

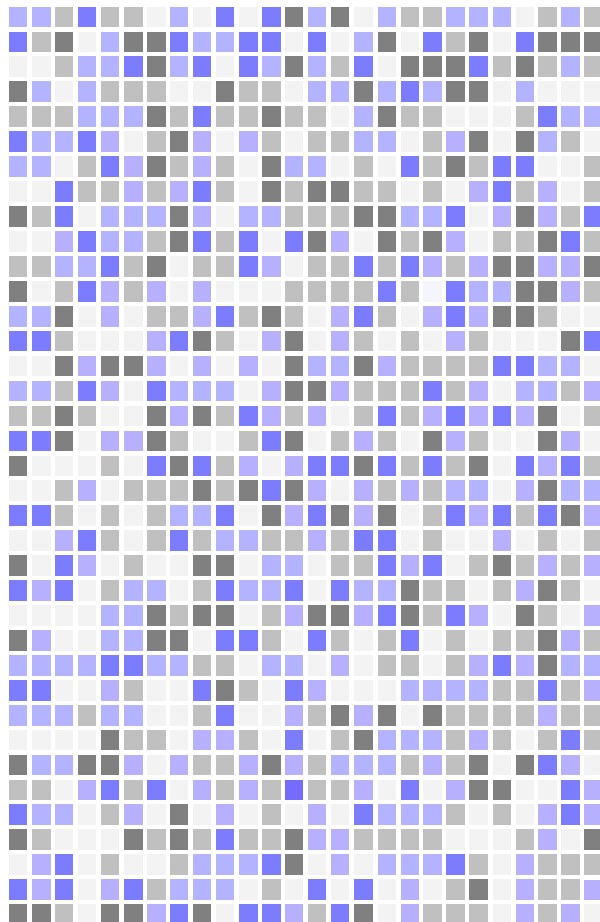


Aging in Asia and Oceania

AARP Multinational Survey of Opinion Leaders 2006

Report
March 2007

Prepared by Princeton Survey Research Associates
International for 



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Contents

Introduction	1
Highlights and implications	2
Key findings	6
Overall themes	10
Older workers: extending work lives	32
Retirement security and life quality	55
Perceptions of older people	86
Aging advocacy organizations	91
Methodology	105
Appendix: Annotated questionnaire	109

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Introduction

In 2006 AARP commissioned Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI) to conduct a survey of opinion leaders in the United States and in seven countries in Asia and Oceania. The survey was designed to increase AARP's knowledge of aging issues and attitudes in key Asian markets and to compare attitudes and policies towards aging in the US to attitudes and policies in Asian and Oceanian societies. Populations in many countries are growing older as life expectancy increases and birth rates decline. In response to this demographic trend, this survey of opinion leaders sought to address questions such as the perceived importance of population aging, the types of challenges and opportunities societies are expected to face because of population aging, the degree to which different sectors of society are prepared for the changing demographics, the different ways in which societies address retirement security and quality of life issues in old age, and attitudes toward older people and their place in society.

To help answer these questions, interviewers spoke with more than 400 opinion leaders in Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and the US. The survey sample consists of opinion leaders and experts who hold senior level positions in government, nongovernmental organizations, private sector, media, and academia.¹

The following report begins with an overview of survey highlights and implications and a short summary of key findings. The summary materials are followed by a detailed discussion of the survey results divided into five sections: (1) Overall themes, (2) Older workers: extending work lives, (3) Retirement security and life quality, (4) Perceptions of older people, and (5) Aging advocacy organizations. These substantive sections are followed by a detailed description of the survey methodology and an annotated questionnaire. Eight individual country reports are also available from AARP.

¹ The current survey is a follow-up to similar studies commissioned by AARP in the past, although it is unique in its focus on the Asia and Oceania region. Comparisons to the results of past studies are made, where relevant, in the in-depth country reports published in conjunction with this report.

Highlights

Population aging a high priority issue

- ▶ Most opinion leaders consider population aging to be an important trend that should not be ignored in favor of other pressing issues. The survey results also indicate that opinion leaders do not see increasing life expectancy and decreasing birth rates as a one-sided phenomenon, but associate both challenges and opportunities with the growing population of older people.

Population aging presents opportunities...

- ▶ On the positive side, population aging will mean the potential availability of knowledgeable and experienced older people to contribute as productive members of the workforce and the creation of new markets for products and services targeted at older people. Most opinion leaders agree that population aging is an opportunity to create new roles for older people in society. Older people are generally seen as helpful, contributing members of society and older workers as wise, respected, and productive. But in addition to being viewed as producers, older people are also perceived as consumers. Majorities in six out of the eight countries surveyed believe that the business community already views older people as an opportunity for marketing and selling products and services.
- ▶ Overall, opinion leaders are optimistic that over the next 20 years the life quality of older people will improve. Most opinion leaders are also hopeful that technology, such as computers and robots, will be helpful in extending the productive work lives of older workers, extending independent living by older people, and improving health and medical care of older people.

...and challenges

- ▶ On the negative side, opinion leaders worry about providing retirement income, health care, and housing to a growing population of older people and the degree to which employers are prepared for an increasing number of older workers. Labor shortages are also looming. With the exception of India, majorities in all surveyed countries believe that their country is likely to experience labor shortages over the next 20 years. Many of these opinion leaders predict that their country will adopt more liberal immigration policies to compensate. While extending work lives is another potential solution, many opinion leaders doubt that businesses see older people as a potential source of productive labor and think that employers are poorly prepared for a future workforce comprised of more older workers. A solid majority of opinion leaders also report that discrimination against older people is a problem when employers are recruiting and hiring new employees, and the opinion leaders themselves often have less than complimentary views of older workers when it comes to their technological savvy, flexibility, and the ability to acquire new skills. Opinion leaders generally agree that older workers should be accommodated and that businesses have a responsibility to society to address issues related to an older workforce, but a majority of opinion leaders doubt that businesses have the expertise or willingness to do so, and opinion on whether businesses have the necessary financial resources is divided.

Providing for older people a hurdle

- ▶ Even if work lives are extended, opinion leaders acknowledge that there are limits to how long most people are likely to remain in the workforce. Although a majority of opinion leaders oppose the idea of a mandatory retirement age, the average opinion leader thinks that most men should retire at 65, most women at 63. And opinion leaders as a group reach no consensus on whose responsibility it is to provide for older people after they are no longer working. Roughly a third of opinion leaders say that the primary responsibility for providing for people in their old age lies with the government, but as many opinion leaders think that older people are responsible for providing for themselves through savings. About a quarter of opinion leaders think that responsibility should be shared among different groups. Relatively few opinion leaders think that family members or employers ought to be primarily responsible, although particularly in China and India, families are expected to play a significant role in assisting older relatives.
- ▶ Perceptions of the overall quality of life of older people vary across the surveyed countries, but a solid majority of opinion leaders report that an adequate retirement income is *not* available to older people of all social and economic backgrounds. Moreover, opinion leaders in each of the eight countries surveyed report that their health care system is not well prepared to deal with an aging population and majorities in four out of the eight countries surveyed—China, India, South Korea, and the US—say that at least some older people are residing in inadequate living quarters. Opinion leaders throughout the surveyed countries call for increased government efforts to ensure that older people receive the health care services they need and gain access to adequate housing.

Majorities say country not too prepared

- ▶ Majorities in five out of the eight countries surveyed—China, India, Japan, South Korea, and the US—report that their country is not too prepared or not prepared at all to deal with changes that may result from the aging of their population. By contrast, majorities in Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore believe that their country is at least somewhat prepared, although few describe their country as very prepared. The lack of preparedness is not always for want of expertise, with majorities in six out of the eight countries having a relatively high degree of confidence in their government's level of knowledge and expertise on population aging. At the same time, many opinion leaders contend that various groups in society are not paying enough attention to population aging. This is particularly true in the case of younger people, the business community, and local governments.

Mixed support for policy changes

- ▶ The popularity of different policy tools to help cover the increased costs associated with taking care of an aging population varies from country to country. Although there is fairly wide variation, there is more support than opposition to educating the public about the importance of saving for old age, implementing mandatory private savings, and raising the retirement age. At the same time, there is, on average, slight opposition to tax increases and opinion leaders in most countries are opposed to reducing pensions. Opinion leaders also report that some factions of society—in particular labor unions and the business community—are not very committed to improving the lives of older people.

Most not familiar with AARP but welcome AARP involvement

- ▶ Almost all US opinion leaders are familiar with AARP, but most opinion leaders outside the US are not. However, among those with some degree of familiarity, the view of the organization is mainly favorable. Moreover, a solid majority of opinion leaders think that it would be helpful if AARP were to play a role in countries outside the US by meeting with government policy makers to exchange information about aging and retirement, organizing conferences to bring together policy makers and aging experts from various countries, educating people about issues related to aging and retirement, and helping establish similar organizations in other countries. Most opinion leaders outside the US would welcome an AARP-style organization in their country. According to these opinion leaders such an organization would be helpful when it comes to providing knowledge and expertise, raising awareness about aging, and influencing government policy.

Implications

Receptive audience on aging issues

- ▶ A majority of opinion leaders in a very diverse group of countries, from India to the US, consider population aging to be an important, high priority issue. This implies that influential people on a global scale are paying attention. Opinion leaders are aware of the aging trend, receptive to new ideas, and willing to consider ways to address challenges associated with population aging.

Awareness building necessary for some groups

- ▶ Opinion leaders identify a number of groups that may not yet be paying attention to population aging. Younger people and the business community stand out in particular. To effectively address challenges created by population aging, it is crucial that all groups in society are aware of the issues and their implications. Although opinion leaders—high level influentials—are paying attention to population aging, building awareness among other social strata, particularly the public, may be necessary.

Policy action needed to improve life quality...

- ▶ To a varying degree, at least some older people in the countries surveyed already lack access to an adequate retirement income, health care, and housing. Without policy action, these problems are likely to exacerbate, as the share of older people in the population increases. With little consensus on who is responsible for providing for older people, the challenge in many countries will be to prevent gridlock and find policy solutions acceptable to a large enough share of society.

...and conditions for older workers

- ▶ As the number of older workers increases, workplaces will need to adjust. While opinion leaders support accommodating older workers, policy action may be needed to bring the business community aboard.

Openness to AARP-style organizations

- ▶ Opinion leaders are open to organizations that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues. AARP-organized activities are welcomed in countries outside the US.

Key findings

Population aging a high priority issue

- ▶ Most opinion leaders consider population aging to be an important issue that should not be ignored in favor of other pressing issues. This view is shared by a majority of opinion leaders in all eight surveyed countries.

Population aging presents challenges and opportunities

- ▶ Opinion leaders associate both challenges and opportunities with population aging. On the positive side, population aging will mean increased access to the knowledge and experience of older people, creation of new markets for products and services targeted at older people, the potential availability of older people to contribute as productive members of the workforce, and increased diversity. On the negative side, the increased cost of providing retirement income and health care to a growing population of older people is foremost in opinion leaders' minds.

Some countries more prepared than others

- ▶ While a majority of opinion leaders in Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore believe that their country is at least somewhat prepared to deal with changes that may result from the aging of their population, majorities in the other five countries surveyed—China, India, Japan, South Korea, and the US—report that their country is not too prepared or not prepared at all. The countries that are most prepared to deal with the challenges of population aging are also countries where opinion leaders have a relatively high degree of confidence in their government's level of knowledge and expertise on this issue.

Some groups not paying enough attention

- ▶ Many opinion leaders contend that various groups in society are not paying enough attention to population aging. This is particularly true in the case of younger people, the business community, and local governments.

Workers “older” after age 60

- ▶ Averaging 60 years of age among all opinion leaders interviewed, the average age at which opinion leaders would consider someone an older worker varies somewhat from country to country, ranging from a high of age 66 in Japan to a low of age 55 in Australia. Half of opinion leaders say that the transition to becoming an older worker occurs some time between the ages of 60 and 69.

Older workers perceived as wise, respected, productive

- ▶ A solid majority of opinion leaders perceive older workers as wise, respected, and productive. But opinion leaders are divided on whether older workers can be described as flexible, and majorities do not see older workers as open to new technology or as fast at acquiring new skills. At the same time, perceptions vary from country to country, with Australia, New Zealand, and the US standing out with the most positive attitudes toward older workers.

Employers not prepared for older workers and discrimination exists

- ▶ According to many opinion leaders, businesses do not see older people as a potential source of productive labor and employers are not well prepared for a future workforce comprised of more older workers. A solid majority of opinion leaders report that discrimination against older people is a problem when employers are recruiting and hiring employees. Both older and younger opinion leaders are equally likely to see discrimination as a problem.

Responsibility to society to address older worker issues

- ▶ Opinion leaders generally agree that businesses have a responsibility to society to address issues related to an older workforce. But a majority of opinion leaders doubt that businesses have the expertise or willingness to do so, and opinion on whether businesses have the necessary financial resources is divided.

Older workers should be accommodated

- ▶ Opinion leaders support a variety of practices to accommodate older workers, including opportunities for additional training and education, policies that prohibit discrimination based on age at the workplace, reduced work hours, and the option to continue employment in a different position with fewer responsibilities. Most opinion leaders also predict that technology will be helpful in extending productive work lives over the next 20 years.

Mid-sixties appropriate time to retire

- ▶ According to the average opinion leader, the appropriate retirement age is 65 for male workers and 63 for female workers. Looking at individual countries, the average appropriate retirement age proposed by opinion leaders ranges from 68 in the US for both men and women to China's 63 for men and 59 for women. Roughly a quarter of opinion leaders decline to name a specific age, saying that people should never retire or that the appropriate age depends on factors such as health, attitude, or occupation.

Mandatory retirement opposed

- ▶ A majority of opinion leaders oppose the idea of a mandatory retirement age. Opposition is particularly strong in Australia, New Zealand, and the US. But at the same time, a majority of opinion leaders in India, along with half of Chinese opinion leaders and sizable minorities in Japan and South Korea, support the idea.

Perceptions of quality of life in old age vary

- ▶ While a majority of opinion leaders in Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, and the US report that the overall quality of life of older people in their country is somewhat or very good, only half of opinion leaders in China agree, and majorities in India and South Korea describe the quality of life of older people in their country as somewhat or very bad.

Pensions sometimes inadequate

- ▶ Roughly half of opinion leaders state that the average older person's pension and benefits from the government or from their employer are not sufficient to live comfortably. Moreover, a solid majority of opinion leaders report that an adequate retirement income is *not* available to older people of all social and economic backgrounds.

No consensus on responsibility

- ▶ Roughly a third of opinion leaders say that the primary responsibility for providing for people in their old age lies with the government, but as many opinion leaders think that older people are responsible for providing for themselves through savings. About a quarter of opinion leaders think that responsibility should be shared among different groups. Relatively few opinion leaders think that family members or employers ought to be primarily responsible. This issue of responsibility divides opinion leaders in most of the countries surveyed.

Family should play a role

- ▶ Families play a role in taking care of older people. A majority of opinion leaders think that family should play a moderate or big role in providing long-term care for sick or disabled older people, providing transportation, and providing housing. Many opinion leaders also believe that family members should play at least a moderate role in covering health care costs and providing retirement income. Expectations of a family's role vary from country to country.

Different views on living arrangements

- ▶ More than half of opinion leaders overall think that, in general, it is best for relatively healthy older people to live independently as long as possible. But while enthusiasm for independent living is nearly universal in Australia and the US and supported by majorities in Japan, New Zealand, and Singapore, majorities in China, India, and South Korea prefer other arrangements, such as living with extended families or in assisted care facilities.

Health care systems poorly prepared

- ▶ Opinion leaders in each of the eight countries surveyed report that their health care system is not well prepared to deal with an aging population. In addition, majorities in China, India, South Korea, and the US say that access to quality health care is currently not available to all older people, regardless of socioeconomic background. Opinion leaders throughout the surveyed countries call for increased government efforts to ensure that older people receive the health care services they need. Most opinion leaders also believe that technology will help improve health care of older people over the next two decades.

