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Wyoming AARP Legislative Issues Survey: Telecommunications

Report Prepared
By Erica Dinger
AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to making life better for people 50 and over. We provide information and resources; engage in legislative, regulatory and legal advocacy; assist members in serving their communities; and offer a wide range of unique benefits, special products, and services for our members. These include *AARP The Magazine*, published bimonthly; *AARP Bulletin*, our monthly newspaper; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, our quarterly newspaper in Spanish; *NRTA Live and Learn*, our quarterly newsletter for 50+ educators; and our Web site, www.aarp.org. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Acknowledgements**

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Background

Basic telephone service is essential for all people, particularly older people. In fact, people age 65 and older are more likely than any other age group to have telephone service nationally. This higher penetration rate exists even though older households must spend 4 percent of their income, or about twice as much as younger households (1.9 percent), just to use the average amount of telephone service. Nonetheless, 10 percent of low-income, older households and 12 percent of all households with annual incomes below $10,000 do not have telephone service. Overall, about 5 percent of US households do not have telephone service.

In Wyoming, according to a 2000 survey conducted by the Wyoming Public Service Commission, 98 percent of respondents said they had basic telephone service at their homes, while 48 percent reported having a cell phone.¹ These findings are similar to those in this 2004 survey. However, basic rates for telephone service in Wyoming have risen substantially year after year. For example, rates from 1995 to 2002 rose between a low of 13 percent to a remarkably high 382 percent.²

AARP Wyoming commissioned the 2004 Wyoming AARP Survey of Members: Concerns and State Legislative Issues, a mail survey of 1,125 Wyoming AARP members, to explore and measure members’ concerns about a variety of legislative issues and concerns. This report is part of the larger survey and examines the opinions of members regarding telecommunications issues in Wyoming. Specifically, this report explores members’:

- Satisfaction with local telephone service
- Choices between local telephone service and wireless service
- Use of wireless or cellular telephone service

² Wyoming Public Service Commission at http://psc.state.wy.us/htdocs/telco/TeleServPrice.PDF. Downloaded June 29, 2004. The definition of basic telephone service used by the Wyoming Public Service Commission is different than that used in the current survey. In this survey, basic telephone service may be defined as including such extra features as call waiting. For that reason, the cost of basic telephone service is not directly comparable between the two surveys.
Findings

Most Wyoming members subscribe to basic or local telephone service, and two-thirds are satisfied with this service.

Nine in ten (91%) Wyoming members currently subscribe to basic or local telephone service. Approximately two-thirds of those with basic telephone service say they are very (31%) or somewhat (33%) satisfied with this service, while fourteen percent say they are dissatisfied.

Younger members are more likely than those age 75+ to have local or basic telephone service (50-59, 95%; 60-74, 90%; 75+, 87%). Members age 60+ are more likely than younger members to be very satisfied with their basic or local telephone service (50-59, 26%; 60-74, 34%; 75+, 35%). Those with incomes under $40,000 are more likely than those with incomes between $40,000 and $60,000 to say they are very satisfied with their local or basic telephone service (<$20K, 37%; $20-$40K, 33%; $40-$60K, 23%).
More than two-thirds of members with basic telephone service say they pay too much for this service.

More than two-thirds (67%) of members with basic telephone service say that they are paying too much for their basic telephone service, while three in ten (30%) say they are paying about the right amount. No members say they are paying too little. Eight in ten (86%) members pay more than $30 a month for basic telephone service.

Members age 50-74 are more likely than older members to say they spend too much each month on basic telephone service (50-59, 70%; 60-74, 70%; 75+, 54%). Younger members are more likely than those 60+ to spend between $50 and $79 a month on basic service (50-59, 31%; 60-74, 23%; 75+, 21%), while those with incomes below $40,000 are more likely to spend under $30 a month (<$20K, 10%; $20-$40K, 14%; $40-$60K, 7%; $60K+, 5%).
Four in ten Wyoming members with basic telephone service have no choice in their basic telephone carrier.

More than four in ten (42%) members with basic telephone service say there is only one telephone service provider in their area, while two in ten are not sure if there is more than one carrier.

