

Nevada AARP Survey of Members: Concerns and Opinions on State Legislative Issues

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Concerns and Opinions on
State Legislative Issues**

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

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About This Survey

This mail survey of AARP members in Nevada explores their concerns, state legislative priorities, preferences for involvement with AARP, and preferences for receiving information from AARP. It also examines members' experiences and opinions on prescription drugs, the state's budget, transportation, and utilities in Nevada.

AARP conducted the AARP Nevada Member Opinion Survey of Members from June through August, 2004. A random sample of 2,000 AARP members in Nevada, proportionally stratified by three age segments—50 to 59, 60 to 74, and 75+, was selected from AARP's membership database. Each sampled member was contacted about the survey in four ways: a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey. Forty-nine percent of the sampled Nevada members returned surveys by the cut-off date, providing 971 useable surveys for analysis. Thus, the survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.14 percent.¹ Survey responses were weighted to reflect the distribution of the age segments in the member population of Nevada.

This report is part of the larger survey and examines members' general concerns and opinions on a variety of issues. The weighted overall findings are discussed as well as statistically significant differences among three age segments: 50-59, 60-74 and 75+. Throughout the report, statistics representing member responses are reported in percentages. In some instances, percentages are small and may not seem to represent a significant proportion of members, yet when projected to the total Nevada membership the actual number of people may be substantial. As of January 2005, the number of AARP members in Nevada was 284,156. A full annotated questionnaire is in Appendix A.

Highlights

Personal Concerns, Interests, Legislative Priorities

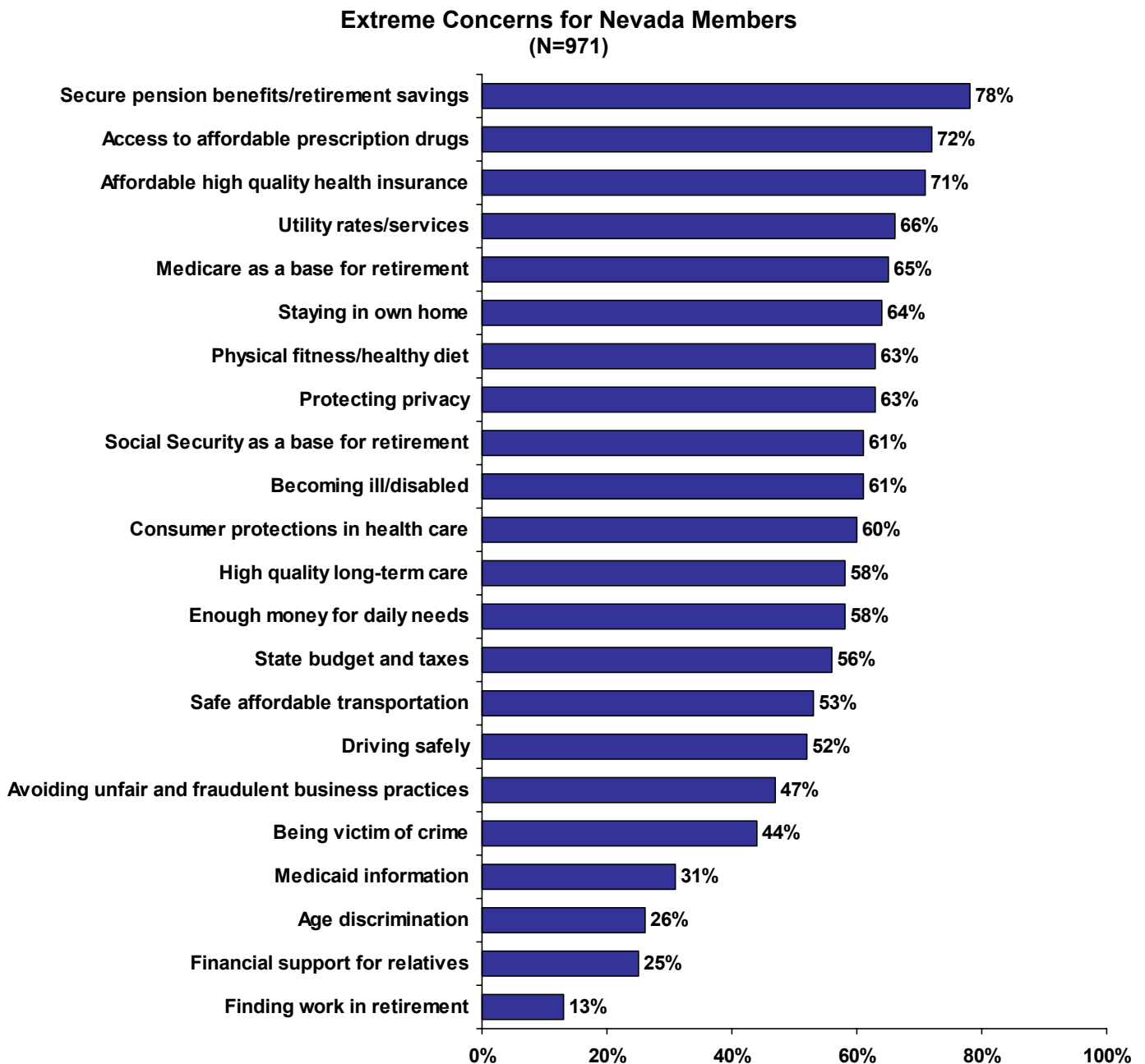
- AARP Nevada members' top concerns are having secure pension benefits and retirement savings (78%), access to affordable prescription drugs (72%), and affordable, high quality health insurance (71%).
- About three-quarters of members indicate that the availability, cost, and quality of health care (77%) and prescription drug affordability (73%) should be the top two legislative issue priorities for AARP Nevada.