Housing situation varies from country to country

- ▶ Majorities in Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore along with half of Japanese opinion leaders report that adequate housing is available to older people of all social and economic backgrounds in their country. But majorities in the other four countries—China, India, South Korea, and the US—disagree. Most opinion leaders believe that government efforts to ensure that older people have access to adequate housing should be increased.

Mixed support for policy changes to cover increased costs

- ▶ Overall, opinion leaders support various policy changes to help cover the increased costs associated with taking care of an aging population, including public education about the importance of saving, mandatory private savings, and a higher retirement age. Significant pension reductions, on the other hand, are opposed by a majority of opinion leaders overall. However, the popularity of different policy tools varies from country to country.

Older people contributing members of society

- ▶ Almost all opinion leaders see older people as generally helpful, contributing members of society and most believe that their government should do more to take advantage of the contributions that older people can make to the community by enlisting them to help with community projects. Australia and South Korea are the only countries where more than half of opinion leaders say that older people are often a burden on the community. Majorities elsewhere disagree with this sentiment.

Market for products and services

- ▶ With two exceptions, majorities believe that the business community views older people as an opportunity for marketing and selling products and services. The exceptions are India and Singapore. A majority of Indian opinion leaders and half of Singaporean opinion leaders disagree.

Most not familiar with AARP

- ▶ Almost all US opinion leaders are familiar with AARP, but most opinion leaders outside the US are not. However, among those with some degree of familiarity, the view of the organization is mainly favorable.

Advocacy organizations helpful

- ▶ Most opinion leaders outside the US would welcome an organization like AARP in their country. According to these opinion leaders such an organization would be helpful when it comes to providing knowledge and expertise, raising awareness about aging, and influencing government policy. A solid majority of opinion leaders also think that it would be helpful if AARP were to play a role in countries outside the US by meeting with government policy makers to exchange information about aging and retirement, organizing conferences to bring together policy makers and aging experts from various countries, educating people about issues related to aging and retirement, and helping establish similar organizations in other countries.

Section 1: Overall themes

In many countries around the world, decreasing birth rates and higher life expectancy are resulting in a demographic shift known as population aging—a shift to a higher share of older people in the population. As the table below shows, the percentage of the population age 60 or older is expected to rise markedly over the next few decades in the eight surveyed countries. Consequently, there will be fewer working age people for every person who has reached retirement age, considerably decreasing the so-called support ratio.

10

Figure 1.1

Key statistics

	Median age ²	Population age 60 or older ³		Growth ratio ⁵	Potential support ratio ⁴	
	2006	% 2006	% 2050		2006	2050
Japan	43	27	42	1.6	3	1
Australia	37	18	30	1.7	5	3
New Zealand	34	17	30	1.8	5	3
United States	37	17	26	1.5	5	3
South Korea	35	14	41	2.9	7	2
Singapore	37	13	38	2.9	8	2
China	33	11	31	2.8	9	3
India	25	8	21	2.6	12	5

In this first section, we discuss opinion leaders' general views of population aging, including the degree of urgency required to address the issue, the likely consequences of a shifting population structure, and the degree to which they believe that their country is prepared to deal with an aging population. Opinion leaders generally see population aging as an important issue that brings new opportunities but also poses many challenges to society.

² Source: CIA World Factbook.

³ Source: United Nations.

⁴ Ratio of population aged 15 to 64 years to the population aged 65 or older. Source: United Nations.

⁵ Ratio of % of population age 60 or older in 2050 to % of population age 60 or older in 2006.

Importance of population aging

Compared to other issues facing their countries, opinion leaders see population aging as an important issue with high priority. About half of opinion leaders (51%) say that, compared to other issues facing their country, population aging is a *very* important issue. Most of the rest (41%) characterize it as a *somewhat* important issue. Fewer than one in 10 opinion leaders (7%) think that aging is not very important or not important at all.

Population aging is important across all the surveyed countries. Half or more of opinion leaders in South Korea (80%), Japan (70%), the US (61%), Singapore (52%), and India (48%) say that the issue is very important, and most opinion leaders in all eight countries believe that population aging is at least somewhat important. At the same time, three countries stand out for their more restrained view about the importance of population aging. In New Zealand (68%), China (58%), and Australia (52%), a majority of opinion leaders think that the aging of the population is a somewhat rather than very important issue.

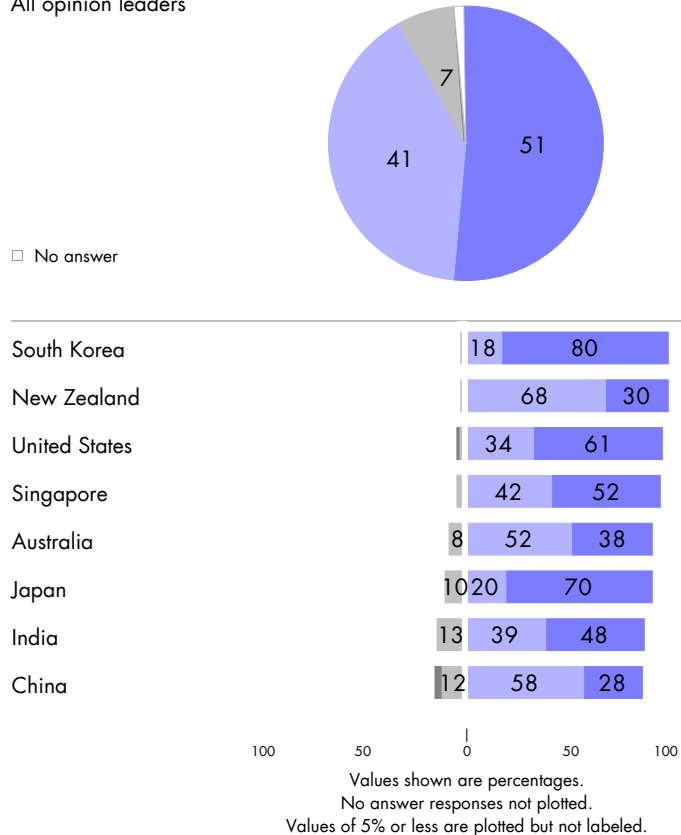
Opinion leaders of all ages find population aging to be an important issue. Among opinion leaders over age 50, a slim majority (51%) say that the issue is very important, with most of the rest saying that it is somewhat important (39%). Similarly, among younger opinion leaders, a slim majority (51%) think that population aging is very important, while most of the rest (43%) characterize it as a somewhat important issue.

Figure 1.2

Importance of population aging

► Compared to other issues facing our country, how important an issue is the aging of the population—[●] very important, [●] somewhat important, [●] not very important or [●] not important at all?⁶

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁶ Except where otherwise noted, all results in this report are based on the full sample of 423 opinion leaders. The country results are based on 50 opinion leaders each in Australia, China, India, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea, 49 opinion leaders in New Zealand, and 74 opinion leaders in the US.

Consistent with the perception of population aging as an important issue, opinion leaders generally believe that it should rank high on the list of issues for their country to address. Only about two in 10 opinion leaders (23%) are of the opinion that population aging should not be a priority and that there are other, more pressing issues, while fewer than one in 10 (6%) agree with this strongly. A solid majority of opinion leaders (76%) disagree with this view altogether.

Majorities in all countries surveyed reject the statement that “the aging of the population should not be a priority.” Ranging from about nine in 10 opinion leaders in Australia (92%) to six in 10 in Japan (60%), majorities disagree with the notion that population aging should be set aside in favor of other, more urgent, problems. At the same time, some opinion leaders do feel that there are more important priorities. Most notably, more than a third of Japanese (38%), Chinese (38%), and Indian (35%) opinion leaders call into question the priority of population aging.

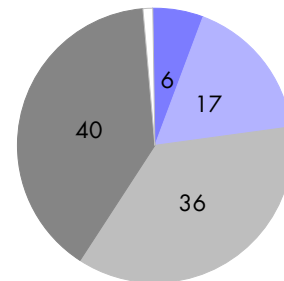
Both younger and older opinion leaders are equally likely to believe that population aging should be a priority. However, male opinion leaders question the priority of population aging more often than female opinion leaders. Although a solid majority of both males and females believe that competing priorities should not be an excuse to ignore population aging, male opinion leaders are twice as likely to think that population aging should not be a priority and that there are more pressing issues to address than female opinion leaders (26% versus 12%, respectively).

Figure 1.3

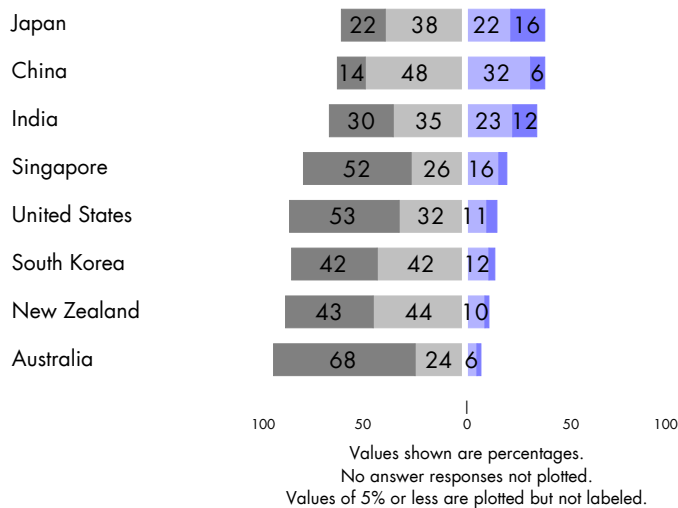
Is population aging not a priority?

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: The aging of the population should not be a priority; we have other, more pressing issues to address.

All opinion leaders



□ No answer



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Top economic challenges

Further reinforcing the finding that the aging of the population should be a priority issue, opinion leaders say that the growing population of older people ranks as one of the top economic challenges facing their country over the next 20 years. Asked to name up to three of the most important economic challenges, opinion leaders bring up aging of the population more often than any other issue.⁷ Four in 10 opinion leaders (40%) say that population aging is one of the top three economic challenges in the coming decades, while one in 10 mention the related issues of low birth rates (10%) and paying for retirement income (10%). Likewise, about one in 10 opinion leaders bring up health care spending (12%) and labor shortages (12%)—two other issues that are often associated with population aging.

At the same time, given the diversity of the countries included in the survey, each faces unique challenges and the share of opinion leaders mentioning population aging varies some from country to country. A majority of opinion leaders mention aging of the population in Singapore and South Korea, along with nearly half of opinion leaders in Australia and New Zealand. Population aging is also among the top concerns in the other countries surveyed, with the exception of India, where competing priorities are deemed even more challenging than population aging. Details for each country are summarized below.⁸

In Australia, social welfare and meeting the basic needs of the population is the most frequently mentioned economic challenge, but the aging of the population is not far behind. A slim majority of Australian opinion leaders (56%) mention social welfare, while about half (48%) bring up population aging. Notable minorities also mention meeting energy needs (26%), health care spending (20%), and slow economic growth (20%).

Figure 1.4

Top economic challenges

► In your opinion, what are the most important economic challenges facing our country in the next 20 years?

Growing population of older people/aging of the population	40%
Unemployment, lack of jobs	16
Income inequality/gap between rich and poor	15
Slow economic growth/development	15
Meeting basic needs/social welfare	13
Health care spending/costs	12
Labor shortages	12
Meeting energy needs	10
Low birth rate	10
Paying for pensions, retirement income	10

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

13

Figure 1.5

Top economic challenges-Australia

Meeting basic needs/social welfare	56%
Growing population of older people/aging of the population	48
Meeting energy needs	26
Health care spending/costs	20
Slow economic growth/development	20

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁷ It should be noted that this was the first question asked and opinion leaders knew the topic of the survey prior to the interview, which could have influenced their response to this question.

⁸ To view the individual country results side-by-side, please refer to the Appendix.

In China, the aging of the population tops the list of economic challenges mentioned, but many opinion leaders also talk about problems related to government and reform, meeting energy needs, environmental issues, and various problems having to do with the business environment and business practices. About four in 10 Chinese opinion leaders mention the aging issue (38%), while nearly as many (34%) bring up various problems related to government. Roughly a quarter mention energy needs (24%), environmental issues (22%), or the business environment (22%).

India stands out as the country with the fewest mentions of population aging. This is not surprising given India's relatively low GDP and many other competing priorities. About a third of India's opinion leaders mention unemployment (35%), followed by income inequality (28%) and poverty (21%). Only a handful of opinion leaders in India (6%) bring up aging of the population when asked to name the most important economic challenges facing India over the next two decades.

In Japan, where more than a quarter of the population is already over age 60, concerns related to population aging are foremost in opinion leaders' minds when asked about economic challenges. Roughly a third of Japanese opinion leaders (36%) mention low birth rates and about as many (34%) mention the aging of the population. In addition, about two in 10 Japanese opinion leaders (18%) say that providing retirement income to older people is one of the top economic challenges.

Figure 1.6

Top economic challenges-China

Growing population of older people/aging of the population	38%
Problems with government, policies, corruption, reform	34
Meeting energy needs	24
Environmental issues	22
Problems with business environment, business practices	22

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 1.7

Top economic challenges-India

Unemployment/lack of jobs	35%
Income inequality/gap between rich and poor	28
Increasing poverty	21

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 1.8

Top economic challenges-Japan

Low birth rate	36%
Growing population of older people/aging of the population	34
Paying for pensions, retirement income	18

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Like in Japan, opinion leaders in New Zealand bring up issues related to the aging of the population more often than any other issue. Almost half of New Zealand's opinion leaders (45%) say that population aging is one of the top economic challenges facing their country. In addition, a third of opinion leaders (32%) mention labor shortages.

The aging of the population is by far the most frequently mentioned economic challenge in Singapore. Two-thirds of Singaporean opinion leaders (66%) say that population aging is one of the top economic challenges in their country. However, the pressures of global competition also compete for attention. About four in 10 Singaporean opinion leaders (38%) bring up global competition or globalization when asked about important economic challenges.

Population aging is also a top concern in South Korea. A majority of six in 10 opinion leaders (60%) mention the aging of the population and a sizable minority (38%) bring up the related issue of low birth rates. At the same time, unemployment and income inequality are seen as problematic. Half of Korean opinion leaders include unemployment (50%) and income inequality (48%) in the list of most important economic challenges facing their country over the next 20 years.

Although the aging of the population is not the most frequently mentioned challenge in the US, most of the issues mentioned are related to population aging. Health care spending tops the list in the US, with four in 10 opinion leaders (40%) saying that it is one of the top economic challenges, followed by funding government spending and budget deficits (28%) and providing retirement income (27%). And a quarter of US opinion leaders (25%) do mention the growing population of older people.

Figure 1.9

Top economic challenges-New Zealand

Growing population of older people/aging of the population	45%
Labor shortages	32

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 1.10

Top economic challenges-Singapore

Growing population of older people/aging of the population	66%
Global competition, globalization	38

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 1.11

Top economic challenges-South Korea

Growing population of older people/aging of the population	60%
Unemployment, lack of jobs	50
Income inequality/gap between rich and poor	48
Low birth rate	38

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 1.12

Top economic challenges-United States

Health care spending/costs	40%
Funding government spending, deficits, debt	28
Paying for pensions, retirement income	27
Growing population of older people/aging of the population	25

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Impact of population aging

Opinion leaders associate both challenges and opportunities with population aging. As life expectancy increases and birth rates decline, the results will be both positive and negative, according to a slim majority of opinion leaders (54%). At the same time, a notable share of opinion leaders (35%) believe that the impact of the demographic shift will be mostly negative. Few opinion leaders (6%) foresee a mostly positive outcome to population aging.