Presence of More than One Basic Telephone Service Provider  
(N=1,020)

- Yes: 35%
- Not sure: 20%
- No: 42%
- No response: 3%

Members age 50-59 are more likely than those age 75+ to say that there is more than one basic telephone service provider in their area (39% vs. 28%).
Six in ten Wyoming members currently use a wireless or cellular phone, but five in ten have not considered using a cellular phone for all of their phone needs.

More than six in ten (62%) members say they currently use a wireless or cellular phone, while 37 percent do not have a cellular phone. Only four percent say they use only cellular service, while 51 percent have not considered (30%) or not considered much (21%) the option of switching from wireline telephone service to cellular service for all of their telephone needs.

Younger members are more likely than members age 75+ to currently use a wireless or cellular phone (50-59, 79%; 60-74, 66%; 75+, 31%). Those with incomes over $20,000 are more likely than those with incomes under $20,000 to use a cellular phone (<$20K, 37%; $20-$40K, 62%; $40-$60K, 75%; $60K+, 80%). Younger members are also more likely than those age 75+ to have strongly or somewhat considered switching from a wireline telephone service to cellular phone service (50-59, 52%; 60-74, 45%; 75+, 25%).
Conclusions

This survey of telecommunications use and service among Wyoming AARP members supports previous findings in Wyoming. Most members have basic telephone service, but they believe that they pay too much for it. Many members are satisfied with their service, but fully one in seven reports dissatisfaction.

More than four in ten say they are not aware of any other telephone company that offers service in their area. In this respect, opportunities exist to educate consumers about telecommunications options where they may exist.

Many Wyoming members report using wireless or cellular service. While a small percentage currently use this as their only telephone service, five in ten have not considered switching to cellular service as their sole telephone.

The results of this survey suggest there is more work to be done in Wyoming to improve telecommunications service affordability. It is also important for consumers to be aware of telecommunications service options so they can choose the telecommunications service that best suits their needs.
Methodology

This report is one part of the larger survey and report entitled 2004 Wyoming AARP Survey of Members: Concerns and State Legislative Issues. The full survey is a mail survey of 1,125 Wyoming AARP members that addresses their concerns and opinions about a variety of issues including personal concerns, telecommunications, grandparenting, and retirement. This report summarizes findings on the telecommunications questions covered in the survey.

AARP conducted the 2004 Wyoming AARP Survey of Members: Concerns and State Legislative Issues survey from April through May 2004. A sample of 2,000 AARP members in Wyoming, proportionally stratified by three age segments, 50 to 59, 60 to 74, and 75+, was randomly 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. Fifty-six percent of the sampled Wyoming members returned surveys by the cut-off date, May 25, 2004, providing 1,125 useable surveys for analysis. Thus, the survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 2.9 percent. Survey responses were weighted to reflect the distribution of the age segments in the member population of Wyoming.

For more information about this study, contact Jennifer Sauer, AARP Knowledge Management, at (202) 434-6207 or Erica Dinger, AARP Knowledge Management, at (202) 434-6176.

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3 This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of 2.9 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every AARP member in Wyoming age 50 or older had been surveyed.
Annotated Questionnaire
2004 Wyoming AARP Survey of Members: Concerns and State Legislative Issues

