations that work on health issues or fight disease	22
j. Health clubs, sports clubs, athletic leagues, or country clubs	11
l. Hobby, Garden, Recreation, or Computer groups	17
o. Social Service organizations	23
p. Neighborhood or homeowners associations	15
r. PTA, PTO, or school support groups	14
s. Scouts or other youth organizations	11
t. Clubs or organizations for older people	22

18b. Which of these types of organizations are you a member of, if any?

[DEFINITION IF NECESSARY: "Membership" usually means that your name is on a list of members, that you have certain privileges like voting or getting a newsletter, and often that you have a membership card. Just making a contribution or supporting the organization does not always make you a member.]

READ IF NECESSARY

- a. Religious organizations, including a church, temple, or mosque 57%
- b. Professional societies, trade or business associations w/
individual memberships21
- c. Organizations that work on health issues or fight disease14
- d. Health clubs, sports clubs, athletic leagues, or country clubs.....14
- e. Hobby, Garden, Recreation, or Computer groups13
- f. Social Service organizations15
- g. Neighborhood or homeowners associations11
- h. PTA, PTO, or school support groups.....6
- i. Scouts or other youth organizations.....4
- j. Clubs or organizations for older people.....14
- (DO NOT READ) None21
- (DO NOT READ) Don't Know5

IF NO OR DK TO ALL GROUPS IN Q18 AND Q18b, GO TO Q21

19. In which one of the groups are you most involved? [IF NECESSARY
PROBE: "Which one of these groups is the most important to you?"]
You don't have to give me the name of the group if you don't wish to.

Among those who volunteer or belong to any group (n=837)

- a. Religious organizations, including a church, temple, or mosque 35%
 - b. Professional societies, trade or business associations w/
individual memberships5
 - c. Organizations that work on health issues or fight disease3
 - d. Health clubs, sports clubs, athletic leagues, or country clubs.....5
 - e. Hobby, Garden, Recreation, or Computer groups3
 - f. Social Service organizations5
 - g. Neighborhood or homeowners associations3
 - h. PTA, PTO, or school support groups.....1
 - i. Scouts or other youth organizations.....1
 - j. Clubs or organizations for older people.....6
 - DON'T KNOW/REFUSED31
-

20. About how often would you say you meet or talk with people from the group you are most involved with?

READ LIST

8	Several times a day.....	5%
7	About once a day.....	8
6	A few times per week.....	36
5	About once a week.....	24
4	A few times per month.....	6
3	About once a month.....	11
2	Once every couple of months.....	3
1	Less often.....	7
Y	Don't Know.....	1

21. Please think about all of your volunteer roles. What types of activities do you do as a volunteer?

[READ ONLY AS NECESSARY AND SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

ORGANIZE EVENTS.....	16
FINANCIAL COUNSELING.....	4
LEGAL COUNSELING.....	1
PERSONAL COUNSELING.....	7
FUND-RAISING.....	19
OTHER FINANCIAL WORK.....	4
SELLING GOODS.....	5
MAKING TELEPHONE CALLS.....	13
DRIVING, PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO PEOPLE.....	12
DELIVERING/PREPARING/ SERVING MEALS.....	12
CHILD CARE.....	5
HEALTH CARE, NURSES AIDE.....	4
TEACHING, TUTORING.....	9
WRITING, PUBLICATION WORK.....	3
SPEAKING, LECTURING, STAFFING EXHIBITS.....	4
STAFFING/HELPING OUT AT EVENTS.....	12
OTHER MANAGEMENT.....	5
OTHER CLERICAL.....	5
OTHER PHYSICAL LABOR.....	7
OTHER [SPECIFY:].....	7
(DO NOT READ) NONE.....	*
DON'T KNOW.....	12
REFUSED.....	24

22. About how many hours per month, on the average, do you spend volunteering? Just your best estimate is fine. [INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT CAN'T GIVE AVERAGE, ASK: "Please describe the amount of time you spent volunteering in the last 12 months]

0/None.....	32
1-4	17
5-9	13
10-24	22
25-49	7
50+	4
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	5
Mean	10.5
Median	4

(if 0 hours, go to Q23)
(if 1 or more hours skip to Q24)

23. (IF 0 HOURS IN Q22) Please tell me, why have you not been able to volunteer?

Among those who on average do not volunteer (n=289)

1	I was too busy	30%
2	It was too difficult for me to get to the activity	9
3	I disagreed with the purpose of the community activity	1
4	The activity would take up too much time.....	5
5	I am already involved in other community activities.....	1
6	I do not know anyone involved in the activity.....	2
7	Health problems prevented me from participating	30
8	I didn't feel safe	1
9	Not interested.....	31
10	Other (SPECIFY).....	7
Y	Don't Know/Refused	3

(if 0 hours in Q22, skip to Q27)

Motivations

24. Please think about the last time you decided to take on a volunteer assignment. I'm going to read you a list of reasons people give us for volunteering. Please tell me if each of these reasons was very important, somewhat important, or not very important in your decision to volunteer:

The first/next reason is...