With one exception, the view that population aging will have both a positive and negative impact is shared by at least half of opinion leaders across the surveyed countries. Solid majorities in New Zealand (69%), Australia (66%), and the US (64%), along with slimmer majorities in Singapore (54%), Japan (52%), and China (52%) and half of Indian opinion leaders (50%) maintain that population aging is a two-sided phenomenon. At the same time, notable minorities in each of these countries believe that aging of the population will have mostly negative consequences. This is also the view held by a solid majority of South Korean opinion leaders (70%). Only about three in 10 opinion leaders in South Korea (28%) think that population aging will impact their country positively.

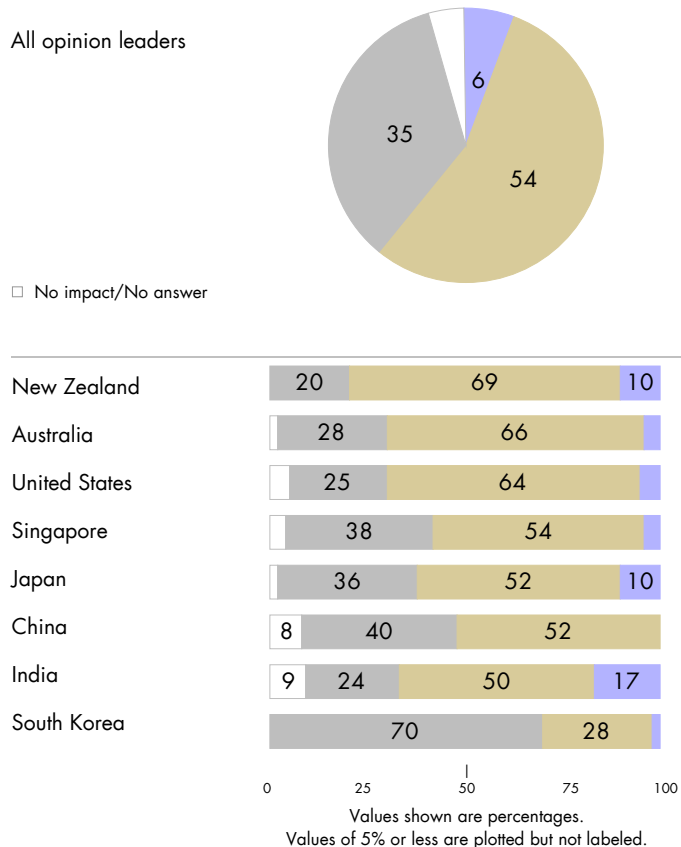
Perceptions of the consequences of an aging population are colored by the age of the opinion leader. Younger opinion leaders are more likely to see population aging as a mostly negative phenomenon than older opinion leaders. About four in 10 opinion leaders age 50 or younger (42%) think that the impact of aging will be mostly negative, compared to fewer than three in 10 opinion leaders over age 50 (25%).

Figure 1.13

Impact of population aging

► The populations of many countries are growing older as life expectancy increases and birth rates decline. Do you think the aging of the population will have a [●] largely positive, [●] largely negative, or [●] both a positive and negative impact on our country over the next 20 years?

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Positive consequences of population aging

According to opinion leaders, the positive consequences of population aging include having access to the knowledge and experience of older people, creation of new markets for products and services targeted at older people, the potential availability of older people to contribute as productive members of the workforce, and increased diversity. Asked to think of ways in which the aging of the population will have a positive impact on their country or provide new opportunities over the next 20 years, fully half of opinion leaders (50%) say that older people possess valuable knowledge and experience. About three in 10 opinion leaders (29%) mention the economic benefit of marketing products and services to satisfy older consumers. About two in 10 opinion leaders (21%) point out that older people have the potential to remain productive members of the workforce, and as many opinion leaders (21%) say that increased diversity resulting from a larger share of older people is one of the benefits of population aging.

Figure 1.14

Positive consequences of population aging

► In what ways will the aging of the population have a positive impact on our country or provide new opportunities over the next 20 years?*

Knowledge and experience of older people	50%
Market for products and services	29
Potential pool of productive workers	21
Increased diversity	21
Assisting younger family members by providing child care	8

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

* These results are based on 406 opinion leaders.

For the most part, opinion leaders across the eight countries surveyed share the same expectations, giving similar responses when asked how population aging will impact their country positively. Having access to older people’s knowledge and experience tops the list of positive consequences of population aging in New Zealand (65%), Australia (61%), India (59%), South Korea (56%), Singapore (54%), the US (43%), and Japan (41%). China is the only country where opinion leaders bring up the fact that older people are a market for products and services (37%) more often than their knowledge and experience (22%). In addition to China, a sizable minority of opinion leaders mention marketing products and services to older people in South Korea (46%), New Zealand (43%), and Singapore (40%). In the US, on the other hand, opinion leaders mention the potential of older people to serve as productive members of the workforce (38%) almost as often as their knowledge and experience. Increased diversity is noted by a majority of opinion leaders in Australia (55%) and a sizable minority in New Zealand (39%).

Figure 1.15

Positive consequences of population aging

► In what ways will the aging of the population have a positive impact on our country or provide new opportunities over the next 20 years?¹⁰

	<u>Australia</u>	<u>China</u>	<u>India</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>New Zealand</u>	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>South Korea</u>	<u>United States</u>
Knowledge and experience of older people	61%	22%	59%	41%	65%	54%	56%	43%
Market for products and services	22	37	13	12	43	40	46	14
Potential pool of productive workers	20	17	8	12	24	29	20	38
Increased diversity	55	9	7	8	39	15	28	2
Assisting younger family members by providing child care	4	2	11	0	19	15	12	2

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

¹⁰ These results are based on 49 opinion leaders in Australia, 46 opinion leaders in China, 45 opinion leaders in India, 49 opinion leaders in Japan, 49 opinion leaders in New Zealand, 48 opinion leaders in Singapore, 50 opinion leaders in South Korea, and 70 opinion leaders in the US.



One potential outcome of population aging is a push to start looking at aging and older people's role in society in new ways. Most opinion leaders agree that the aging of the population is an opportunity to create new roles for older people. Nearly nine in 10 opinion leaders (87%) strongly or somewhat agree with this sentiment, while only about one in 10 (12%) disagree.

The view that population aging is an opportunity to reconsider societal roles is prevalent among opinion leaders in all the surveyed countries. Ranging from 100 percent of US opinion leaders to about seven in 10 Korean opinion leaders (68%), solid majorities in each of the eight countries agree. The intensity of this view does, however, vary by country. A majority of opinion leaders in China (60%) and South Korea (56%) only somewhat agree that the aging of the population is an opportunity to create new roles for older people. And in two of these three countries—South Korea (32%) and China (26%)—notable minorities flatly disagree that the aging population is an opportunity to create new roles.

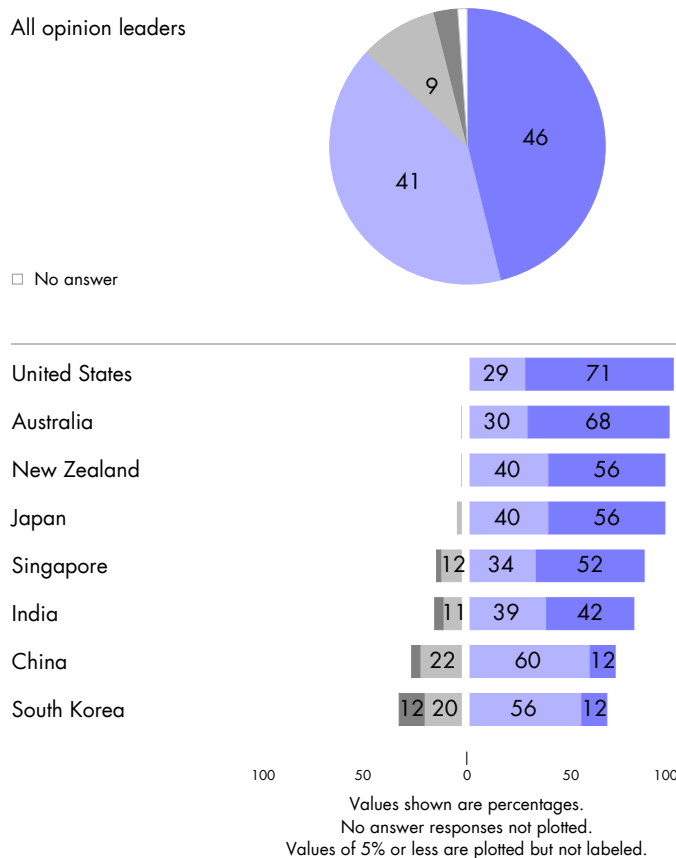
Age may have something to do with how intensely opinion leaders believe that population aging is an opportunity to redefine the role of older people. Although most opinion leaders regardless of their age agree that population aging provides an opportunity to create new roles for older people, opinion leaders over age 50 are more likely to feel strongly than younger opinion leaders (55% versus 39%, respectively).

Figure 1.16

Opportunity to create new roles

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: The aging of the population is an opportunity to create new roles for older people in our country.

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Negative consequences of population aging

On the negative side, opinion leaders are most worried about providing health care and retirement income to an aging population. Asked how the aging of the population will have a negative impact or pose new challenges over the next 20 years, a majority of opinion leaders mention increased costs of providing health care (60%) and retirement income (55%). Some opinion leaders also point to the need to provide housing and other basic accommodations for older people (16%), people having to work longer than they would like before they can afford to retire (14%), children having to take care of their parents (13%), and the pressures resulting from a greater fraction of the population being out of the workforce (13%).

Opinion leaders across the eight countries generally bring up similar concerns. The increased cost of providing health care to an aging population is the most frequently mentioned concern in New Zealand (88%), Australia (86%), Singapore (69%), the US (66%), and India (44%), although majorities in Australia (78%) and New Zealand (68%) and sizable minorities in the US (49%) and India (30%) mention providing retirement income as well. The increased cost of providing retirement income is the most often mentioned concern in South Korea (78%), China (70%), and Japan (43%), although nearly as many South Korean opinion leaders (74%) bring up increased health care costs.

Figure 1.17

Negative consequences of population aging

► In what ways will the aging of the population have a negative impact or pose new challenges over the next 20 years?¹¹

Increased cost of providing health care	60%
Increased cost of providing pensions/retirement income	55
Providing housing and other basic accommodations for older people	16
People may need to work longer than they would like before they can retire	14
Children having to take care of their parents	13
Greater fraction of population out of the workforce	13

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

¹¹ These results are based on 406 opinion leaders.

Figure 1.18

Negative consequences of population aging

► In what ways will the aging of the population have a negative impact or pose new challenges over the next 20 years?¹²

	<u>Australia</u>	<u>China</u>	<u>India</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>New Zealand</u>	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>South Korea</u>	<u>United States</u>
Increased cost of providing health care	86%	30%	44%	18%	88%	69%	74%	66%
Increased cost of providing pensions/retirement income	78	70	30	43	68	25	78	49
Providing housing and other basic accommodations for older people	29	22	4	2	8	15	38	6
People may need to work longer than they would like before they can retire	35	4	9	8	14	15	22	4
Children having to take care of their parents	4	15	11	4	8	33	20	8
Greater fraction of population out of the workforce	4	35	4	10	0	21	10	19

Based on multiple mentions.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

¹² These results are based on 49 opinion leaders in Australia, 46 opinion leaders in China, 45 opinion leaders in India, 49 opinion leaders in Japan, 49 opinion leaders in New Zealand, 48 opinion leaders in Singapore, 50 opinion leaders in South Korea, and 70 opinion leaders in the US.

Preparedness to population aging

Opinion leaders see opportunities and challenges in an aging population but, as a group, they largely see their countries as ill prepared to deal with the potential changes that may result from population aging. A majority of opinion leaders (63%) report that their country is not too prepared or that it is not prepared at all to handle the challenges associated with the demographic shift. And although about a third of opinion leaders (32%) say that their country is somewhat prepared, few (4%) describe their country as very prepared.

The degree to which the eight countries are seen as prepared, however, varies widely from country to country. On the positive side, a solid majority of opinion leaders in Australia (70%), New Zealand (65%), and Singapore (64%) believe that their country is at least somewhat prepared, if not often very prepared, to deal with population aging. But at the same time, majorities of seven in 10 or more in South Korea (96%), China (94%), Japan (78%), India (71%), and the US (69%) contend that their country is not too prepared or not prepared at all to handle the changes that may result from the aging of the population. In India, in particular, nearly half of opinion leaders (46%) are concerned that they are not prepared at all to deal with the consequences of an aging population.

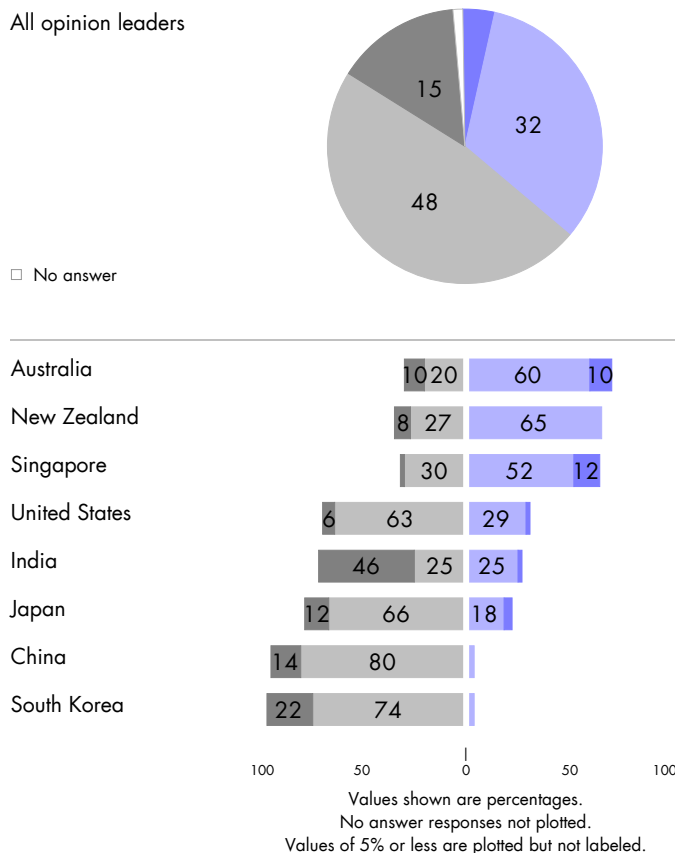
Perceptions of the degree to which countries are prepared to deal with population aging do not vary with age, with older and younger opinion leaders equally likely to see their country as unprepared.

Figure 1.19

Overall preparedness

► Overall, how prepared is our country to deal with potential changes that may result from the aging of the population [●] very prepared, [●] somewhat prepared, [●] not too prepared, or [●] not prepared at all?

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

The countries that, according to opinion leaders, are most prepared to deal with the challenges of population aging are also countries where opinion leaders have a relatively high degree of confidence in their government's ability to tackle the issue. Most opinion leaders in New Zealand (88%), Australia (86%), and Singapore (78%) strongly or somewhat agree that their government has the necessary knowledge and expertise to address issues related to population aging.

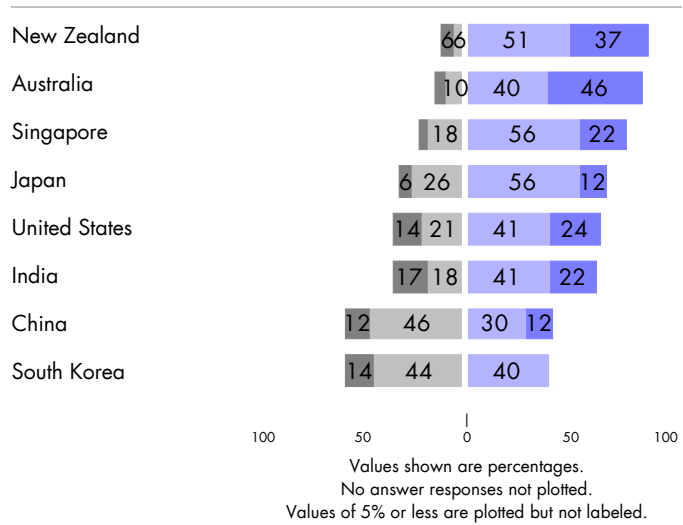
At the same time, a modest majority of opinion leaders in South Korea (58%) and China (58%)—two countries that according to almost all opinion leaders are not well prepared—report that their government may not possess the needed expertise.