¹ This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of 3.14 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every AARP member in Nevada age 50 or older had been surveyed.

Findings

At least seven in ten Nevada members are extremely concerned about retirement stability and affordable access to health care.

Out of twenty two issues, Nevada members' top concerns are having secure pension benefits and retirement savings, access to affordable prescription drugs, and affordable high quality health insurance. About two-thirds of members are also extremely concerned about utility rates/services, having Medicare as a base for retirement, and staying in their own homes as they age.



Age Differences: Extreme Concerns

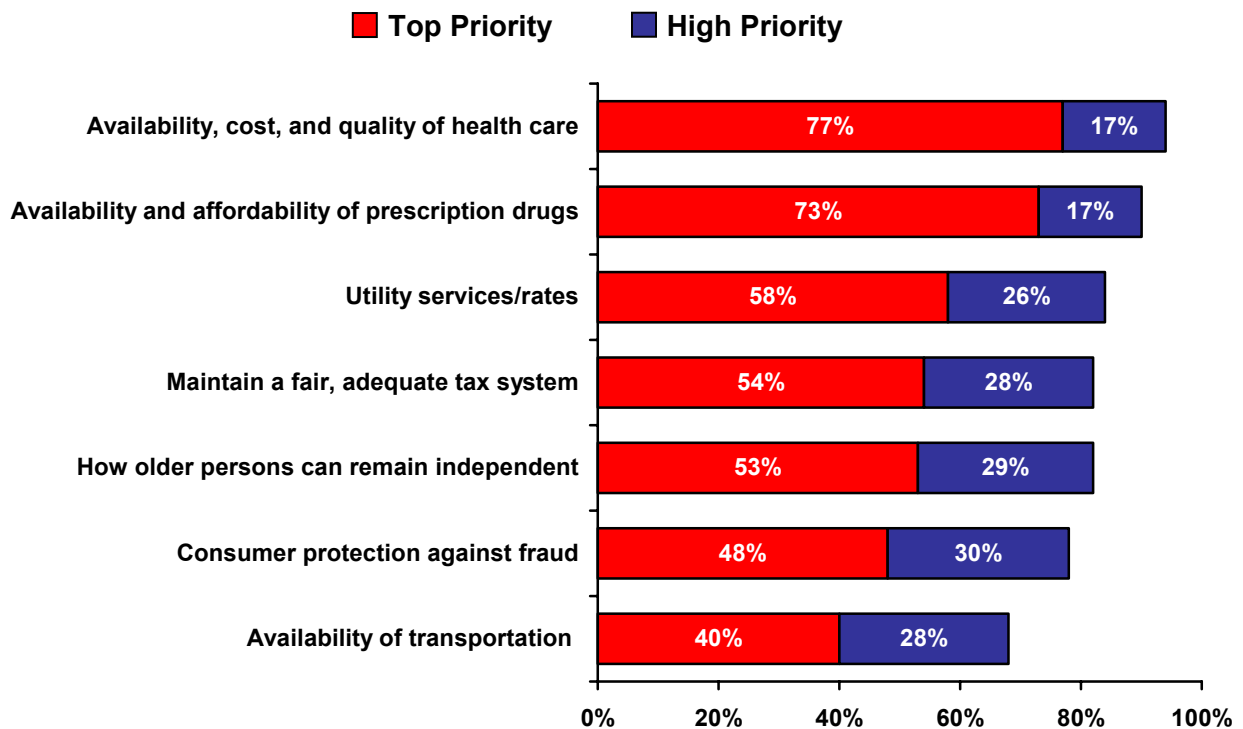
Among the issues listed where at least half of all Nevada members express extreme concern, the following age differences are present:

- members ages 75 and older are more likely than the youngest members or both younger age groups to indicate they are extremely concerned about staying in their own homes as they age (50-59: **58%**; 50-74: **65%**; 75+: **70%**), staying physically fit and maintaining a healthy diet (50-59: **62%**; 50-74: **60%**; 75+: **69%**), Social Security as a base for their retirement income (50-59: **56%**; 50-74: **61%**; 75+: **66%**), becoming ill or disabled (50-59: **56%**; 50-74: **61%**; 75+: **67%**), and continuing to drive safely (50-59: **45%**; 50-74: **52%**; 75+: **61%**).
- The youngest members on the other hand, are more likely than older members to express extreme concern about the affordability of high quality health insurance (50-59: **77%**; 50-74: **69%**; 75+: **65%**), while those ages 60 to 74 and 60 and older are more likely than those younger to be extremely concerned about the state budget and its impact on taxes (50-59: **50%**; 50-74: **58%**; 75+: **57%**) and safe and affordable transportation (50-59: **45%**; 50-74: **53%**; 75+: **60%**).

About three-quarters of members indicate that the availability, cost, and quality of health care, and prescription drug affordability should be the top two legislative issue priorities for AARP Nevada.

About three-quarters of members in Nevada say that availability, cost, and quality of health care and availability and affordability of prescription drugs should be top priorities for AARP Nevada. Over half also say that utility service/rates, maintaining a fair and adequate tax system, and helping older persons remain independent should be top priorities.