Weighted n = 1,125; Response Rate = 56 %; Sampling Error = +/-2.92
(Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. A “*” means less than 1%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Concerns</th>
<th>Extremely Concerned</th>
<th>Not at all Concerned</th>
<th>No Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Having adequate information on Medicaid, the government health insurance program for low income people</td>
<td>29% 21% 27% 12% 11% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Providing care or financial support for a parent, grandchild or other relative</td>
<td>23% 18% 25% 15% 17% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Having Social Security as a base for retirement income</td>
<td>55% 18% 14% 7% 5% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Finding affordable, high quality health insurance</td>
<td>67% 15% 8% 4% 5% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Staying in your own home as you get older</td>
<td>63% 19% 10% 4% 4% 1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Staying physically fit/maintaining a healthy diet</td>
<td>62% 22% 10% 2% 3% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Having high quality long-term care for you or a family member</td>
<td>55% 23% 13% 4% 3% 1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Making sure your pension benefits and/or retirement savings are safe and secure and</td>
<td>74% 13% 7% 3% 3% 1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Having good information about investments</td>
<td>42% 22% 20% 7% 8% 1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Dealing with the loss of a close family member</td>
<td>28% 22% 27% 12% 8% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Finding work in retirement</td>
<td>13% 16% 26% 16% 28% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Having enough money to meet daily expenses</td>
<td>52% 17% 16% 7% 8% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Facing age discrimination in employment</td>
<td>20% 15% 20% 14% 28% 3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. Saving for the future</td>
<td>35% 21% 22% 8% 12% 3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o. Having Medicare as a base for retirement health coverage</td>
<td>62% 19% 12% 4% 3% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. Having access to affordable prescription drugs</td>
<td>75% 15% 6% 2% 2% 1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. CONTINUED—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."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>q. Protecting your right to privacy</th>
<th>Extremely Concerned</th>
<th>Not at all Concerned</th>
<th>No Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>r. Becoming ill or disabled</td>
<td>57% 20% 14% 3% 4% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s. Being a victim of crime</td>
<td>29% 21% 28% 12% 7% 4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t. Avoiding business practices that are unfair or fraudulent</td>
<td>41% 22% 20% 8% 6% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u. Having safe and affordable transportation systems available</td>
<td>30% 23% 26% 11% 8% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Keeping your family safe from acts of terrorism and violence</td>
<td>47% 18% 19% 8% 6% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w. Having consumer protections in health care plans</td>
<td>55% 25% 11% 3% 2% 3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x. Continuing to drive safely</td>
<td>51% 24% 13% 4% 5% 2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Please list the names of each newspaper you have a subscription to:

1.
2.
3. □ I do not have a subscription to any newspaper.

3. Please indicate which of the following publications you read regularly even though you may not have a subscription to them. (Check ALL that apply.)

% 86 Local newspaper 28 Senior center bulletin 17 Senior newspapers 33 Religious organization bulletin 13 Civic newsletters 32 Free community newspapers 81 AARP The Magazine 71 AARP Bulletin 20 Other membership organization newsletters 28 Other (specify) _____________________________ 2 I DON’T read any of these types of publications regularly 2 No Response
4. Have you ever heard about or read AARP Wyoming’s occasional newspaper called *The Wyoming Sage*?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>I have never heard about <em>The Wyoming Sage</em></th>
<th>SKIP TO QUESTION 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>I have heard about and read <em>The Wyoming Sage</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>I have heard about but not read <em>The Wyoming Sage</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4a. In which of the following places did you hear about or find this newspaper? (Check ALL that apply.) (n=192)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The senior center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Inserted in local newspaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Other (specify): ___________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Can’t remember/Don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Telecommunications

This part of the survey asks questions about the types of telephone service you currently use and may consider using. **Wireline telephone service** refers to a telephone line connecting your residence to a service provider or carrier that enables you to make and receive local and long-distance calls only within your residence or business. **Cellular telephone service** refers to a **wireless** connection from a mobile telephone to a relatively nearby transmitter enabling you to make local or long distance calls.

5. Do you currently subscribe to basic or local telephone service?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. How satisfied are you with your basic or local telephone service? (n=1,020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Satisfaction Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Somewhat dissatisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very dissatisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Do you think you are paying too much, too little, or about the right amount for your basic or local telephone service?  (n=1,020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Too much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Too little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>About the right amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. On average, how much do you pay per month for your basic or local telephone service?  (n=1,020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Between $0 and $29 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Between $30 and $49 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Between $50 and $79 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Between $80 and $99 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Between $100 and $124 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>More than $125 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Is there more than one telephone service provider in your area from which you can choose to purchase basic or local telephone service?  (n=1,020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>I’m not sure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Do you currently use a wireless or cellular phone?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. To what extent have you considered switching from wireline telephone service to cellular or wireless service for ALL your telephone needs?  (Check ONE only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>I currently use <strong>ONLY</strong> cellular service for all telephone needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Strongly considered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Somewhat considered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Have not considered too much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Have not considered at all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Grandparenting**

12. Do you have any grandchildren, including great grandchildren or step-grandchildren?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[GO TO QUESTION 21]