Assessments are somewhat different in Japan, the US and India. A majority of opinion leaders in each of these countries doubt whether their country is prepared to deal with an aging population but nearly as many opinion leaders in Japan (68%), the US (65%), and India (63%) believe that their government has the expertise to address these issues.

Figure 1.20

Government knowledge and expertise

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: Our government has the necessary knowledge and expertise to address issues related to the aging of the population.



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

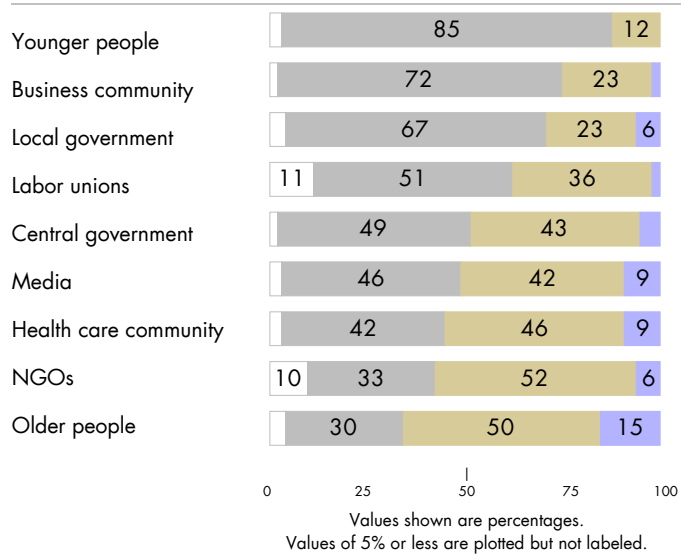
Level of attention paid by groups and institutions

Being prepared as a country to handle the potential changes that may result from an aging population arguably requires the efforts of a variety of groups and institutions—something that opinion leaders overall do not see happening. A solid majority of opinion leaders are of the opinion that younger people in their country (85%), the business community (72%), and state and local governments (67%) are paying too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it.¹³ About half of opinion leaders also say that labor unions (51%) and their country’s central government (49%) are not paying enough attention.¹⁴ By contrast, half or more say that the media, the health care community, nongovernmental organizations, and older people are paying the right amount of attention or even too much attention to the issue.

Figure 1.21

Level of attention paid by groups and institutions

► In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid [●] too much attention, [●] about the right amount of attention, or [●] too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Looking at individual countries, certain patterns prevail across most surveyed countries, although there are some differences. A majority of opinion leaders in each country report that younger people are not paying enough attention, and in most countries, the business community and state and local governments are also identified as groups that are not giving population aging enough notice. At the same time, China and India stand out as countries, where only one group is perceived as paying enough attention (older people in China and nongovernmental organizations in India), with all other groups paying too little attention. On the other hand, Japan stands out as the only country where a majority of opinion leaders only point to one group—younger people—as not paying enough attention. More details for each country are summarized below.¹⁵

¹³ Opinion leaders in Australia, India, and the US were asked about “state and local governments.” Opinion leaders in China, Japan, and South Korea were asked about “local government.” Opinion leaders in New Zealand and Singapore were not asked about state or local government.

¹⁴ Opinion leaders in Australia and the US were asked about “the federal government.” Opinion leaders in China, India, Japan, and South Korea were asked about “the central government.” Opinion leaders in New Zealand were asked about “the government.” Opinion leaders in Singapore were asked about “the Singapore government.”

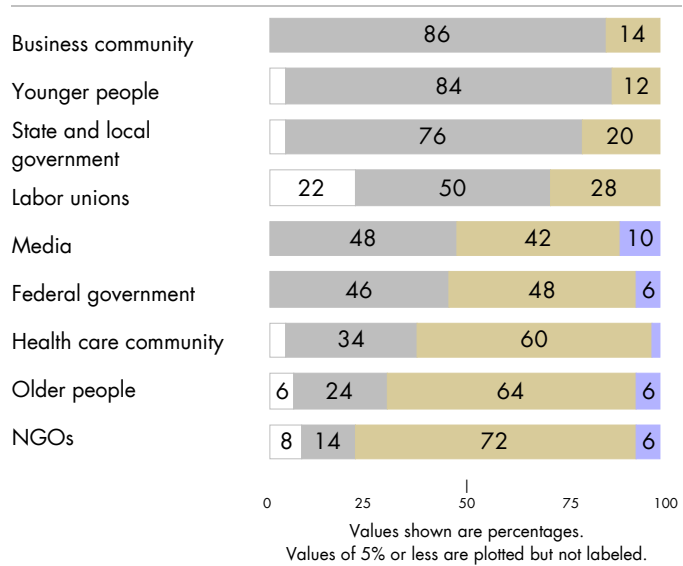
¹⁵ To view the individual country results side-by-side, please refer to the Appendix.

Consistent with the findings for opinion leaders across the eight countries collectively, Australian opinion leaders are most concerned about the attention level of the business community, younger Australians, and state and local governments. A solid majority of Australian opinion leaders say that the business community (86%), younger people (84%), and state and local governments (76%) are paying too little attention to population aging. Half say the same about labor unions (50%). But slim majorities feel that the media and the Australian federal government are paying the right amount or even too much attention to the issue, and solid majorities report that the health care community, older Australians, and nongovernmental organizations are on the right track.

Figure 1.22

Level of attention paid by groups and institutions- Australia

► In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid [●] too much attention, [●] about the right amount of attention, or [●] too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it?



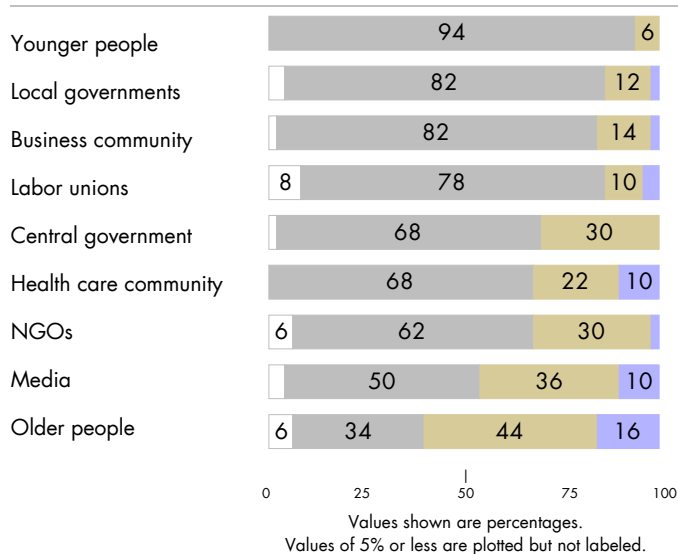
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

According to Chinese opinion leaders, the only ones paying enough attention to population aging are older people themselves. Almost all Chinese opinion leaders (94%) report that younger people in China are not paying enough attention to the aging of the population, and solid majorities say the same about local governments (82%), the business community (82%), labor unions (78%), the central government of China (68%), the health care community (68%), and nongovernmental organizations (62%). Half of Chinese opinion leaders (50%) also say that the media is not giving population aging the attention it deserves. Older people in China are the only group, according to a majority of opinion leaders (60%), paying the right amount or too much attention to the issue.

Figure 1.23

Level of attention paid by groups and institutions- China

► In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid [●] too much attention, [●] about the right amount of attention, or [●] too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it?



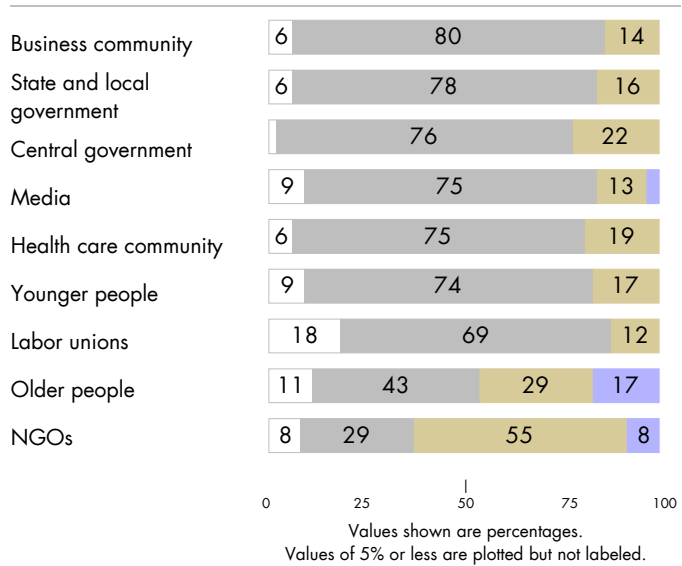
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

In India, opinion leaders indicate that only nongovernmental organizations are paying enough attention to population aging. A solid majority of Indian opinion leaders report that the business community (80%), state and local governments (78%), the central government of India (76%), media (75%), health care community (75%), younger people (74%), and labor unions (69%) pay too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it. When it comes to older people themselves, opinion is somewhat divided. A sizable share of opinion leaders (43%) say that older people are not paying enough attention, but roughly as many disagree, saying that they are paying the right amount or too much attention. According to more than half of Indian opinion leaders (55%), nongovernmental organizations are one group that is paying enough attention to population aging.

Figure 1.24

Level of attention paid by groups and institutions-India

► In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid [●] too much attention, [●] about the right amount of attention, or [●] too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it?



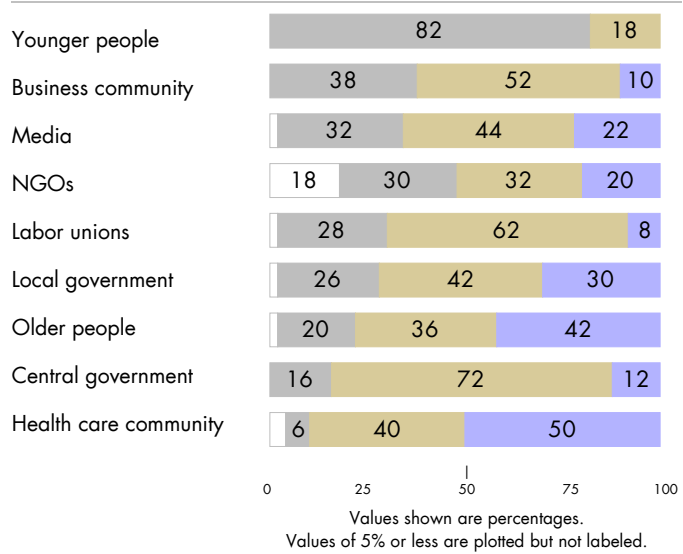
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Japan stands apart from the other countries surveyed. According to opinion leaders, most sectors of society are paying enough attention to population aging. The only ones not paying enough attention, according to most opinion leaders (82%), are younger people in Japan. Majorities report that other groups and institutions are either paying the right amount or too much attention to population aging. Most notably, about seven in 10 Japanese opinion leaders (72%) say that the central government of Japan is on the right track, and a majority say the same about labor unions (62%) and the business community (52%). At the same time, fully half of opinion leaders in Japan (50%) say that the health care community is paying too much attention, and notable minorities say the same about older people (42%) and local government (30%).

Figure 1.25

Level of attention paid by groups and institutions- Japan

► In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid [●] too much attention, [●] about the right amount of attention, or [●] too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

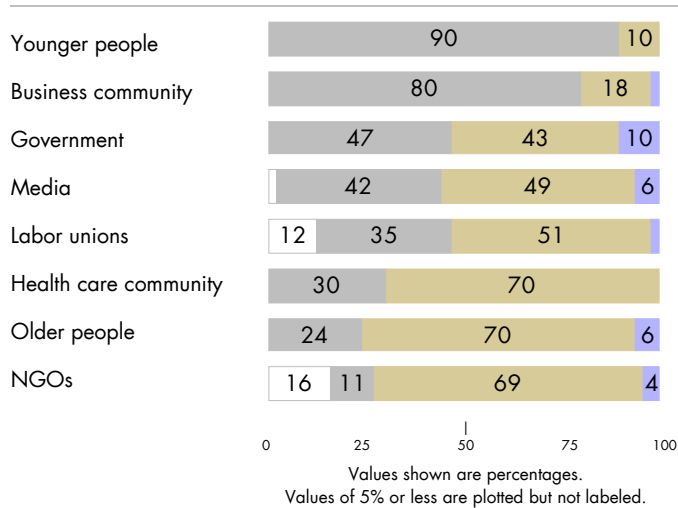
Similar to Australians, opinion leaders in New Zealand are most concerned about the attention level of younger people and the business community. Nine in 10 opinion leaders in New Zealand (90%) say that younger people are paying too little attention to the aging of the population, and eight in 10 (80%) say the same about the business community. But according to a majority of New Zealand's opinion leaders, other groups and institutions are paying the right amount or even too much attention to the challenges and opportunities associated with population aging, including solid majorities who say that the health care community (70%), older people (70%), and nongovernmental organizations (69%) are on the right track.

As in Australia and New Zealand, Singaporean opinion leaders say the business community and younger people in Singapore are not paying enough attention. Nearly nine in 10 opinion leaders in Singapore report that the business community (88%) and younger people (86%) are paying too little attention to population aging. Sizable minorities also say that the media (46%), older people (42%), and the health care community (40%) are paying too little attention, although slim majorities disagree. As for labor unions, nongovernmental organizations, and the Singapore government, majorities say that they are paying the right amount or even too much attention.

Figure 1.26

Level of attention paid by groups and institutions- New Zealand

► In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid [●] too much attention, [●] about the right amount of attention, or [●] too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it?

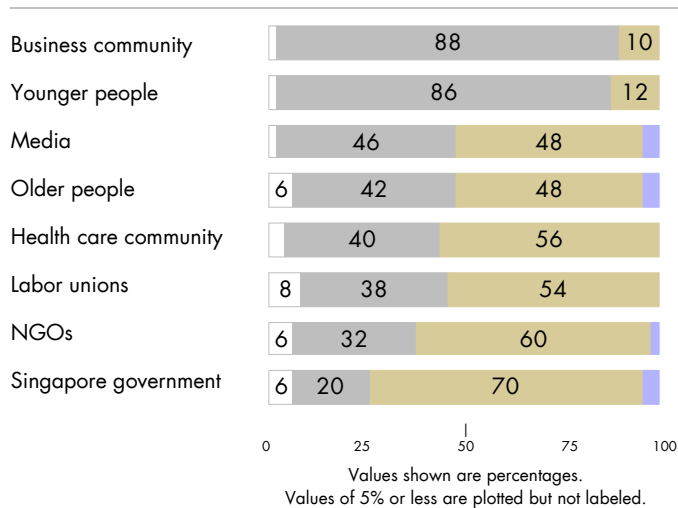


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 1.27

Level of attention paid by groups and institutions- Singapore

► In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid [●] too much attention, [●] about the right amount of attention, or [●] too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it?