**Top and High Priority Legislative Issues for Nevada Members
(N=971)**



Age Differences: Legislative Priorities

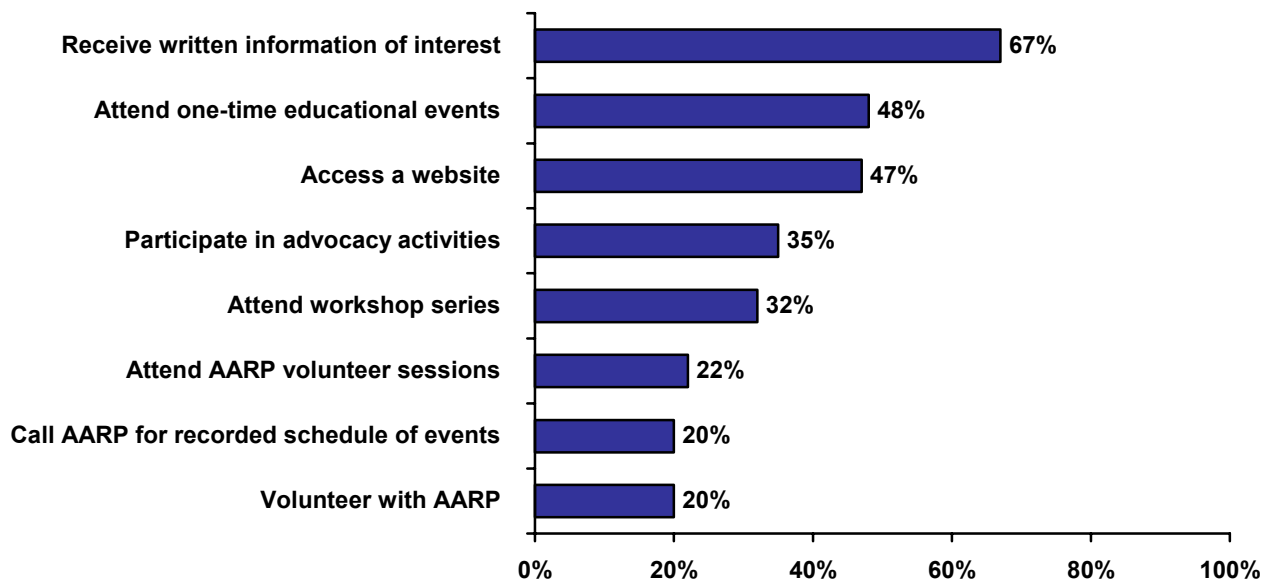
Nevada members ages 75 and older are more likely than those younger to say they think that consumer protection against fraud should be a top legislative priority for the state (50-59: 42%; 50-74: 47%; 75+: 56%). In addition, they are more likely than the youngest members to say that helping people remain independent as they age should be a top legislative priority (50-59: 48%; 50-74: 53%; 75+: 59%). Members ages 60 to 74 are more likely than those younger to say that maintaining a fair, adequate tax system should be a top legislative priority in the state (50-59: 46%; 50-74: 56%; 75+: 56%). There are no differences by age among members with respect to the other issues listed in this survey question.

Most members would use written information from AARP. However, almost half would access a website to obtain information about member interests and concerns.

From a list of eight possible AARP opportunities to address member interests and concerns, the top three preferred by members in Nevada are:

- Written information on topics of interest or concern to them
- Attend a one-time educational event
- Access a website