13. Do you provide care on a regular basis for any of your grandchildren?  (n=839)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>86</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. Do any of your grandchildren live in your household?  (n=839)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>95</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14a. If YES, do the parents of these grandchildren also live in your household?  (n=32)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. Have you had to return to work either on a part-time or full-time basis to help pay for the expenses of caring for any of your grandchildren?  (n=839)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. Are you the legal guardian for any of your grandchildren?  (n=839)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>98</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[SKIP TO QUESTION 18]
17. Have you considered becoming the legal guardian for any of your grandchildren? (n=822)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18. On the list below, place a check in the box next to the information you wish had about being a grandparent. (Check ALL that apply.) (n=839)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>The importance of grandparents to a child’s well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>How to speak to your grandchildren’s parents about issues concerning your grandchildren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Fun things to do with grandchildren of all ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Information resources for grandparents raising grandchildren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Step-grandparenting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Grandparenting in a multicultural family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Support groups for grandparents raising grandchildren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Keeping in touch long distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Financial gifts for grandchildren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Legal options for grandparents raising grandchildren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Information on state economic assistance programs for grandparents raising grandchildren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Children’s developmental stages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>How to speak to your grandchildren about issues in their lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Other (please specify) ________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>None of the above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
19. On the list below, check the way in which you would most prefer receiving information about grandparenting. (Check ONE only.) (n=839)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>E-mails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Web pages or web sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>In person workshops or seminars in your hometown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Magazine or newspaper articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>An organization or association newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Don’t want information about grandparenting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. How important do you think it is for grandparents providing care for their grandchildren to have access to affordable child care services that would allow them time to do chores such as housecleaning and grocery shopping? (n=839)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Importance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Very important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Not too important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Not at all important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. Currently, there is no state law in Wyoming that allows grandparents without legal custody of their grandchildren to enroll them in school even if the children’s parents cannot be found. That means that grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren but who have not taken legal custody cannot enroll them in school. How strongly do you support or oppose a proposed law in Wyoming that would allow grandparent caregivers without legal custody of their grandchildren to enroll them in school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Support or Opposition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Strongly support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Not sure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
22. Similarly, there is no state law in Wyoming that allows grandparents without legal custody of their grandchildren to have access to their medical records and make medical decisions even if the children’s parents cannot be found. How strongly would you support or oppose a proposed law in Wyoming allowing grandparent caregivers without legal custody of their grandchildren to have access to their medical records and make medical decisions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Strongly support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retirement

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Employment Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Not retired - Employed or self-employed full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Not retired - Employed or self-employed part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Not retired - Unemployed and looking for work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Retired and working again full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Retired and working again part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Retired and looking for work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Retired and NOT looking for work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24. Thinking about your own current work and financial situation, how likely is it that you will put off retiring from work as long as possible?  (n=397)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Very likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Somewhat likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Not too likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Not at all likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
25. Which of the following best describes what you plan to do when you reach retirement age:  
(Check ONE only.) (n=397)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>I want to continue working at my present job/career for as long as I am able</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>I want to continue working at my present job/career but with reduced hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>I want to retire and NEVER work again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>I want to retire from my current job/career and look for full-time work elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>I want to retire from my current job/career and look for part-time work elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>I want to retire from my current job/career and go back to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>I want to retire from my current job/career and start my own business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I want to retire from my current job/career and be a consultant in my area of expertise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>I want to retire from my current job/career and…(Other):______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26. How likely is it that you will stay in Wyoming once you retire?  (n=397)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Very likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Somewhat likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Not too likely  [SKIP TO QUESTION 27]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Not at all likely  [SKIP TO QUESTION 27]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26a. If you DO plan on staying in Wyoming when you retire, will you continue to live here:  
(n=347)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>No Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonally – summer, winter, fall, or spring</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certain times of the year like holidays, local or family events</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: _______________________________</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27. Which of the following reasons best describes why you DO NOT plan on staying in Wyoming  
once you reach retirement:  (Check ALL that apply.)  (n=397)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>I don’t like the weather conditions in Wyoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>There doesn’t seem to be another job or career opportunity for me in Wyoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I want to move closer to relatives and friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Other: _______________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
28. Please rate each of the following in terms of their importance in your decision to be working right now. For each reason, please indicate if it is a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor at all in your decision to be working. (n=522)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Major factor</th>
<th>Minor factor</th>
<th>Not a factor at all</th>
<th>No Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Need to pay for out-of-pocket health care expenses</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Need to maintain health insurance coverage</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Need to pay for out-of-pocket prescription drug costs</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Enjoy the job or enjoy working</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. To qualify for Social Security</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. To fulfill pension requirements</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Being productive is a way I can help others</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. People have an obligation to work if they can</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. It makes me feel useful</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Need the money</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. To save more for retirement</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following questions ask about making certain health care decisions. We understand that this topic may be sensitive to some, and we greatly appreciate your time and consideration in answering these questions. Your responses are critical in helping the state of Wyoming and AARP support people like yourself when dealing with these issues.