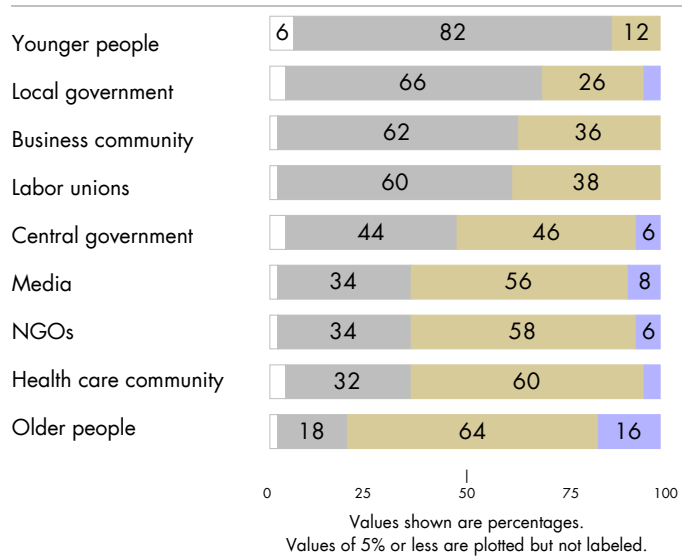
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

According to South Korean opinion leaders, several sectors of society are failing to pay enough attention to population aging. About eight in 10 opinion leaders (82%) say that younger people in South Korea are paying too little attention, and six in 10 or more say the same about local government (66%), the business community (62%), and labor unions (60%). A sizable minority (44%) also say that the central government is not paying enough attention, although a slim majority disagree. A majority of opinion leaders also credit the media, nongovernmental organizations, the health care community, and older people themselves for an appropriate attention level.

Figure 1.28

Level of attention paid by groups and institutions- South Korea

► In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid [●] too much attention, [●] about the right amount of attention, or [●] too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it?



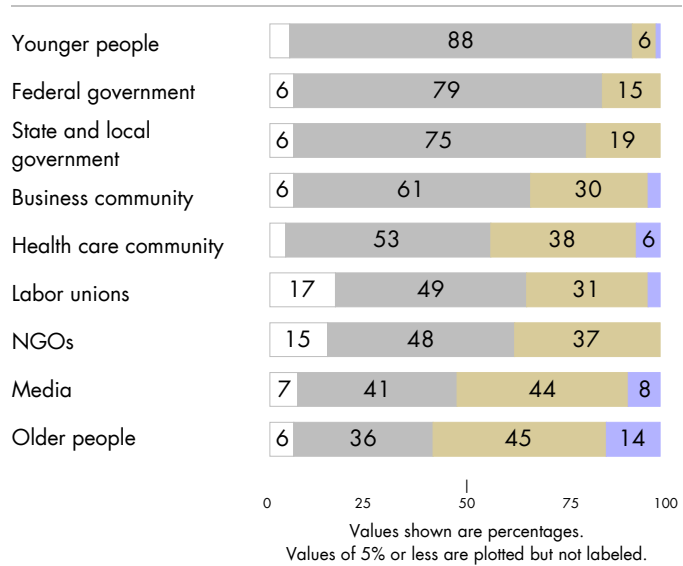
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Like their counterparts in South Korea, US opinion leaders believe that several groups and institutions are not giving population aging the attention it deserves. Younger people (88%) top the list of groups paying too little attention, followed by the federal government (79%), state and local government (75%), the business community (61%), and the health care community (53%). About half also say that labor unions (49%) and older people themselves are paying the right amount or too much attention, according to a majority of US opinion leaders.

Figure 1.29

Level of attention paid by groups and institutions- United States

► In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid [●] too much attention, [●] about the right amount of attention, or [●] too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Section 2: Older workers: extending work lives

Extending work lives is one potential solution to the challenges associated with population aging. If capable older workers were to postpone retirement, this would help them financially and take some of the pressure off of the younger, shrinking workforce. And with advancing medical care and improved health, more workers may be in shape to keep their jobs beyond the traditional retirement age. But is the business community or the society at large prepared for an older workforce? In this section, we discuss opinion leaders' ideas of what constitutes an older worker, perceptions of the degree to which businesses are prepared for an older workforce and how they should accommodate older workers, and what is an appropriate age for people to retire. We also touch on opinion leaders' views of potential labor shortages.

32

When is a worker an “older worker”?

According to a majority of opinion leaders, a worker should not be considered “older” until age 60 or later, and nearly half of opinion leaders say that the transition to becoming an older worker occurs some time between the ages of 60 and 69. Although responses range from a low of 40 to a high of 85, a plurality of opinion leaders (27%) would define a worker as an “older worker” somewhere between the ages of 60 and 64. Nearly as many (22%) mention an age between 65 and 69.

Averaging 60 years of age among all opinion leaders interviewed, the average age at which opinion leaders would consider someone an older worker varies somewhat from country to country. At the high end, Japanese opinion leaders, on average, say that older workers are 66 years of age or older, followed by American opinion leaders with age 64 or older. At the lower end, Australian opinion leaders, on average, define older workers as those who have reached age 55.

Figure 2.1

When is a worker an “older worker”?

► In your opinion, at what age is a worker an “older worker”?

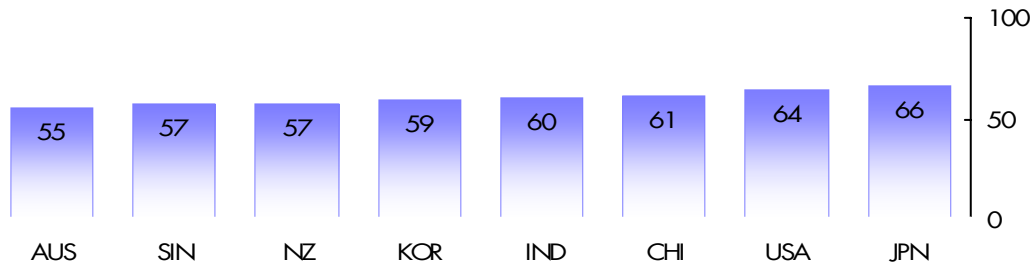
40 to 49	3%
50 to 54	13
55 to 59	14
60 to 64	27
65 to 69	22
70 to 74	10
75 to 85	1
Depends	8
Average	60 years

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 2.2

When is a worker an “older worker” (average by country)?

► In your opinion, at what age is a worker an “older worker”?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Employer preparedness

Employers are poorly prepared for a future workforce comprised of more older workers, according to opinion leaders.¹⁷ A solid majority of opinion leaders (66%) believe that employers are not too well prepared or not prepared at all for welcoming increasing numbers of older employees. And although about a quarter of opinion leaders (27%) say that employers are somewhat prepared, only a handful (4%) credit employers for being very prepared.

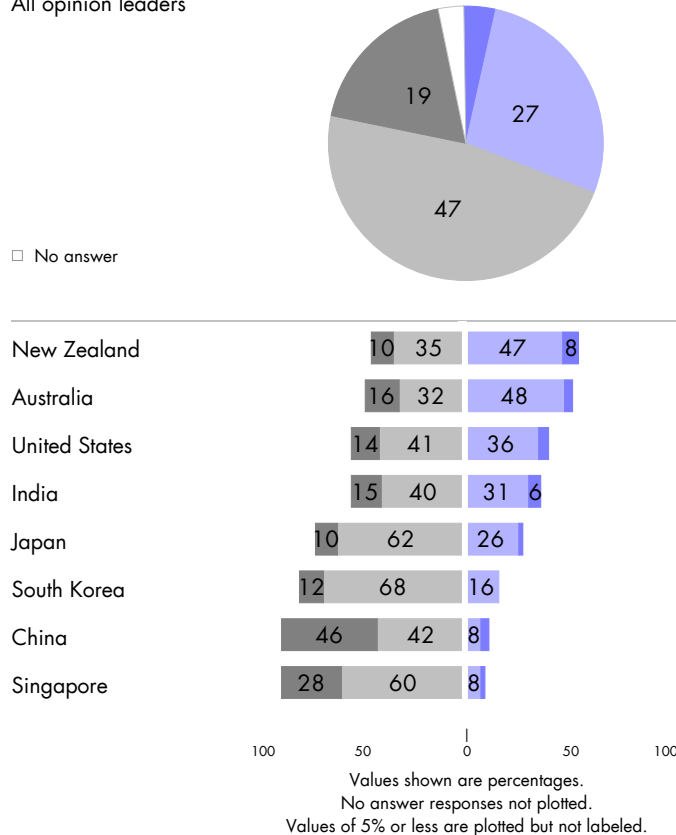
But if opinion leaders are correct, employers in some countries may be better prepared than in others. A slim majority of opinion leaders in New Zealand (55%) and Australia (52%) say that employers are at least somewhat well prepared. In the rest of the countries, however, the majority view is more negative. Roughly nine in 10 opinion leaders in Singapore (88%) and China (88%) say that employers are not well prepared for a future workforce comprised of more older workers, followed by majorities in South Korea (80%), Japan (72%), India (55%), and the US (55%).

Figure 2.3

Employer preparedness for older workers

► In your opinion, how well prepared are employers for a future workforce comprised of more older workers—[●] very well, [●] somewhat well, [●] not too well, or [●] not well at all?¹⁶

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

¹⁶ Opinion leaders representing the private sector were asked about their industry: "In your opinion, how well prepared are employers in your industry for a future work force comprised of more older workers?"

¹⁷ Prior to being asked the first survey question about "older workers," all opinion leaders were read the following text: "For the rest of this interview, when we ask about older workers, we are referring to workers who are 50 years of age or older."

Discrimination

According to opinion leaders, discrimination against older people is a problem in the workplace. More than three in 10 opinion leaders (34%) see discrimination against older people as a big problem when employers are recruiting and hiring employees, and an additional four in 10 opinion leaders (40%) say that it is a moderate problem. Only about a quarter of opinion leaders (24%) say that discrimination based on age is a small problem or not a problem at all in the workplace.

The view that discrimination is a problem is shared by opinion leaders across all eight countries. Large majorities ranging from more than eight in 10 in Japan (86%) and Singapore (86%) to slimmer majorities in New Zealand (59%) and Australia (54%) report that discrimination in recruitment practices is a big or a moderate problem. However, sizable minorities among opinion leaders in both Australia (44%) and New Zealand (41%) disagree, maintaining that discrimination is only a small problem or not a problem at all.

Opinion leaders representing the private sector are less likely to see discrimination as a problem than opinion leaders in other sectors. Albeit a majority, fewer than six in 10 private sector opinion leaders (57%) think that discrimination is a moderate or big problem, compared to more than eight in 10 opinion leaders in media (86%) and more than seven in 10 opinion leaders in nongovernmental organizations (79%), government (74%), and academia (73%).

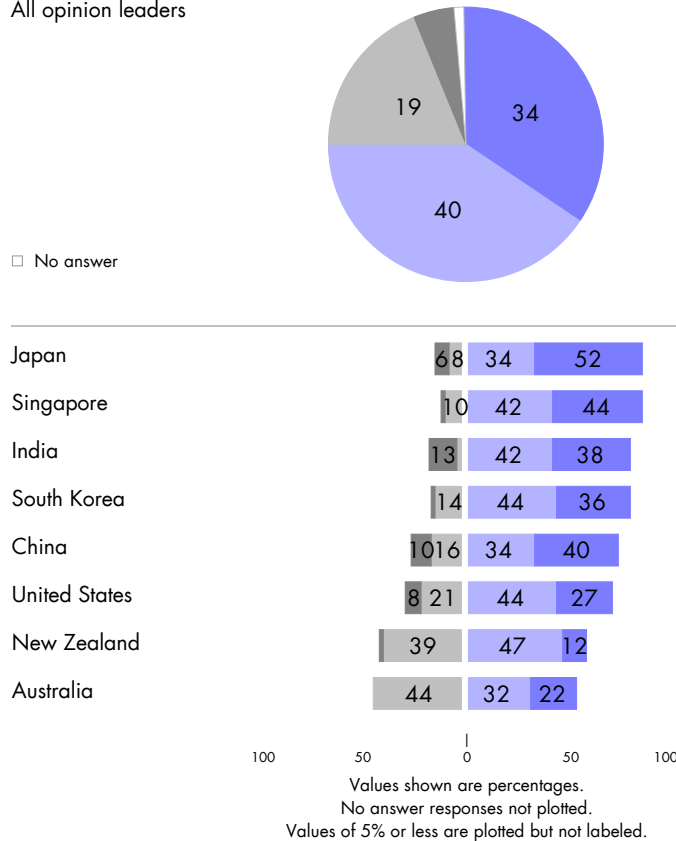
Both older and younger opinion leaders are equally likely to see discrimination as a problem.

Figure 2.4

Discrimination against older people

► To the best of your knowledge, is discrimination against older people [●] a big problem, [●] moderate problem, [●] small problem, or [●] not a problem at all when employers are recruiting and hiring employees?¹⁸

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

¹⁸ Opinion leaders representing the private sector were asked about their industry: "To the best of your knowledge, is discrimination against older people a big problem, a moderate problem, small problem, or not a problem at all when employers in your industry are recruiting and hiring employees?"

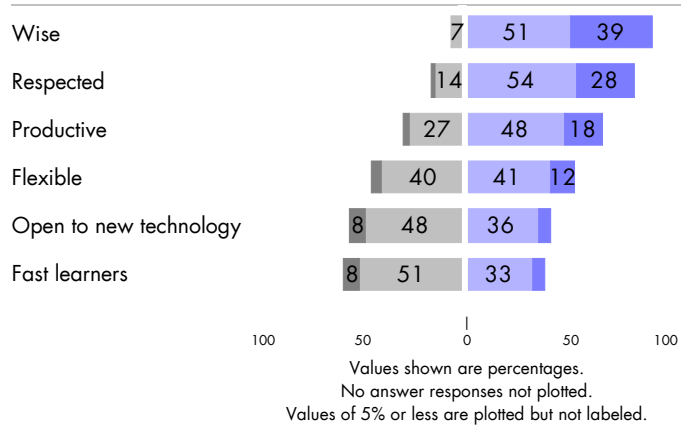
Perceptions of older workers

Assessments of older workers' abilities may contribute to the perceptions of age discrimination. Although older workers are wise, respected, and productive, opinion leaders report they are not open to new technology and not fast learners. A solid majority of opinion leaders overall think that the words *wise* (90%), *respected* (82%), and *productive* (66%) describe older workers somewhat or very well, and a slim majority (53%) would characterize older workers as *flexible*. However, a majority of opinion leaders also maintain that *fast learners* and *open to new technology* are not very good descriptors of older workers.

Figure 2.5

Perceptions of older workers

► In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers—[●] very well, [●] somewhat well, [●] not too well, or [●] not well at all?¹⁹



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

While older workers are universally described as wise and respected, the other adjectives asked about draw somewhat different reactions from opinion leaders in the survey countries. A majority of opinion leaders in Australia, New Zealand, and the US find older workers to be productive, flexible, open to new technology, and fast learners at least to some degree. But in the other countries, majorities find older workers lacking in at least one of these characteristics. Most notably, Chinese and Japanese opinion leaders only accept wise and respected as good adjectives for older workers. The rest of the characteristics asked about do not describe older workers well, according to a majority of opinion leaders in these two countries. Details for each country are summarized below.²⁰

¹⁹ Opinion leaders representing the private sector were asked about their industry: "In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers in your industry?"

²⁰ To view the individual country results side-by-side, please refer to the Appendix.

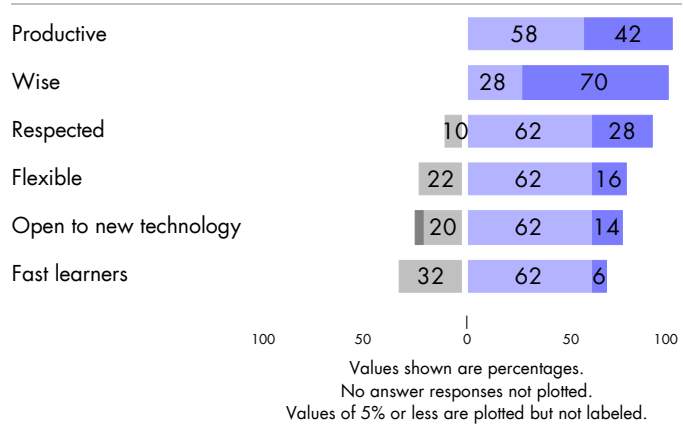
Opinion leaders' perceptions of older workers are very positive in Australia. Older workers are almost universally seen as productive (100%), wise (98%), and respected (90%). A solid majority of Australian opinion leaders also see older workers as flexible (78%), open to new technology (76%), and fast at learning new things (68%).