**AARP Opportunities Nevada Members Would Definitely/Probably Use
(N=971)**



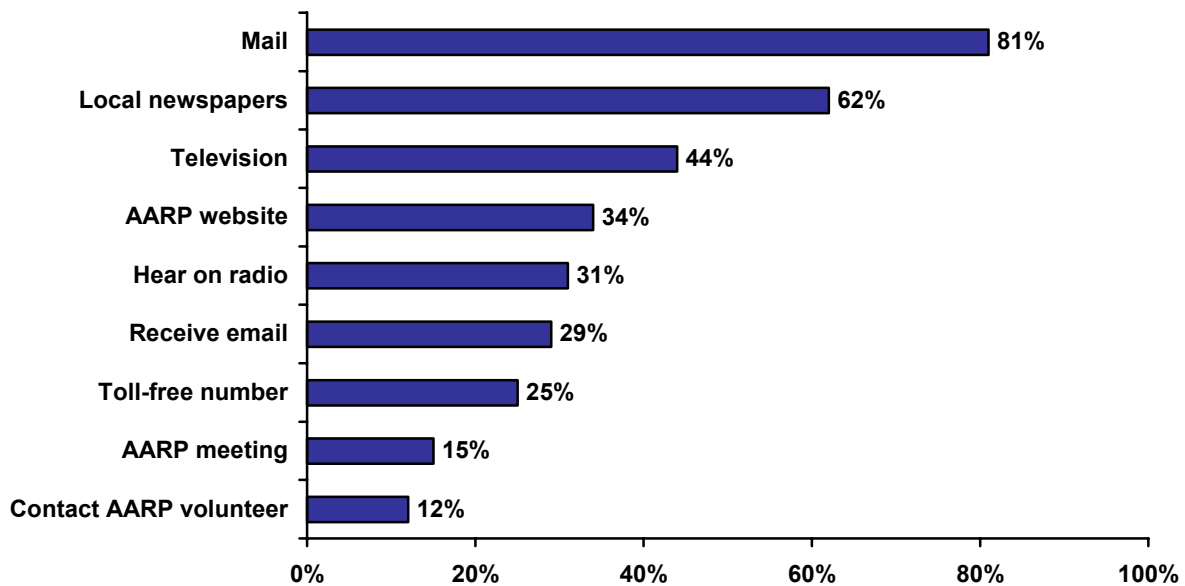
Age Differences: Interaction with AARP

The youngest Nevada AARP members are more likely than those ages 75 and older to say they would definitely or probably use any written information they received that was of interest to them (50-59: **71%**; 60-74: **66%**; 75+: **62%**). This age group is also more likely than those ages 60 and older say they would attend an AARP volunteer session if it were offered in their state (50-59: **27%**; 60-74: **20%**; 75+: **18%**). However, attending one-time educational events and accessing a website significantly decrease with age (**educational event**: 50-59: **58%**; 60-74: **47%**; 75+: **34%**; **website**: 50-59: **66%**; 60-74: **46%**; 75+: **25%**). Members in Nevada do not differ by age with respect to the other AARP opportunities listed.

Most members would prefer to find out about AARP activities through mail.

Members interested in AARP opportunities want to find out about them primarily through the mail, but over six in ten say they would prefer to hear about them in their local newspapers. In addition, more than four in ten prefer to get the information from a local TV channel or station, and about one-third would like to hear about AARP opportunities on the organization's website or on the radio. Somewhat fewer indicate interest in learning about AARP via an email notification, and one-quarter would like to get this kind of information by calling a toll-free number.

Options for Learning about AARP Activities in the Community
(N=971)



Age Differences: Learning Opportunities with AARP

Nevada members ages 75 and older are more likely than the youngest members to prefer learning about AARP activities in the newspaper (50-59: **57%**; 60-74: **63%**; 75+: **66%**) or by contacting an AARP volunteer (50-59: **10%**; 60-74: **12%**; 75+: **16%**). However, those ages 60 and older are more likely than those younger to tune into a local television station to learn about AARP opportunities in their community (50-59: **34%**; 60-74: **47%**; 75+: **48%**). Visiting the AARP website or receiving an email notice significantly decreases with age as a way of finding out about AARP activities or opportunities (visiting website: 50-59: **48%**; 60-74: **34%**; 75+: **16%**; email notice: 50-59: **41%**; 60-74: **30%**; 75+: **13%**). Nevada members do not differ by age with respect to hearing about AARP opportunities on the radio, by calling a toll free number, or by attending an AARP meeting.