Among those who spend some time per month volunteering (n=716)

STATEMENT	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPT	NOT VERY IMPT	DON'T KNOW
[ROTATE]	%	%	%	%
a. I wanted to learn about the issue or problem	32	35	30	2
b. I wanted to work with people who share my ideals	52	31	17	1
c. I felt obligated	15	30	54	1
d. Because of my religious commitment	39	18	43	1
e. I wanted to further my job or career	6	12	81	1
f. I wanted to be with people I enjoy	62	27	10	1
g. I did not want to say no to the person who asked	18	25	56	1
h. I wanted to help other people	78	18	3	1
i. I wanted to make the community a better place to live	62	27	10	1
j. I enjoyed the activity	66	27	6	1

25. Is there any other reason I have not mentioned?

Among those who spend some time per month volunteering (n=716)

- 1 YES [SPECIFY:] 14%
 - To justify my existence/make a difference3
 - No else would do it/was asked to.....1
 - Like to be active.....1
 - Like to help5
 - An area of interest.....2
- 2 NO.....86
- 3 DON'T KNOW/UNSURE*

26. About how much of your time as a volunteer is work that is sponsored or organized by religious organizations? Would you say:

Among those who spend some time per month volunteering (n=716)

- 1 none of it 36%
- 2 some of it.....31
- 3 most of it18
- 4 or nearly all of it is through religious organizations14
- 5 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....1

27. How often do you attend religious services?

- 9 MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK..... 17%
- 8 EVERY WEEK.....33
- 7 NEARLY EVERY WEEK5
- 6 2 OR 3 TIMES A MONTH7
- 5 ONCE A MONTH.....5
- 4 SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR.....8
- 3 ONCE A YEAR.....4
- 2 LESS THAN ONCE A YEAR5
- 1 NEVER/NOT RELIGIOUS.....16
- Y DON'T KNOW.....1

28. In the past 12 months, have you happened to contribute any money to a church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship? (Roper Reports)

- 1 YES 74%
- 2 NO.....26
- 3 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....*

(if no/dk/refused skip to Q30)

29. How much money, in total would you say you have contributed to your church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship in the past year? (RR)

Among those who have contributed money to a place of worship in the past 12 months (n=734)

- Under \$100..... 11%
- \$100-\$29910
- \$300-\$4995
- \$500-\$9997
- \$1000-\$149910
- \$1500+15
- Don't Know26
- Refused20

- Mean\$1385
- Median\$588

30. In the past 12 months have you contributed money to any other charitable organization or group, aside from your place of worship? (RR)

- 1 YES 69%
- 2 NO.....29
- 3 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....2

(if no/dk.refused skip to Q32)

31. How much money, in total would you say you have given to organizations other than your place of worship in the past year?
(RR)

Among those who have contributed money to other organizations in the past 12 months (n=734)

Under \$100.....	15%
\$100-\$299.....	22
\$300-\$499.....	7
\$500-\$999.....	9
\$1000-\$1499.....	6
\$1500+.....	8
Don't Know.....	19
Refused.....	14
Mean.....	\$693
Median.....	\$212

NOTE: Q32-34 WERE CUT

Livable Community Questions

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about you and your community.

35. Have you driven a car or other motor vehicle in the last month?

1 YES.....	89%
2 NO.....	11
3 DON'T KNOW/UNSURE.....	-

(if no/dk, skip to Q37)

36. If for some reason you could no longer drive, which one of the following alternatives would you most likely use?

Among those who have driven in the last month (n=899)

- 1 Walk..... 9%
- 2 Get a ride with family or friends.....64
- 3 Take a taxi.....3
- 4 Take public transportation12
- 5 Take a senior or community van.....5
- 6 Take transportation provided to persons with disabilities who cannot use or get to public transportation3
- 7 Other (SPECIFY).....1
- 8 DON'T KNOW.....3

37. Is there public transportation within a 10 minute walk of your home?

- 1 YES..... 39%
- 2 NO.....60
- 3 DON'T KNOW.....1

38. How often do you miss doing something that you would like to do because you do not have transportation? Would you say frequently, occasionally, rarely, or never?