If opinion leaders' perceptions are any reflection of the general climate, the mindset and abilities of older workers are not very highly regarded in China. Although most Chinese opinion leaders see older workers as respected (98%) and wise (90%), majorities say that the terms fast learner (90%), flexible (82%), open to new technology (58%), and productive (56%) do not describe older workers too well or do not describe them well at all.

Figure 2.6

Perceptions of older workers-Australia

► In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers—[●] very well, [●] somewhat well, [●] not too well, or [●] not well at all?

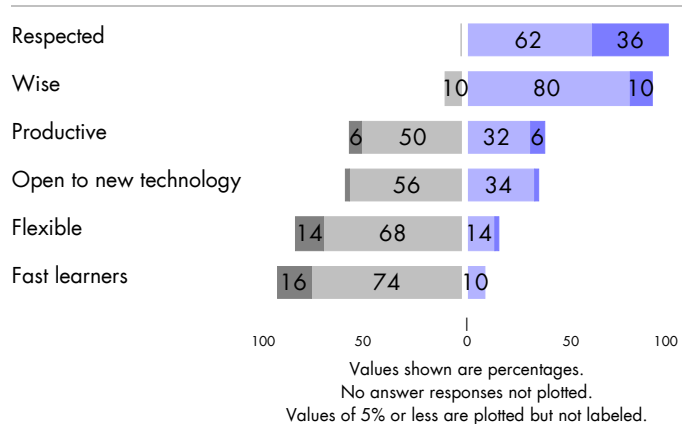


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 2.7

Perceptions of older workers-China

► In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers—[●] very well, [●] somewhat well, [●] not too well, or [●] not well at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

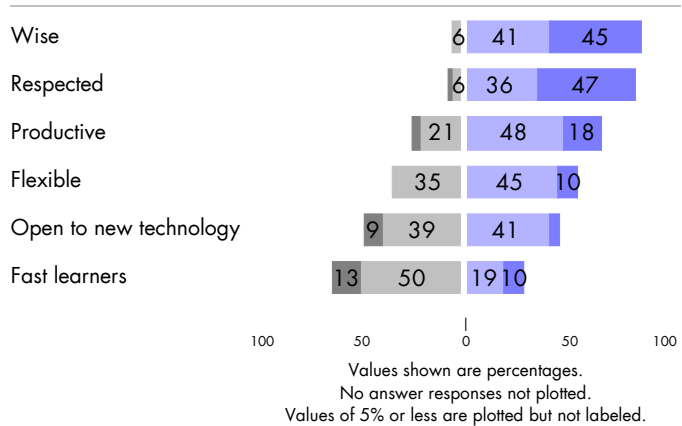
In India, older workers are perceived positively in most regards, although opinions about technological savvy are mixed and a majority do not think that older workers are quick to master new skills. Most Indian opinion leaders think that older workers can be described as wise (86%) and respected (83%), and a majority would also characterize them as productive (66%) and flexible (55%). However, fewer than half of Indian opinion leaders (46%) would say that older workers are open to new technology. And according to a majority of Indian opinion leaders (63%), older workers are not fast learners.

As in other countries, opinion leaders in Japan find older workers to be wise and respected, but majorities are less complimentary on other descriptors of older workers. Almost all Japanese opinion leaders (94%) describe older workers as wise, and more than seven in 10 (76%) describe them as respected. However, a majority of Japanese opinion leaders think that open to new technology (86%), fast learners (80%), flexible (60%), and productive (52%) do not describe older workers too well or not well at all.

Figure 2.8

Perceptions of older workers-India

► In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers—[●] very well, [●] somewhat well, [●] not too well, or [●] not well at all?

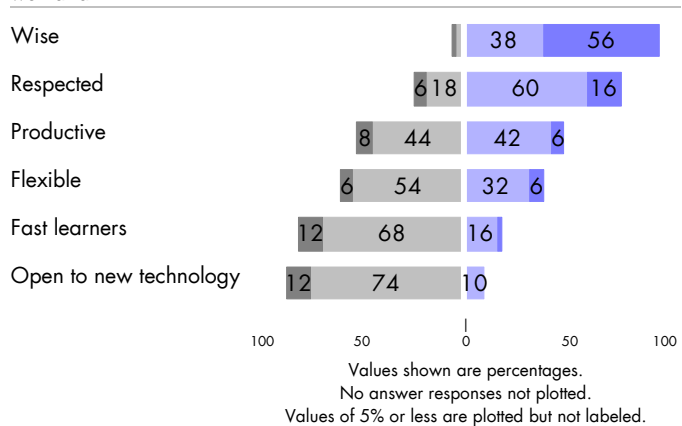


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 2.9

Perceptions of older workers-Japan

► In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers—[●] very well, [●] somewhat well, [●] not too well, or [●] not well at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

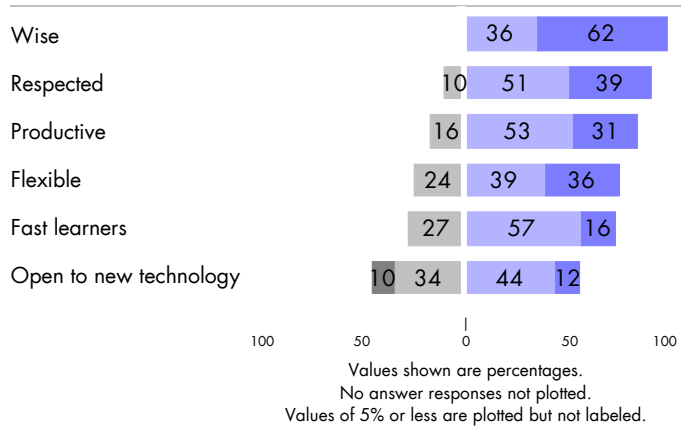
Like their counterparts in Australia, opinion leaders in New Zealand tend to have positive views of older workers. Most opinion leaders in New Zealand say that wise (98%), respected (90%), and productive (84%) describe older workers very or somewhat well. A majority of New Zealand's opinion leaders would also describe older workers as flexible (75%), fast learners (73%), and open to new technology (56%).

Opinion leaders in Singapore generally find older workers to be wise, respected, and productive, but not technologically savvy, flexible, or quick at mastering new skills. A solid majority of Singaporean opinion leaders think that wise (86%), respected (74%), and productive (68%) describe older workers very or somewhat well. But solid majorities also think that fast learners (68%), flexible (68%), and open to new technology (66%) are not very good descriptors for older workers.

Figure 2.10

Perceptions of older workers-New Zealand

► In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers—[●] very well, [●] somewhat well, [●] not too well, or [●] not well at all?

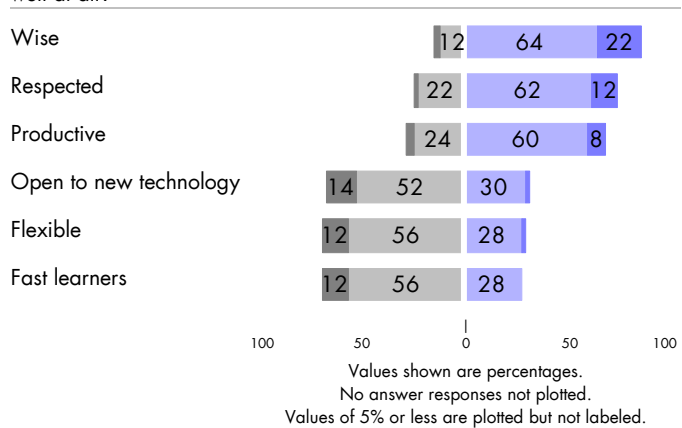


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 2.11

Perceptions of older workers-Singapore

► In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers—[●] very well, [●] somewhat well, [●] not too well, or [●] not well at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

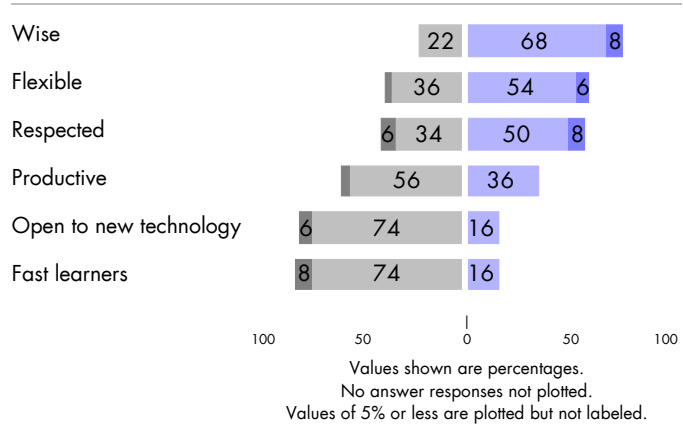
As is the case in Singapore, perceptions of older workers are somewhat mixed in South Korea. On the positive side, more than seven in 10 South Korean opinion leaders (76%) describe older workers as wise and about six in 10 as flexible (60%) and respected (58%). But according to a majority of South Korean opinion leaders fast learners (82%), open to new technology (80%), and productive (60%) describe older workers not too well or not well at all.

Among US opinion leaders, the majority view of older workers is positive. Almost all US opinion leaders think that wise (97%), productive (93%), and respected (90%) describe older workers very or somewhat well, and solid majorities feel the same way about older workers' flexibility (70%) and speed at adopting new skills (66%). And although a sizable minority disagree, a slim majority of US opinion leaders (52%) think that older workers can also be described as open to new technology.

Figure 2.12

Perceptions of older workers-South Korea

► In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers—[●] very well, [●] somewhat well, [●] not too well, or [●] not well at all?

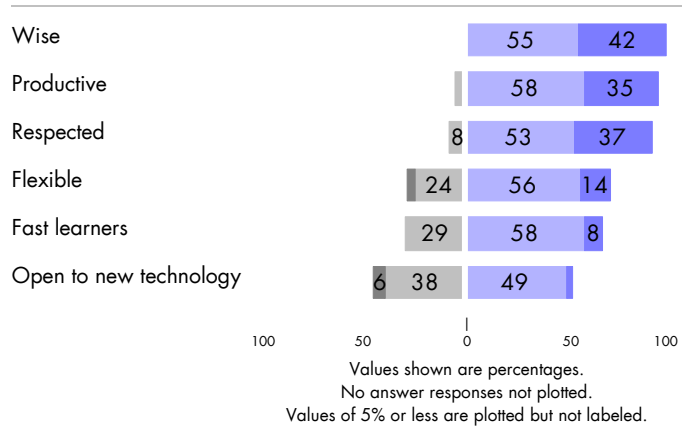


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 2.13

Perceptions of older workers-United States

► In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers—[●] very well, [●] somewhat well, [●] not too well, or [●] not well at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Employers' capacity to address aging issues

Opinion leaders think that private businesses have a responsibility to society to address issues related to an older workforce, but many of them see businesses as lacking in financial resources, expertise, and willingness. A solid majority of opinion leaders (75%) believe that, in general, private businesses have a responsibility to society to address issues related to an older workforce. A slim majority (56%) also believe that they have the financial resources at their disposal to do so. However, a sizable minority (41%) disagree, contending that businesses cannot afford to address these issues.

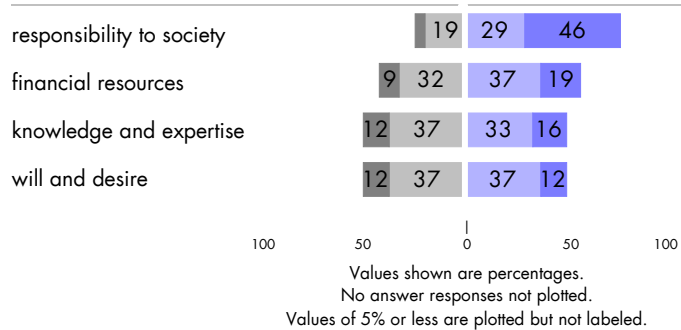
Moreover, opinion leaders are split when asked whether private businesses have the necessary knowledge and expertise and the will and desire to tackle older worker issues, with half of opinion leaders saying that they do not and the rest saying that they do.

Looking at opinion leader perceptions in individual countries, some interesting differences emerge. Expressing the most optimistic viewpoint, a majority of opinion leaders in Australia and New Zealand believe that private businesses have all four means to handle issues related to an older workforce. But in the other six countries surveyed, many opinion leaders see private businesses lacking in at least one essential ingredient to address older worker issues. Details for each country are summarized below.²²

Figure 2.14

Employers' capacity to address aging issues

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statements: In general, private businesses have [INSERT] to address issues related to an older workforce.²¹



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

²¹ Opinion leaders representing the private sector were asked about their industry: "In general, private businesses in your industry have [INSERT] to address issues related to an older work force."

²² To view the individual country results side-by-side, please refer to the Appendix.

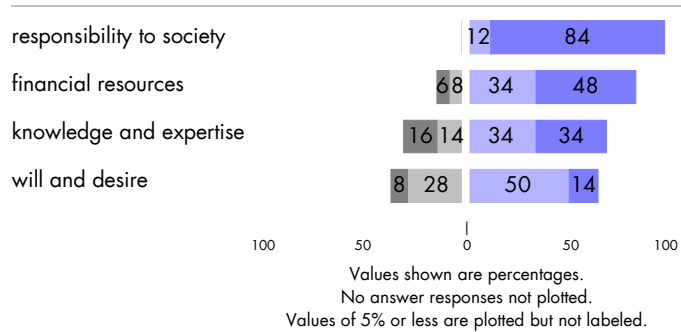
In Australia, opinion leaders are fairly confident that private businesses have what it takes to address issues related to an older workforce. Almost all Australian opinion leaders (96%) agree that businesses have a responsibility to society to address aging issues, and most hold this belief strongly. A majority of Australian opinion leaders also agree that private businesses have the necessary financial resources (82%), knowledge and expertise (68%), and will and desire (64%).

In China, the majority view among opinion leaders is that private businesses have a responsibility to society and the financial resources to deal with issues related to a growing number of older workers, but that they are lacking in expertise and willingness. About eight in 10 Chinese opinion leaders (78%) think that businesses have a responsibility to society to address older worker issues, and more than six in 10 (64%) believe that they have the financial resources to do so. However, a solid majority of Chinese opinion leaders doubt private businesses are willing to address these issues (64%) or have the necessary knowledge and expertise (64%).

Figure 2.15

Employer capacity to address aging issues-Australia

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statements: In general, private businesses have [INSERT] to address issues related to an older workforce.

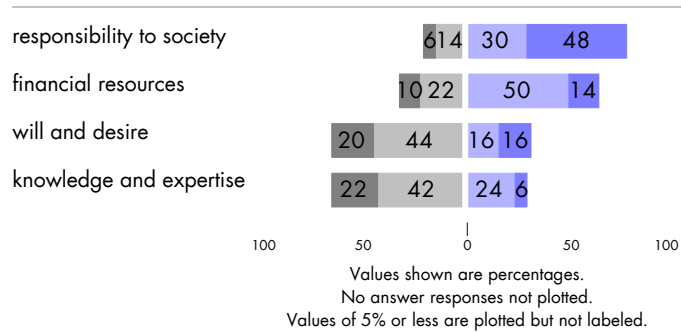


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 2.16

Employer capacity to address aging issues-China

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statements: In general, private businesses have [INSERT] to address issues related to an older workforce.