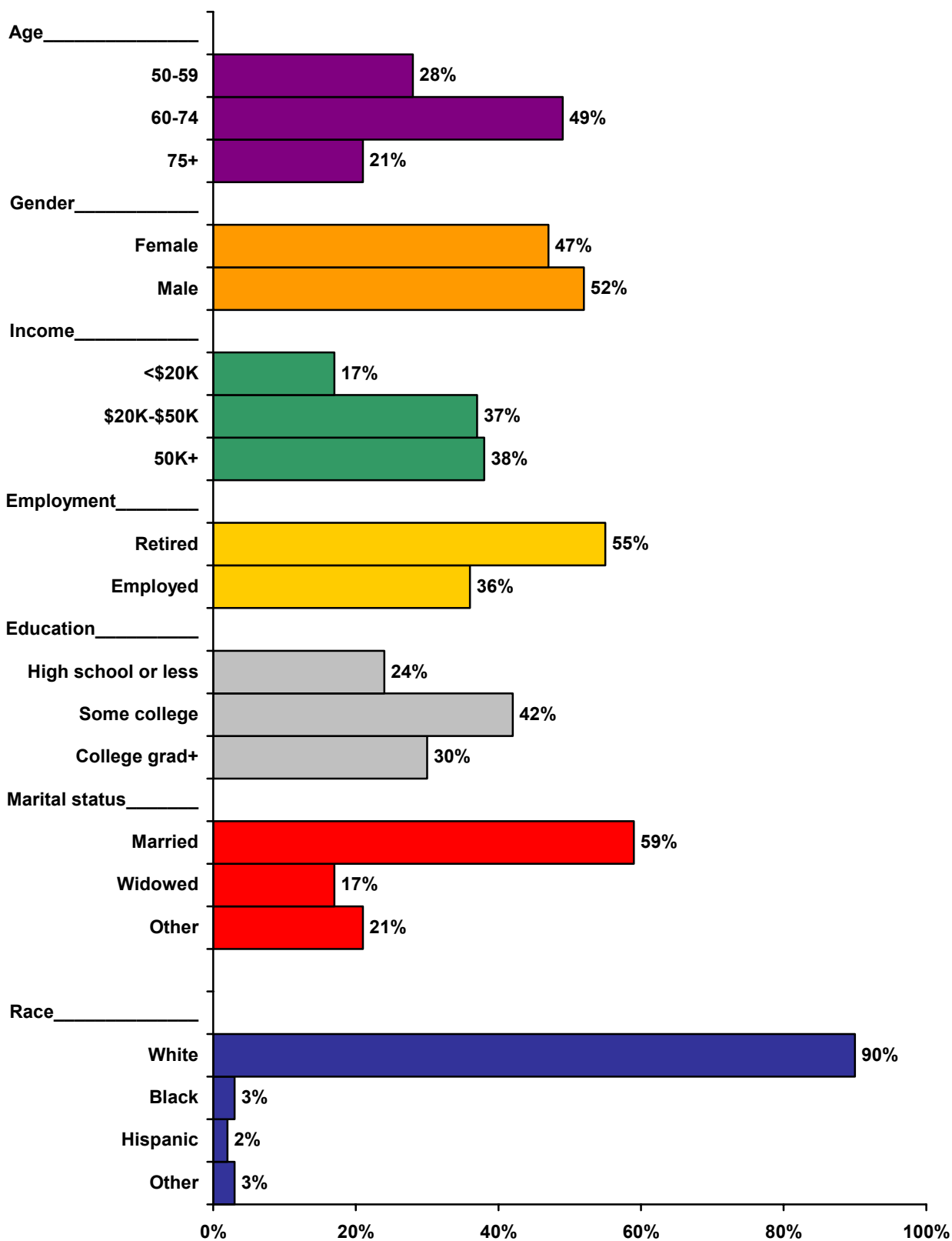
Conclusions

The data from this survey clearly show that the issue of prescription drugs is an important one among Nevada AARP members. More than seven in ten members say access and affordability of prescription drugs is a top concern and a top legislative priority. Other top issues of concern are secure pension benefits, availability, cost and quality of healthcare, and utility rates/services. Younger members are more concerned about health care while members 75 and older are more concerned about aging in place and having Social Security as a base for retirement.

The findings for legislative priority ratings are not surprising given Nevada member concerns. While availability, cost and affordability of health care is ranked as a top legislative priority by all members, older members age 75+ are more likely than younger members to say consumer protection against fraud and helping older persons remain independent as they age should be top priorities.

When asked about information sources AARP Nevada members would use to collect information about topics of concern or AARP activities, the preferred option was receiving written information in the mail however, members age 50-59 are more likely to access a website or read an email notification.

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N = 971)



APPENDIX A
ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

2004 Nevada AARP Survey of Members: Concerns and State Legislative Issues

Weighted N = 971; Response Rate = 49%; Sampling Error = +/- 3.14
(Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. A "*" means less than 1%)

Personal Concerns

1. Below is a list of concerns that have been expressed by people age 50 and older. Please rate your own level of concern about each item using a 5-point scale where 1 means you are "not at all concerned" and 5 means you are "extremely concerned."

| | Extremely Concerned | | | | Not at all Concerned | No Response |
|--|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|----------------|
| a. Having Medicare as a base for retirement health coverage | 65% | 16% | 11% | 3% | 3% | 1% |
| b. Providing care or financial support for a parent, grandchild or other relative | 25% | 15% | 24% | 13% | 20% | 3% |
| c. Having Social Security as a base for retirement income | 61% | 17% | 12% | 4% | 5% | 1% |
| d. Finding affordable, high quality health insurance | 71% | 11% | 9% | 3% | 6% | 1% |
| e. Staying in your own home as you get older | 64% | 17% | 9% | 4% | 5% | 1% |
| f. Staying physically fit/maintaining a healthy diet | 63% | 24% | 9% | 2% | 2% | 1% |
| g. Having high quality long-term care for you or a family member | 58% | 22% | 11% | 4% | 3% | 1% |
| h. Making sure your pension benefits and/or retirement savings are safe and secure | 78% | 11% | 6% | 2% | 2% | 1% |
| i. Having safe and affordable transportation alternatives if you are no longer able to drive yourself places | 53% | 24% | 15% | 5% | 3% | 1% |
| j. Finding work in retirement | 13% | 16% | 26% | 14% | 29% | 2% |
| k. Having enough money to meet daily expenses | 58% | 16% | 14% | 5% | 7% | 1% |
| l. Facing age discrimination in employment | 26% | 14% | 18% | 12% | 29% | 2% |
| m. Having adequate information on Medicaid, the government health insurance program for low income people | 31% | 15% | 20% | 12% | 21% | 1% |
| n. Having access to affordable prescription drugs | 72% | 14% | 8% | 2% | 4% | 1% |
| o. Protecting your right to privacy | 63% | 16% | 12% | 5% | 4% | 1% |
| p. Becoming ill or disabled | 61% | 22% | 12% | 2% | 3% | * |

1. CONTINUED-- Please rate your own level of concern about each item using a 5-point scale where 1 means you are "not at all concerned" and 5 means you are "extremely concerned."

| | Extremely Concerned | | | | Not at all Concerned | No Response |
|--|---------------------|-----|-----|----|----------------------|-------------|
| q. Being a victim of crime | 44% | 20% | 24% | 7% | 5% | 1% |
| r. Avoiding business practices that are unfair or fraudulent | 47% | 20% | 21% | 5% | 5% | 2% |
| s. Having consumer protections in health care plans | 60% | 22% | 13% | 2% | 2% | 2% |
| t. Continuing to drive safely | 52% | 23% | 15% | 4% | 5% | 3% |
| u. State budget and its impact on taxes | 56% | 22% | 14% | 4% | 3% | 2% |
| v. Utility rates and service | 66% | 19% | 10% | 3% | 1% | 2% |

AARP Roles and Activities at the State Level

2. Listed below are some opportunities AARP could provide within your state to address member interests and concerns. Please read each one carefully and indicate how likely it is that you, personally, would make use of the opportunity if it were offered in your state.