READ LIST

- 4 Frequently..... 5%
- 3 Occasionally.....7
- 2 Rarely.....14
- 1 Never.....73
- Y Don't Know1

39. On an average day, about how many hours or minutes do you spend away from your home?

0 hours.....	5%
up to 1 hour	4
1-2 hours	23
3-4 hours	15
5-7 hours	10
8+ hours	34
Refused	9
Mean	5.6 hours
Median	4 hours

40. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. First/Next (INSERT STATEMENT).

If agree: Is that strongly agree or somewhat agree?

If disagree: Is that strongly disagree or somewhat disagree?

% saying strongly agree

a. I am satisfied with my life the majority of the time.....	76%
b. I have friends and family who are there for me	86
c. I am involved with the world and people around me.....	51
d. I am able to make choices about things that affect how I age ...	68
e. I frequently feel isolated from other people	8
f. I am able to adjust to changes that are related to aging	60
g. I am able to take care of myself.....	88
h. I have been able to influence others' lives in positive ways.....	58
i. I will be able to or I am currently able to work in paid or volunteer activities after usual retirement age (65).....	51
j. I will be able to cope with the challenges of my later years	62
k. All the places I need to go are close enough that I can walk to them.....	14
l. I know where to get information about transportation options when I need it.....	60
m. I feel optimistic about my finances as I grow older.....	51
n. I am able to pursue interests and hobbies.	62
o. I have a high quality of life.....	67
p. I feel safe walking in my community in the evening.....	72
q. I am able to meet all of my needs and some of my wants.	67

41. (IF DISAGREE WITH ITEM P IN Q40 ASK) Would you spend more time walking in your community if you felt safer?

Among those who do not feel safe walking in their neighborhood (n=116)

- 1 YES 65%
- 2 NO34
- 3 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED2

42. For each of the following characteristics, please grade your local community as an A, B, C, D or F, where A is excellent and F is failure. First, (INSERT FIRST ITEM):

	A	B	C	D	F	DON'T KNOW
[RANDOMIZE]	%	%	%	%	%	%
a. Providing well run parks, community centers, and recreation centers	36	29	17	7	8	3
b. Having convenient places for public events and meetings	35	26	18	9	8	4
c. Having a place where older people socialize	36	24	16	7	10	7
d. Offering dependable public transportation	21	20	16	11	27	6
e. Having sidewalks going to where you want to go	36	15	14	8	24	4
f. Having safe neighborhoods	54	26	12	5	2	1
g. Having entertainment, such as theaters and concerts	25	23	16	10	21	4
h. Having walking or bike trails within a half mile of your home	30	16	14	9	26	4
i. Offering transportation alternatives for people with disabilities or health problems	29	22	20	8	10	11
j. Having a grocery store within a half mile of your home	41	16	9	6	27	2
k. Having a drug store within a half mile of your home	39	13	9	7	29	3
l. Providing a wide variety of services to help you maintain your independence as you grow older	24	27	23	9	7	9

m. Having good job opportunities	13	17	26	14	20	10
n. Having accessible public buildings and facilities	35	26	19	7	8	6
o. Having an adequate supply of affordable housing	23	23	25	11	10	8
p. Having a variety of housing options for persons with different physical abilities	20	20	24	9	12	14
q. Connecting older and younger people in the community	17	22	30	11	9	11
r. Having or offering opportunities for volunteering	41	24	17	5	5	8
s. Having well-designed and maintained streets	34	29	23	7	6	2
t. Having a hospital in the community	48	13	12	4	20	2
u. Having affordable shopping	34	26	22	8	8	2
v. Having places to worship	73	14	6	2	3	2
w. Having a health monitoring service	23	21	17	8	14	16
x. Having an outdoor maintenance service	27	19	18	8	16	13

Continues...

43. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your local community.

	AGREE	DISAGREE	DK
[ROTATE]			
a. A majority of my neighbors are age 50 or older.	54	43	4
b. I live in an age-restricted community. [DEFINITION IF NECESSARY: Age restricted means at least one family member must be a certain age to qualify to live there.]	10	89	1
c. The majority of my neighbors over 50 have lived here for many years.	68	27	5

44. Thinking about your oldest living relative living independently, do you feel that their community has the services and features they need to remain independent as they age?

1 YES	67%
2 NO	19
3 DON'T KNOW/UNSURE	7
4 I DON'T HAVE AN OLDER RELATIVE (VOL.)	7

45. Does your current home have:

	YES %
[RANDOMIZE]	
a. A full bath on the main level	85
b. A half bath on the main level	56
c. A bedroom on the main level	81
d. An attached garage or covered parking	63
e. Doorways that are wider than standard for accessibility	37
f. Bathroom aids, such as grab bars or a stool for bathing	33
g. Door handles that are levers instead of knobs	24
h. Non slip floor surfaces	60
i. An entrance without steps	34
j. A public sidewalk immediately outside the home	46
k. A driveway or parking space immediately outside the home	94

46. Considering the items we just covered, how well do you think your home is able to meet your physical needs as you grow older?