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

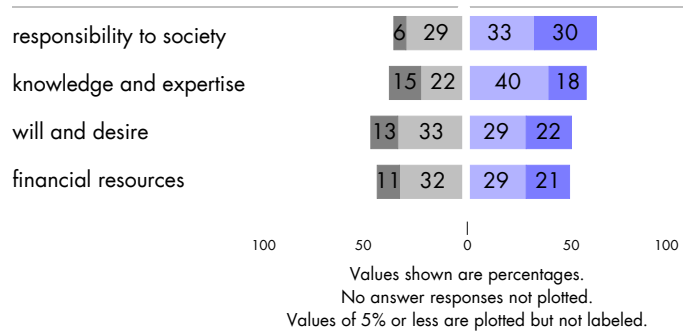
Opinion leaders in India have mixed views on employer capacity to address aging issues. Although roughly two thirds of Indian opinion leaders (63%) believe that private businesses have a responsibility to society to address issues related to an older workforce and more than half (58%) believe that businesses generally possess the necessary knowledge and expertise to do so, notable minorities disagree and the issues of willingness and financial resources divide opinion leaders. Only about half of Indian opinion leaders agree that private businesses have the will and desire (51%) or the financial resources (50%) to address these issues. Nearly as many disagree.

In Japan, opinion leaders are often doubtful that businesses have the necessary capacities to address issues related to an older workforce. Although most (90%) agree that private businesses have a responsibility to society—and a majority believe this strongly, a much slimmer majority (54%) believe that they have the will and desire, and a majority of Japanese opinion leaders disagree that private businesses have the necessary financial resources (78%) or knowledge and expertise (60%).

Figure 2.17

Employer capacity to address aging issues-India

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statements: In general, private businesses have [INSERT] to address issues related to an older workforce.

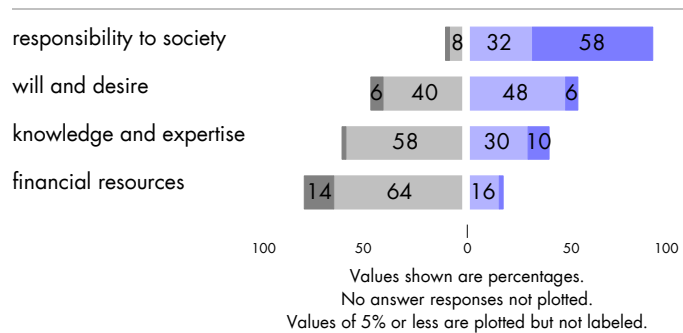


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 2.18

Employer capacity to address aging issues-Japan

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statements: In general, private businesses have [INSERT] to address issues related to an older workforce.



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

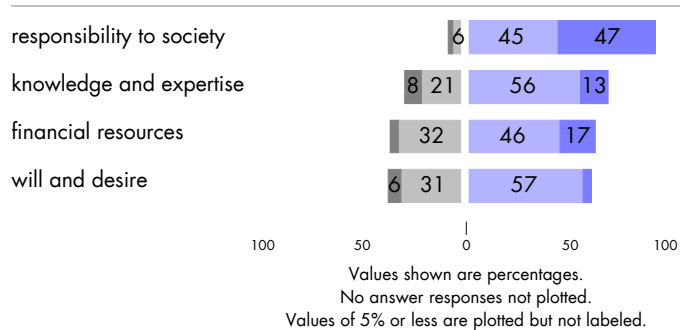
Like their counterparts in Australia, opinion leaders in New Zealand are quite optimistic that private businesses have the capacity to address issues related to an older workforce. Almost all opinion leaders in New Zealand (92%) agree that private businesses have a responsibility to society to address these issues, and majorities also think that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise (69%), financial resources (63%), and will and desire (61%). However, not everyone in New Zealand agrees, with notable minorities doubting that businesses have the knowledge, finances, or the will.

Opinion leaders in Singapore have somewhat mixed views when it comes to the ability of private businesses to address older worker issues. Although a majority say that private businesses have the needed financial resources (62%) as well as a responsibility to society (56%), many others contend that this is not true. And although notable minorities would say that the opposite is true, a majority of Singaporean opinion leaders believe that businesses lack the knowledge and expertise (64%) and the will and desire (56%) to address aging issues in the workplace.

Figure 2.19

Employer capacity to address aging issues-New Zealand

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statements: In general, private businesses have [INSERT] to address issues related to an older workforce.

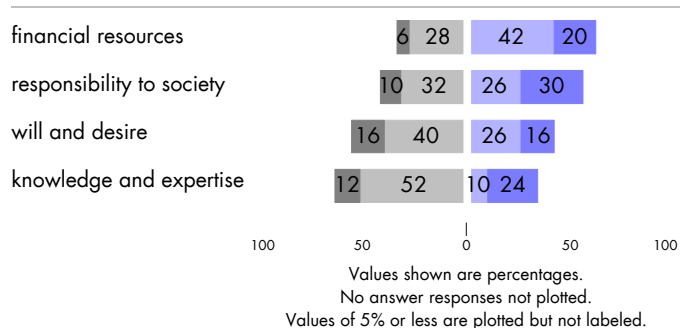


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 2.20

Employer capacity to address aging issues-Singapore

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statements: In general, private businesses have [INSERT] to address issues related to an older workforce.



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

South Korean opinion leaders stand out as the most negative of the countries surveyed, with half or more saying that businesses do not have the necessary qualities to address issues related to an older workforce. Slim majorities of South Korean opinion leaders contend that businesses lack the necessary will and desire (56%), knowledge and expertise (56%), and financial resources (52%). And fully half of South Korean opinion leaders (50%) do not think that businesses have a social responsibility to address these matters. On the more optimistic side, however, sizable minorities of more than four in 10 report that businesses do have what it takes.

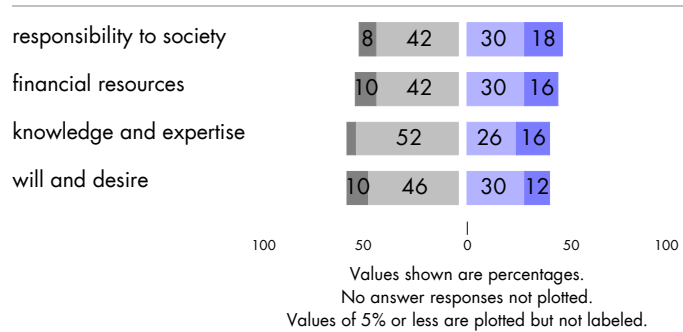
In the US, opinion leaders agree that businesses have a responsibility to society and the necessary financial resources to address issues related to an older workforce, but the issues of expertise and willingness prove to be more divisive. More than seven in 10 US opinion leaders (76%) believe that businesses have a responsibility to society and more than six in 10 say the same about financial resources (65%). But only about half (51%) think that they have the knowledge and expertise or the will and desire, with roughly as many disagreeing (48%).

While age does not appear to be a factor, female opinion leaders are more likely to believe that private businesses have a social obligation to address issues related to older workers than male opinion leaders. Although a majority of both genders agree that businesses have a responsibility to society, the female majority is larger than the male majority (88% versus 71%, respectively) and females are more likely to have strong feelings about this issue than males (63% versus 40%, respectively).

At the same time, opinion leaders in the private sector hold a somewhat different view of their willingness to tackle issues related to older workers than opinion leaders in nongovernmental organizations or in academia. A solid majority of private sector opinion leaders (64%) report that private businesses have the will and desire to address

Figure 2.21
Employer capacity to address aging issues-South Korea

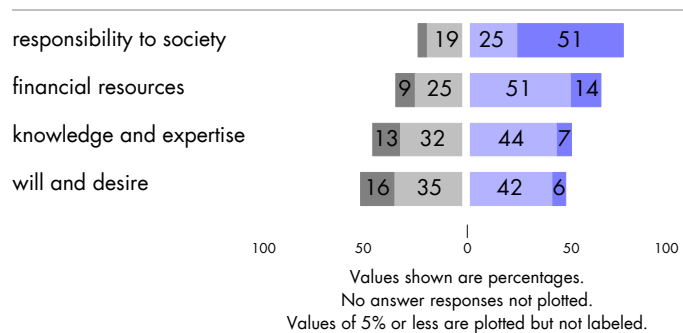
► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statements: In general, private businesses have [INSERT] to address issues related to an older workforce.



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 2.22
Employer capacity to address aging issues-United States

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statements: In general, private businesses have [INSERT] to address issues related to an older workforce.



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

issues related to an older workforce, whereas only a minority of opinion leaders from nongovernmental organizations (45%) or academic institutions (39%) believe that this is the case. With roughly half saying that businesses are willing to address older worker issues, government officials (52%) and media representatives (48%) fall in between. We also find that a majority of private sector opinion leaders, similar to opinion leaders in other sectors believe that businesses have a social responsibility to address these issues.

Industries doing a good job

Asked if there is a particular business sector or industry that is already doing a good job of employing and using older workers to their full potential, opinion leaders do not single out any one business sector or industry. Rather roughly equal numbers point to the service industry (13%), nonprofit and charitable organizations (12%), academia (11%), and government (10%) as doing a good job. At the same time, a notable share of opinion leaders say that they do not know whether such an industry exists (21%) or that no such industry exists (15%).

Looking at individual countries, some variations emerge, with different industries topping the list from country to country. But as is the case for opinion leaders overall, in most countries no single industry stands apart from the others. One notable exception is Singapore, where about two thirds of opinion leaders (64%) point to the service industry. The share of those who say that they do not know or who doubt such an industry exists is particularly high in China (70%) and the US (61%), followed by India (48%) and New Zealand (42%).

Figure 2.23

Industries doing a good job

► To the best of your knowledge, is there a particular business sector or industry in our country that is doing a good job of employing and using older workers to their full potential?

Services	13%
Nonprofits	12
Academia	11
Government	10
Manufacturing/construction	4
Agriculture	3
No such industry	15
Don't know	21

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 2.24

Industries doing a good job

► To the best of your knowledge, is there a particular business sector or industry in our country that is doing a good job of employing and using older workers to their full potential?

	Australia	China	India	Japan	New Zealand	Singapore	South Korea	United States
Services	0%	0%	0%	16%	2%	64%	10%	14%
Nonprofits	26	2	8	2	16	6	32	1
Academia	12	12	15	8	10	2	20	6
Government	28	12	7	2	25	2	6	1
Manufacturing/construction	0	0	6	22	0	0	4	1
Agriculture	0	0	4	12	0	0	10	0
No such industry	14	42	0	12	10	6	2	37
Don't know	10	28	48	14	32	12	2	24

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Accommodating older workers

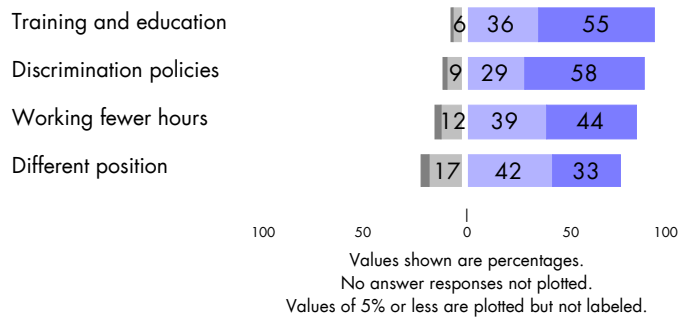
Opinion leaders are generally supportive of accommodating older workers in various ways. A solid majority of opinion leaders strongly or somewhat support providing older workers with opportunities for additional training and education (91%), establishing and enforcing policies that prohibit discrimination based on age at the workplace (87%), allowing older workers to work fewer hours (83%), and offering older workers a different position with fewer responsibilities (75%).

Support for these four practices is shared by a majority of opinion leaders across all surveyed countries.²⁴

Figure 2.25

Accommodating older workers

► Next, thinking about ways in which employers may accommodate older workers, do you [●] strongly support, [●] somewhat support, [●] somewhat oppose, or [●] strongly oppose the following practices?²³



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

²³ Opinion leaders representing the private sector were asked about their industry: "Next, thinking about ways in which employers in your industry may accommodate older workers, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following practices?"

²⁴ To view the individual country results side-by-side, please refer to the Appendix.

In addition to supporting various practices to accommodate older workers, technology will help extend work lives, according to opinion leaders. Most opinion leaders (80%) predict that technology, such as computers and robots, will be at least somewhat helpful in extending productive work lives in their country over the next 20 years.

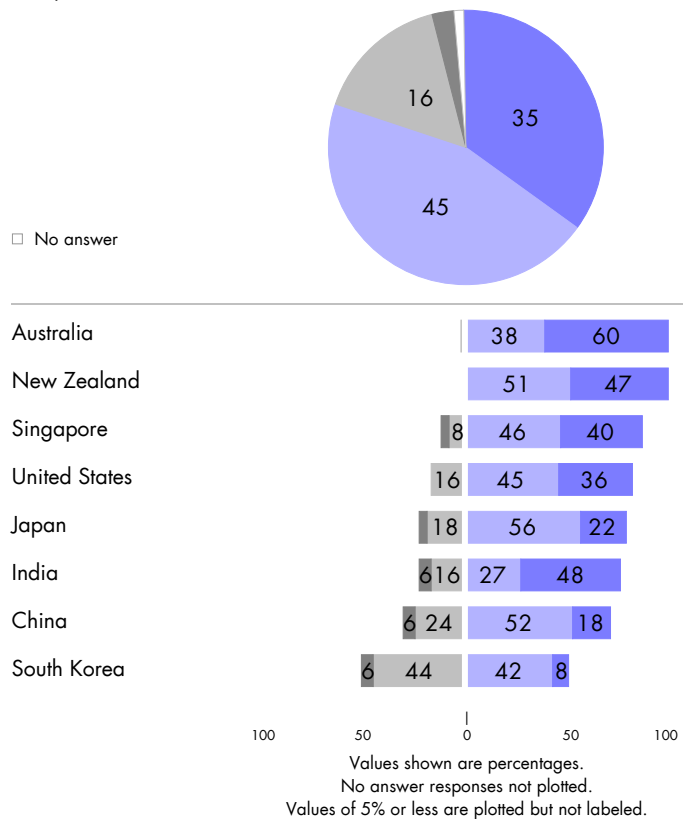
This optimism about technology's benefits is shared by a majority of opinion leaders in all but one of the eight countries surveyed. Ranging from almost all opinion leaders in Australia (98%) and New Zealand (98%) to a solid seven in 10 majority in China (70%), opinion leaders predict that technological advances will be somewhat or very helpful in prolonging work lives. South Korea is the only country where many opinion leaders express doubts. Although half of South Korean opinion leaders (50%) expect technology to help workers remain in the workplace, as many opinion leaders (50%) think that technology will not be too helpful or will not be helpful at all.

Figure 2.26

Helpfulness of technology in extending productive work lives

► How helpful do you think technology, such as computers and robots will be in extending the productive work lives of older workers in our country over the next 20 years—[●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?

All opinion leaders



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Appropriate retirement age

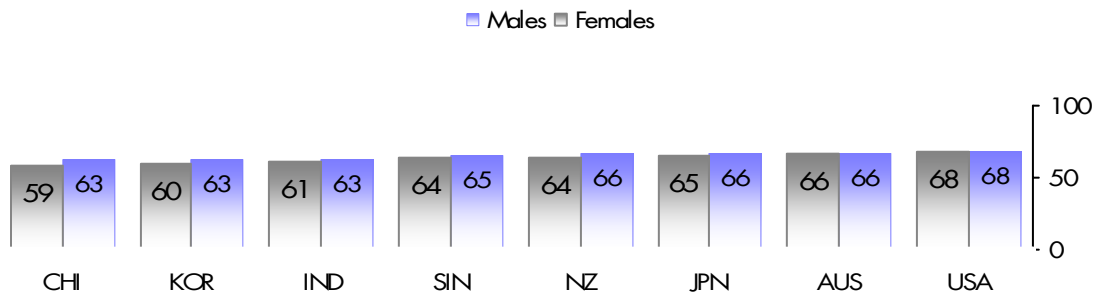
According to opinion leaders, the appropriate retirement age, on average, for men is 65 and for women 63. Few opinion leaders believe that workers should retire before age 60. At the same time, a notable minority of opinion leaders (23% when asked about male workers and 22% when asked about female workers) believe that people should never retire or that the appropriate retirement age depends on such factors as attitude, physical health, or occupation.