| Opportunity to... | Definitely Would Use | Probably Would Use | Might or Might Not Use | Probably Would Not Use | Definitely Would Not Use | No Response |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| a. Attend workshop <u>series</u> or several meetings, or classes, on topics of interest or concern to me | 11% | 21% | 43% | 17% | 6% | 2% |
| b. Attend <u>one-time</u> educational events on topics of interest or concern to me | 15% | 33% | 36% | 10% | 5% | 2% |
| c. Receive written information on topics of interest or concern to me | 30% | 37% | 24% | 5% | 2% | 2% |
| d. Participate in activities to improve state laws, policies, regulations, or practices that affect me | 12% | 23% | 38% | 18% | 7% | 2% |
| e. Access a website for information on topics of interest or concern to me and for information about upcoming AARP events in my state | 22% | 25% | 22% | 12% | 16% | 3% |
| f. Volunteer my time to an AARP activity in my own community | 6% | 14% | 38% | 25% | 15% | 2% |
| g. Call my AARP State Office to listen to a recording about upcoming AARP events in my state | 7% | 13% | 33% | 28% | 17% | 2% |
| h. Attend AARP volunteer information sessions in my community that give me an opportunity to meet other people and provide some community services | 7% | 15% | 37% | 24% | 15% | 2% |

3. If AARP has or were to have programs, services, or activities in your community, how would you want to find out about them? (Check ALL that apply)

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|---|
| 62 | Read about local AARP activities in newspapers in your community |
| 25 | Call a toll-free or local telephone number for a pre-recorded list of current AARP activities, programs, and services in your community |
| 12 | Contact an AARP volunteer or AARP Chapter member in or near your community |
| 15 | Attend a meeting at which AARP programs and activities are described |
| 81 | Receive information by mail (e.g., letter, brochure, flyer) |
| 34 | Visit the AARP Nevada website to access information |
| 29 | Receive an email notification |
| 44 | Tune in to a local TV channel or program |
| 31 | Hear about them on a local radio station/program |
| 2 | No Response |

State Legislative Issues

4. To be effective, AARP Nevada wants to work on the most important issues facing Nevada AARP members. Keeping in mind what's most important to you, how much of a priority should it be for AARP to work on the following legislative issues in Nevada?

| | Top Priority | High Priority | Medium Priority | Low Priority | Not a priority at all | No Response |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Availability, cost, and quality of health care | 77% | 17% | 4% | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| b. Consumer protection against fraud | 48% | 30% | 15% | 4% | 1% | 2% |
| c. Maintain a fair and adequate tax system | 54% | 28% | 12% | 2% | 1% | 3% |
| d. Access to affordable prescription drugs | 73% | 17% | 5% | 2% | 1% | 2% |
| e. Utility services and rates | 58% | 26% | 10% | 2% | 1% | 3% |
| f. How older persons can remain independent as they age | 53% | 29% | 13% | 2% | 1% | 1% |
| g. Availability of transportation systems | 40% | 28% | 23% | 6% | 2% | 2% |

Prescription Drugs

5. Do you or another person in your household get any help in paying for prescription drugs from insurance or other health coverage?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-------------|
| 71 | Yes |
| 26 | No |
| 1 | Not sure |
| 2 | No Response |

6. In the past 12 months, have you or has anyone in your household taken any prescription medications?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 92 | Yes |
| 6 | No SKIP TO QUESTION 10 |
| 0 | Not sure SKIP TO QUESTION 10 |
| 2 | No Response |

7. Are you or is anyone in your household currently taking prescription medications on a regular basis, i.e. daily, weekly, monthly? (n=897)

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-------------|
| 94 | Yes |
| 5 | No |
| 2 | No Response |

8. In the past 12 months, has paying for prescription drugs been a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem for you or anyone in your household? (n=897)

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-----------------|
| 17 | A major problem |
| 37 | A minor problem |
| 44 | Not a problem |
| 2 | No Response |

9. In the past 12 months, approximately how much have you or other members of your household spent, EACH month, out-of-pocket for prescription drugs? (n=897)

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 7 | Less than \$10 per month |
| 23 | \$10 but less than \$50 per month |
| 25 | \$50 but less than \$100 per month |
| 23 | \$100 but less than \$200 per month |
| 15 | \$200 but less than \$500 per month |
| 2 | \$500 or more per month |
| 1 | Not sure |
| 3 | No Response |

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

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 44 | Very concerned |
| 32 | Somewhat concerned |
| 15 | Not very concerned |
| 7 | Not at all concerned |
| 2 | No Response |

11. Many people face difficult decisions when buying prescription drugs. In the past 12 months, have you or has anyone in your household done any of the following?

| | Yes | No | No Response |
|---|-----|-----|-------------|
| a. Delayed getting a prescription filled because you didn't have enough money to pay for it? | 16% | 82% | 3% |
| b. Taken less medicine than your doctor prescribed to make it last longer? | 19% | 78% | 3% |
| c. Cut back on items such as food, fuel, or electricity to be able to afford a prescription drug? | 8% | 88% | 4% |
| d. Decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost of the drug? | 22% | 75% | 3% |
| e. Ordered your prescription drugs by mail or Internet from a company <u>in the U.S.</u> because they cost less? | 31% | 66% | 4% |
| f. Ordered your prescription drugs by mail or Internet from a company <u>in another country</u> because they cost less? | 7% | 90% | 3% |
| g. Traveled to Mexico, Canada, or another country to purchase prescription drugs because they cost less? | 6% | 91% | 3% |

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

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-------------|
| 5 | Yes |
| 89 | No |
| 6 | No Response |

| 12a. <u>If NO</u>: Are you going to apply for this card? (n=864) | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------------|
| 9% | Yes | 43% | Not sure |
| 43% | No | 4% | No Response |

13. How important is it to you that the state of Nevada work toward making prescription drug costs more affordable to residents?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 79 | Very important |
| 14 | Somewhat important |
| 3 | Not very important |
| 1 | Not at all important |
| 1 | Not sure |
| 2 | No Response |

14. How strongly would you support or oppose a state prescription drug discount program in Nevada for low-income persons?