- 4 Very well..... 51%
- 3 Somewhat well.....37
- 2 Not too well.....8
- 1 Not well at all.....4
- Y Don't Know 1

47. Do you prefer to live in a community where people are mostly about the same age as you, generally older than you, generally younger than you, all different ages, or do you have no preference?

- 1 Same age 10%
- 2 Older1
- 3 Younger.....3
- 4 All different age groups37
- 5 No preference.....48
- 6 Don't Know*

48. Imagine you had the opportunity to share your home with non-family members such as people your own age, college students, or others looking for a place to live. How appealing would you find it to share your home with others – whether to help with finances, provide companionship, or any other reason?

- 5 Very appealing..... 7%
- 4 Somewhat appealing20
- 3 Neither appealing nor unappealing8
- 2 Somewhat unappealing24
- 1 Very unappealing39
- Y DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....2

Demographics

Finally, I have a few more questions to make sure that our survey accurately represents the views of all Americans.

49. In what year were you born?

50-54	23%
55-64	34
65-74	24
75+	18

50. What is your employment status, are you...

1 EMPLOYED, FULL TIME	27%
2 EMPLOYED, PART TIME	8
3 SELF EMPLOYED	6
4 A HOMEMAKER	6
5 A STUDENT	*
6 RETIRED	45
7 UNEMPLOYED	5
OTHER (SPECIFY).....	2
REFUSED	*

51. Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions?
(Census long-form)

- a. Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment 11%
- b. A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying..... 26

52. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, do you have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities:

- c. Learning, remembering, or concentrating 16%
- d. Dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home 6
- e. Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office 9
- f. Working at a job or business 12

53. (IF YES TO ANY IN Q51 OR 52 ASK,) Do you use any special equipment, technology, or assistive devices to help you with your daily activities?

Among those who are disabled (n=377)

1 YES 26%
 2 NO 73
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED *

54. Would you say your usual state of personal health and well-being is... (RR)

4 Excellent 28%
 3 Good 48
 2 Fair 18
 1 Poor 6
 Y Don't Know *

55. What is the highest level of education, or grade in school, that you completed? (DO NOT READ LIST)

1 Less Than High School Graduate (0-11th Grade) 13%
 2 High School Graduate (12th Grade) 47
 3 Some College (1-3 Years) 14
 4 Trade/Technical/Vocational Training 2
 5 College Graduate (4 Years) 13
 6 Postgraduate Work/Postgraduate Degree (5+ Years) 12
 7 Refused *
 8 Don't Know -

56a. Are you currently...

1 Living with a spouse or partner 71%
 2 Not living with a spouse or partner 28
 3 Refused 1

56b. Have you ever been...

[READ LIST. ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

1 Married 81%
 2 Separated 7
 3 Divorced 21
 4 Widowed 16
 5 Refused 7

57. Including yourself, how many adults live in your household?
[DEFINITION OF ADULT: "At least 18 years old"]

1..... 24%
2.....60
3+ 16

Mean2
Median2

58. How many children under 18 years of age do you have living at home with you? Please include step-children, adopted children, and grandchildren living in your household.

None..... 89%
1.....7
2.....3
3+1

59. In what ZIP Code do you live?

60. How many phone numbers, including this one, are there for your household – please do not count phone numbers that are used only for a computer or fax machine and please do not count cellular phones?

1..... 92%
2.....6
3+1

61. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?

1 YES..... 5%
2 NO.....93
3 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED2

62. What do you consider to be your race, are you...

1 White, 87%
2 [READ ONE:] African American / Black,5
3 Asian or Pacific Islander?1
4 American Indian or Native American?3
5 OTHER (SPECIFY).....4
6 REFUSED / NO ANSWER.....2

63. As I read you some groups of incomes, please stop me when I reach the group that includes the total annual income for all members of your household combined. (READ LIST)

Under 15 thousand dollars a year.....	10%
Between 15 and 20 thousand,	8
Between 20 and 30 thousand,	13
Between 30 and 40 thousand,	12
Between 40 and 50 thousand,	10
Between 50 and 75 thousand,	13
Between 75 and 100 thousand, or	7
100 thousand or more?.....	9
(DON'T READ) REFUSED.....	15
(DON'T READ) DON'T KNOW.....	3

Those are all the questions I have for you. Before I say good-bye, are there any other comments you'd like to make?

64. NOT ASKED: GENDER

1 MALE	45%
2 FEMALE.....	55

We really appreciate the time you've taken to help us out. Thank you very much and have a good night.