**Advance Planning and Preparation**

29. Advance directives allow you to make your health care decisions known in advance. These directives help others make decisions on your behalf when you are no longer able to do so. Wyoming has several forms in place to help people express those choices. Which of the following advance directive forms have you heard about and completed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form Description</th>
<th>Have heard about and completed</th>
<th>Have heard about but not completed</th>
<th>Have not heard about</th>
<th>No Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. A durable power of attorney for health care in which you name someone to make decisions about your health care in the event you become incapacitated</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. A living will in which you state the kind of health care you want or don’t want under certain circumstances</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. A cardiopulmonary resuscitation directive</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. A psychiatric advance directive</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Currently, Wyoming’s living will, durable power of attorney for health care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation directive, and psychiatric advance directive forms each have certain restrictions on who can make health care decisions for the patient. Some feel that these forms are complicated and could delay health care decision making by the patient and the family, while others believe that each patient has different requirements and circumstances around making health care decisions.

30. How strongly would you support or oppose a proposal in Wyoming to provide a single advance care directive form that would provide a patients' instructions about all their preferred types of health care?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Strongly support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Neither support nor oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Currently in Wyoming, when a patient did NOT prepare any document describing their health care decisions and they are suffering from a terminal condition or an irreversible coma where they are unable to communicate their health care choices, ALL family members who can be contacted must be in agreement about a decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining measures.

There is a proposal in Wyoming to allow family members and others the authority to make health care decisions for the patient based on an order of priority to the patient rather than agreement. For example, if the patient has a spouse, the spouse will be asked to decide about the patient’s treatment, and if there is no spouse, the patients children will be asked to decide, and if the patient does not have children, then the patients parents will be asked to decide, and so on.

31. How strongly would you support or oppose proposed legislation in Wyoming to allow family members to make decisions for a patient based on an order of priority rather than agreement when that patient has not executed an advance directive form?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Strongly support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Neither support nor oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**About You**

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

32. How long have you lived in Wyoming? ___________________________(in years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 – less than 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 – less than 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5 – less than 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10 – less than 15 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15 – less than 20 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>More than 20 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33. What is your 5-digit zip code? (WRITE IN YOUR ZIP CODE) ____  ____  ____  ____  ____
34. What county do you live in: _________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Laramie</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Uinta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Natrona</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Big Horn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fremont</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Washakie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sheridan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hot Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sweetwater</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Weston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Converse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sublette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Carbon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Goshen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Crook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Platte</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Niobrara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Teton</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Thayne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Sudn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

34. Are you…?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

36. What was your age at your last birthday? _____________________________ (in years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>50-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>60-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>75+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Less than high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>High school graduate or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Some college or technical training beyond high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>College graduate (4 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Post-graduate or professional degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
38. What is your race? (Check ALL that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Race</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>White or Caucasian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Black or African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hispanic, Spanish, Latino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Native American or Alaskan Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Other: ____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

39. What is your current marital status?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Single, never married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Living together as if married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Separated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Widowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Income Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Less than $10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>$10,000 to under $20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>$20,000 to under $30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>$30,000 to under $40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>$40,000 to under $50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$50,000 to under $60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$60,000 to under $75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>$75,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>No Response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
41. Do you access the internet or World Wide Web or the on-line services such as America On-Line (AOL)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No Response</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41a. If YES: Do you access the Internet or World Wide Web: (Check ALL that apply.) (n=608)

- 92% at home
- 33% at work
- 5% at the library
- 2% at the senior center
- * some other place

Thank you for completing this survey. Please use the postage-paid envelope and return it to State Member Research, AARP, 601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049, by May 25, 2004.
AARP
Knowledge Management
For more information please contact Erica Dinger (202) 434-6176