- %
- 60 Strongly support
- 24 Somewhat support
- 5 Somewhat oppose
- 3 Strongly oppose
- 6 Not sure
- 3 No Response

15. How strongly would you support or oppose a state prescription drug discount program in Nevada for low-income persons if it requires new state funding?

- %
- 33 Strongly support
- 33 Somewhat support
- 12 Somewhat oppose
- 10 Strongly oppose
- 0 Not sure
- 12 No Response

Utilities

16. In your opinion, do your electric, gas, and phone rates seem reasonable to you or not? (Circle the appropriate response for each).

| | Rates are reasonable | Rates are not reasonable | Not sure | No Response |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Electric Rates | 33% | 57% | 9% | 1% |
| Gas Rates | 37% | 41% | 13% | 9% |
| Phone Rates | 45% | 44% | 9% | 2% |

17. In the past three years, would you say your electric, gas, and phone bills have increased, decreased, or stayed about the same? (Circle the appropriate response for each).

| | Increased | Decreased | Stayed the same | Not sure | No Response |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| Electric | 85% | 1% | 11% | 2% | 1% |
| Gas | 73% | * | 11% | 6% | 9% |
| Phone | 65% | 5% | 27% | 2% | 1% |

18. How difficult is it for you to understand each of the following types of utility bills?

| | Very difficult | Somewhat difficult | Not too difficult | Not at all difficult | Not Sure | No Response |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|
| Electric | 15% | 31% | 46% | 1% | 6% | 1% |
| Gas | 13% | 29% | 42% | 3% | 4% | 8% |
| Phone | 17% | 28% | 44% | * | 9% | 1% |

19. If you had a complaint about your energy/utility bills and service, where would you turn for help in getting your complaint resolved? (Check ALL that apply)

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|--|
| 15 | The Better Business Bureau |
| 29 | The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection |
| * | Police |
| 5 | City Council member |
| 6 | County Commissioner |
| 61 | The Public Utilities Commission |
| 14 | Other: (specify) _____ |
| 0 | Not sure |
| 1 | No Response |

20. To what extent do you agree or disagree that there should be stronger consumer protections against unfair or deceptive acts and practices by service providers for Nevada utility consumers?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-------------------|
| 69 | Strongly agree |
| 25 | Somewhat agree |
| 5 | Somewhat disagree |
| 1 | Strongly disagree |
| 1 | No Response |

21. How strongly do you support or oppose Nevada maintaining energy assistance programs to help low-income residents pay their energy bills?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|------------------|
| 44 | Strongly support |
| 42 | Somewhat support |
| 9 | Somewhat oppose |
| 3 | Strongly oppose |
| 2 | No Response |

22. Which of the following best describes your opinion about the current Universal Energy Charge collected monthly from utility customers in Nevada to help support the Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation program:

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|--|
| 34 | The universal energy charge is about right |
| 17 | The universal energy charge is too high |
| 1 | The universal energy charge is too low |
| 40 | The universal energy charge should be collected from large business and industrial customers only, not residents |
| 8 | No Response |

Transportation

23. How often do you personally drive yourself somewhere for shopping, groceries, work, appointments?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 64 | Every day or almost every day |
| 18 | 3 or 4 times/week |
| 9 | 1 or 2 times/week |
| 4 | a few times a month or less |
| 4 | Never – I do not drive at all |
| 2 | No Response |

24. If for some reason you were no longer able to drive your car, would it be a major inconvenience for you, a minor inconvenience for you, or not an inconvenience at all?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|---|
| 79 | Major inconvenience |
| 15 | Minor inconvenience |
| 3 | It would not be an inconvenience at all |
| 3 | No Response |

25. If for some reason you were no longer able to drive your car, which of the following people would be willing to drive *you* to the places you needed to go? (Check ALL that apply)

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|------------------------|
| 56 | Spouse or partner |
| 40 | Children |
| 1 | Mother/father |
| * | Grandparent |
| 13 | Other relatives/family |
| 43 | Friend(s) |
| 6 | Coworker(s) |
| 25 | Neighbor |
| 10 | Someone else: _____ |
| 4 | No Response |

26. If for some reason you were no longer able to drive, how would you get to the places you need and want to go? (For each type, please check ✓ yes if you would use it, no if you would not use it, or not available if you don't have this kind of transportation in your area.)

| | | Yes | No | Not Available | No Response |
|----|--|-----|-----|---------------|-------------|
| a. | Public transportation (bus, trolley, subway) | 49% | 14% | 25% | 12% |
| b. | Taxi | 46% | 29% | 6% | 19% |
| c. | Senior service van/shuttle | 69% | 9% | 10% | 12% |
| d. | Van/shuttle for those with disabilities | 41% | 20% | 12% | 27% |

If you checked, 'NOT AVAILABLE' for each of the alternative types of transportation listed in the above question, please SKIP TO QUESTION 28.

27. If for some reason you had to use any of the alternative forms of transportation mentioned in the previous question to get somewhere, how easy or difficult would each of the following be for you:

| | Very difficult | Somewhat difficult | Not too difficult | Not at all difficult | Not applicable | No Response |
|---|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| a. Getting to a stop or a station | 21% | 27% | 22% | 12% | 6% | 11% |
| b. Finding out the schedule or hours of operation | 6% | 17% | 38% | 23% | 4% | 12% |
| c. Getting information about the routes | 6% | 16% | 38% | 24% | 4% | 11% |
| d. Finding and utilizing disability van or shuttle services | 9% | 21% | 31% | 14% | 13% | 13% |
| e. Finding and utilizing senior van or shuttle services | 9% | 23% | 32% | 17% | 9% | 11% |

28. In the past two months, how frequently have you: (For each, check ✓ appropriate box).

| | Daily | Weekly | Monthly | Less than Once a Month | Never | No Response |
|---|-------|--------|---------|------------------------|-------|-------------|
| a. Driven a car | 78% | 14% | 1% | 1% | 4% | 3% |
| b. Gotten a ride with someone | 3% | 13% | 7% | 26% | 41% | 11% |
| c. Used public transportation | 1% | 1% | 1% | 5% | 82% | 11% |
| d. Walked to some place | 9% | 13% | 9% | 16% | 43% | 10% |
| e. Taken a taxi | * | * | 2% | 11% | 76% | 11% |
| f. Used Senior or Community Van | * | * | * | 1% | 88% | 10% |
| g. Used transportation services for those with disabilities | * | * | * | 1% | 88% | 10% |

State Economy and State Services

29. Would describe the Nevada's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-------------|
| 15 | Excellent |
| 63 | Good |
| 17 | Not so good |
| 2 | Poor |
| 3 | No Response |

30. How important is it to you that Nevada maintain current levels of funding for state and human service programs such as health care and social services for children, low-income people, older people, and people with disabilities even if you may not currently be eligible for these services?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 65 | Very important |
| 27 | Somewhat important |
| 4 | Not too important |
| 2 | Not important at all |
| 3 | No Response |

31. Like many states, Nevada is facing difficult economic choices in the coming months as the governor and the state legislators try to balance the state budget. One approach to balancing the budget is to impose cuts on state programs and services. Which of the following state funded services or programs would you support or oppose cutting in order to balance the state budget?

| | | Strongly support cutting | Somewhat support cutting | Somewhat oppose cutting | Strongly oppose cutting | Not sure | No Response |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|-------------|
| a. | Health care and long-term care for older persons and people with disabilities | 4% | 6% | 18% | 64% | 4% | 5% |
| b. | Kindergarten through 12 th grade education | 6% | 14% | 19% | 51% | 6% | 5% |
| c. | Higher education, i.e. community colleges, universities, technical training | 10% | 24% | 26% | 28% | 7% | 5% |
| c. | Highway and road maintenance and construction | 4% | 18% | 35% | 34% | 5% | 4% |
| d. | Public safety, courts, and jails | 6% | 15% | 31% | 38% | 6% | 5% |
| e. | State grants to municipalities and counties for fire and police protection, senior centers, parks and recreation | 7% | 15% | 32% | 38% | 5% | 4% |
| f. | Mental health facilities & programs | 4% | 16% | 32% | 38% | 7% | 4% |
| g. | Other: (specify) _____ | | | | | | |

About You

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

D1. What is your 5-digit zip code? WRITE IN YOUR ZIP CODE _____

D2. What county do you live in? _____

D3. Do you own or rent a home?

%

82 Own

11 Rent

4 Neither

3 No Response

D4. What is your current marital status?

%

59 Now married

17 Widowed

17 Divorced

1 Separated

3 Never married

3 No Response

D5. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

%

4 Less than high school

20 High school graduate or equivalent

42 Some college or technical training beyond high school

16 College graduate (4 years)

15 Post-graduate or professional degree

4 No Response

D6. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

%

26 Employed or self-employed full-time

10 Employed or self-employed part-time

55 Retired and not working

3 Other such as homemaker

3 Unemployed and looking for work

4 No Response

D7. Do you have access to a personal computer at home, at work, or some other place?

%

71 Yes →

25 No

4 No Response

D7a. If YES: Do you have access to the Internet or the ability to use online services such as America Online (AOL)? (n=691)

91% Yes 1% Don't know

7% No 1% No Response

D8. What is your race?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 90 | White or Caucasian |
| 3 | Black or African American |
| 2 | Hispanic, Spanish, Latino |
| 1 | Asian |
| 1 | Native American or Alaskan Native |
| 1 | Other: _____ |
| 2 | No Response |

D9. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2003?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 4 | Less than \$10,000 |
| 13 | \$10,000 to \$19,999 |
| 14 | \$20,000 to \$29,999 |
| 11 | \$30,000 to \$39,999 |
| 12 | \$40,000 to \$49,999 |
| 19 | \$50,000 to \$74,999 |
| 20 | \$75,000 or more |
| 8 | No Response |

D10. Are you male or female?

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-------------|
| 52 | Male |
| 47 | Female |
| 1 | No Response |

D11. What is your age as of your last birthday? _____ years

| <u>%</u> | |
|----------|-------------|
| 28 | 50-59 |
| 49 | 60-74 |
| 21 | 75+ |
| 1 | No Response |

Thank you for completing this survey. Please use the postage-paid envelope and return it no later than July 9, 2004 to State Member Research, AARP, 601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049.

AARP

Knowledge Management

For more information please contact Jennifer H. Sauer (202) 434-6207