Looking at individual countries, the highest average retirement ages are proposed by opinion leaders in the US, the lowest by opinion leaders in China. On average, opinion leaders in the US think that the appropriate retirement age for both men and women is 68, followed by Australian opinion leaders, according to whom the appropriate retirement age is 66. Opinion leaders in Japan and New Zealand agree that 66 is the appropriate retirement age for men, but propose a slightly lower retirement age for women, on average—65 in Japan and 64 in New Zealand. Next in line, opinion leaders in Singapore suggest a retirement age of 65 for men and 64 for women, on average. In India, South Korea, and China the average appropriate retirement age is 63 for men but somewhat lower for women—61 in India, 60 in South Korea, and 59 in China.

Figure 2.28

Best retirement age (average by country)

► In general, at what age do you think [most male workers/most female workers] should retire or stop working?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Interestingly, the degree of correspondence between the average proposed retirement age and the average age at which opinion leaders consider workers to be “older” varies from country to country. In Australia, Singapore, and New Zealand

Figure 2.27

Best retirement age

► In general, at what age do you think [most male workers/most female workers] should retire or stop working?

	Males	Females
45 to 49	0	*
50 to 54	*	2
55 to 59	2	8
60	16	20
61 to 64	2	2
65	35	27
66 to 69	3	3
70	13	9
71 to 74	*	1
75	2	2
76 to 85	*	*
Never/Depends	23	22
Average	65	63

* <0.5%

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

perceived older workers may be eight or more years younger than the average proposed retirement age. In the rest of the countries, the gap between becoming an older worker in the eyes of opinion leaders and the average proposed retirement age is considerably more narrow, sometimes non-existent.

Figure 2.29

Opinion leaders' definition of older workers versus appropriate retirement age

	Average age when men should retire	Average age when women should retire	Average age when workers perceived as older
Australia	66	66	55
Singapore	65	64	57
New Zealand	66	64	57
South Korea	63	60	59
India	63	61	60
China	63	59	61
United States	68	68	64
Japan	66	65	66

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Mandatory retirement age

Although many opinion leaders are willing to name an “appropriate” retirement age, the idea of a mandatory retirement age does not elicit much support. Two thirds of opinion leaders (67%) say that they oppose the idea.

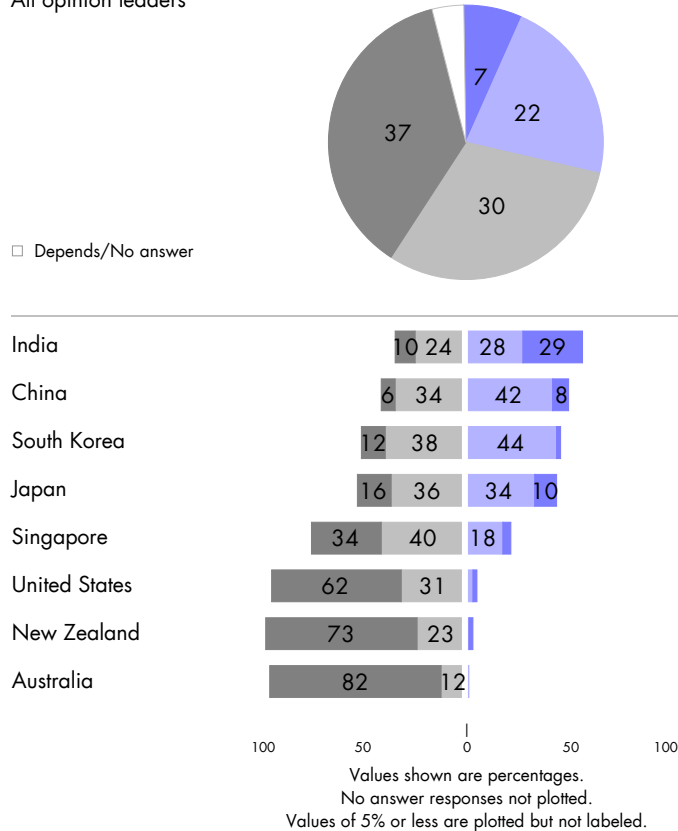
Opposition to enforcing a mandatory retirement age is particularly high in New Zealand (96%), Australia (94%), and the US (93%), where almost all opinion leaders dislike the idea. Disallowing people from working beyond a certain age only elicits majority support in India. Close to six in 10 Indian opinion leaders (57%) strongly or somewhat support the idea. Half of Chinese opinion leaders (50%), along with sizable minorities in South Korea (46%) and Japan (44%) agree.

Figure 2.30

Mandatory retirement age

► In some countries workers are required to retire at a particular age. Do you [●] strongly support, [●] somewhat support, [●] somewhat oppose, or [●] strongly oppose the idea of a mandatory retirement age?

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Opinion leaders who support the idea of a mandatory retirement age were also asked what the mandatory retirement age should be. A plurality of opinion leaders (41%) say that 65 should be the mandatory retirement age, followed by 60 as the next most popular age (28%). The average mandatory retirement age recommended by opinion leaders is 63 years of age.²⁶

Figure 2.31

Mandatory retirement age

► And what should the mandatory retirement age be?²⁵

50 to 59	10%
60	28
61 to 64	6
65	41
66 to 70	8
Don't know	5
Average	63 years

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

²⁵ The results for this question are based on 117 respondents.

²⁶ Due to small sample sizes this question is not analyzed at the country level.

Labor shortage

Despite the prospect that at least some workers may remain in the workforce longer, opinion leaders foresee their countries facing labor shortages in the coming years. A solid majority of seven in 10 opinion leaders (69%) believe that their country is somewhat or very likely to experience a labor shortage within the next 20 years. But at the same time, a notable minority (30%) believe that such shortages are not too likely or not likely at all.

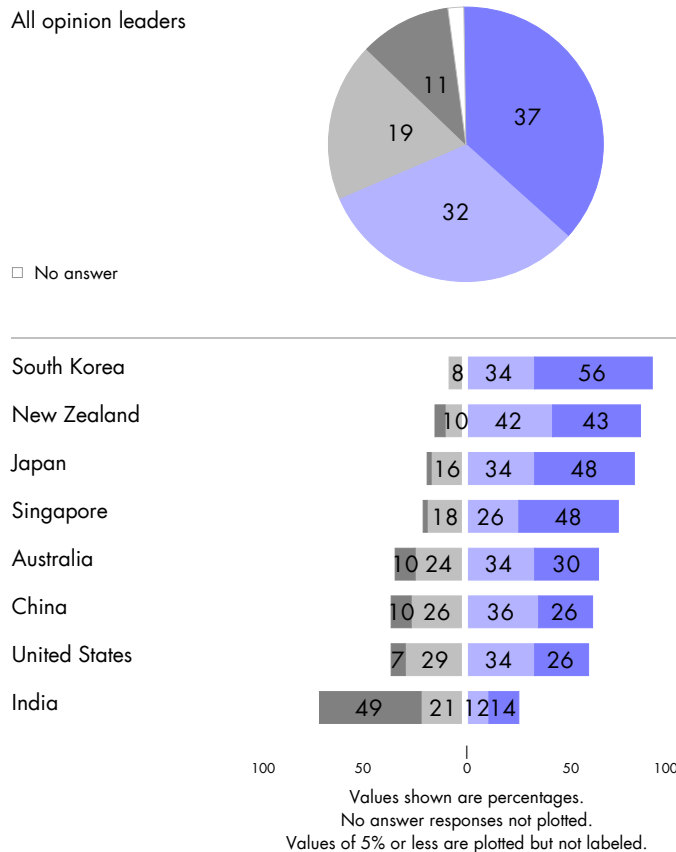
With one exception, labor shortages are expected in all survey countries. Ranging from nine in 10 opinion leaders in South Korea (90%) to six in 10 in the US (60%), majorities believe that labor shortages are on the horizon. The one exception is India, where a solid majority of opinion leaders (70%) say that their country is not too likely or not likely at all to experience a labor shortage over the next two decades. Along with the Indian majority, minorities of a third or more in several countries—the US (36%), China (36%), and Australia (34%)—doubt the likelihood their labor supply will dwindle.

Figure 2.32

Likelihood of labor shortage

► In your view, how likely is it that our country will experience a labor shortage within the next 20 years—[●] very likely, [●] somewhat likely, [●] not too likely, or [●] not likely at all?

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

According to the opinion leaders who think that there will be a labor shortage, more liberal immigration policies are one likely solution when countries attempt to compensate for it. A solid majority of opinion leaders predicting a labor shortage (75%) believe that their country is very or somewhat likely to adopt more liberal immigration policies to help recruit more workers.

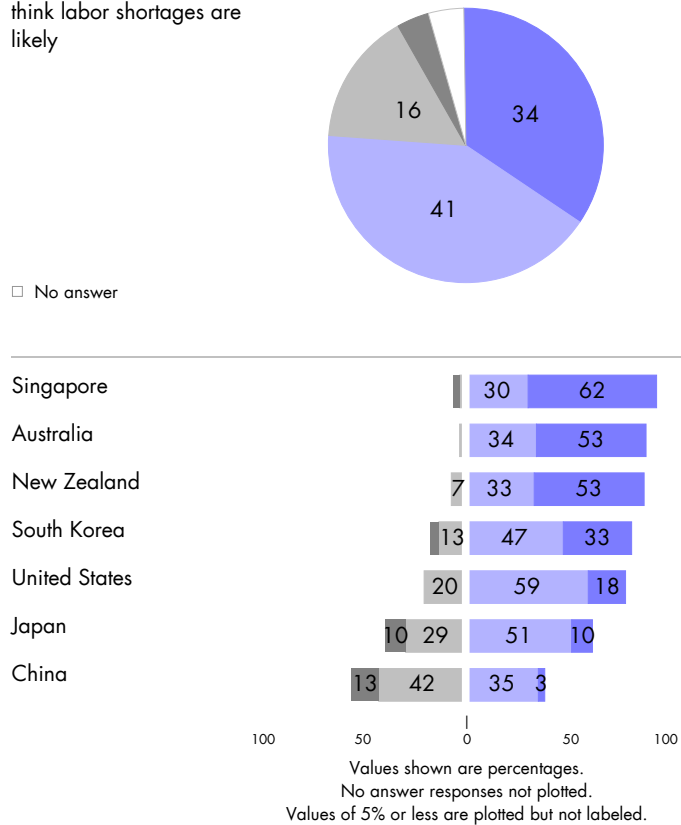
This prediction is shared by majorities in all but one country. Ranging from almost all Singaporean opinion leaders who think that there will be a labor shortage (92%) to six in 10 in Japan (61%), opinion leaders think that their country is very or somewhat likely to adopt more liberal immigration policies. In China, however, a slim majority of opinion leaders expecting a labor shortage (55%) say that their country is not too likely or not likely at all to change immigration policies.

Figure 2.33

More liberal immigration policies

► How likely is it that we will adopt more liberal immigration policies to compensate for this labor shortage—[●] very likely, [●] somewhat likely, [●] not too likely, or [●] not likely at all?²⁷

All opinion leaders who think labor shortages are likely



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

²⁷ The total results for this question are based on 285 respondents. The country level results are based on 32 respondents in Australia, 31 in China, 41 in Japan, 42 in New Zealand, 37 in Singapore, 45 in Korea, and 44 in the US. Due to a small sample size, responses from India are only included in the total results.

Section 3: Retirement security and life quality

Retirement security and quality of life issues will undoubtedly take center stage as more people reach retirement age and enjoy a longer life span after retiring. In this section, we discuss opinion leaders' perceptions of the quality of life enjoyed by older people in their country, including retirement income, health care, and housing. We also address their opinions regarding whose responsibility it is to provide for people after retirement, the family's role in caring for older people, and potential policy changes in response to the growing population of older people.

Quality of life

Asked to describe the overall quality of life of older people in their country, a majority of opinion leaders give a positive response.²⁸ About six in 10 opinion leaders (62%) describe the overall quality of life of older people in their country as good, although those who describe it as somewhat good by far outnumber those who describe it as very good. At the same time, more than a third (36%) report that the quality of life of older people in their country is somewhat or very bad.

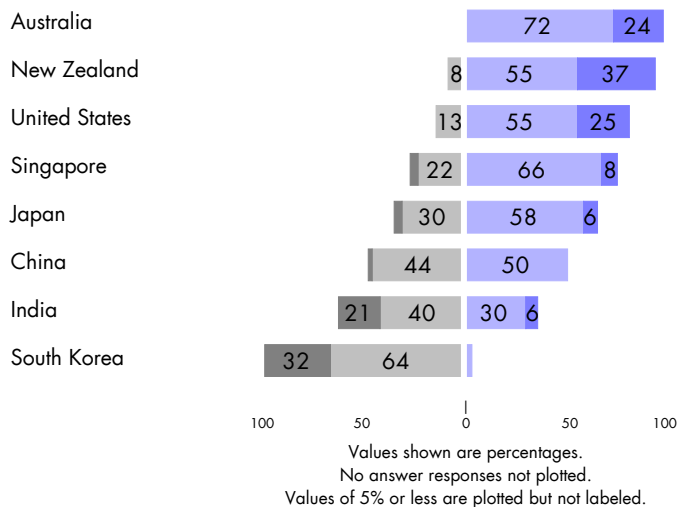
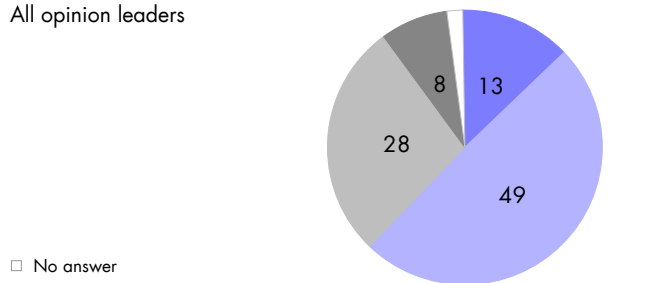
These overall figures hide some notable country differences. In five of the countries, a solid majority of opinion leaders report that older people in their country generally enjoy a very or somewhat good quality of life—Australia (96%), New Zealand (92%), the US (80%), Singapore (74%), and Japan (64%). At the same time, Chinese opinion leaders are split, with half of opinion leaders (50%) saying that older people's life quality is somewhat good but nearly as many (46%) report that the opposite is true.

Figure 3.1

Overall quality of life

► How would you describe the overall quality of life of older people in our country—it is [●] very good, [●] somewhat good, [●] somewhat bad, or [●] very bad?

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

²⁸ Prior to being asked the first survey question about "people in their old age," all opinion leaders were read the following text: "In the following questions, when we ask about people in their old age or older people, we are referring to older people who are retired or past retirement age. By retired, we mean no longer working for pay."

Majorities in South Korea (96%) and India (61%) describe the overall quality of life of older people in their country as somewhat or very bad.

Adequacy of retirement income

Although a majority of opinion leaders believe that, overall, older people in their country enjoy at least a somewhat good quality of life, many doubt that the average older person's pension and benefits from the government or from their employer are generally sufficient to live comfortably. In fact, a slim majority of opinion leaders (53%) say that older people relying on government or employer pensions are not living too comfortably or not comfortably at all.

Australia (70%) and China (62%) are the only countries, where a majority of opinion leaders think that the average older person's pension and benefits are sufficient for at least a somewhat comfortable life. However, it should be noted that even if those receiving a pension are living comfortably, a large number of China's elderly are not covered by the national pension system. Opinion leaders in New Zealand and the US are split, with about half saying that the average person's pension and benefits are sufficient but roughly as many saying that they are not.

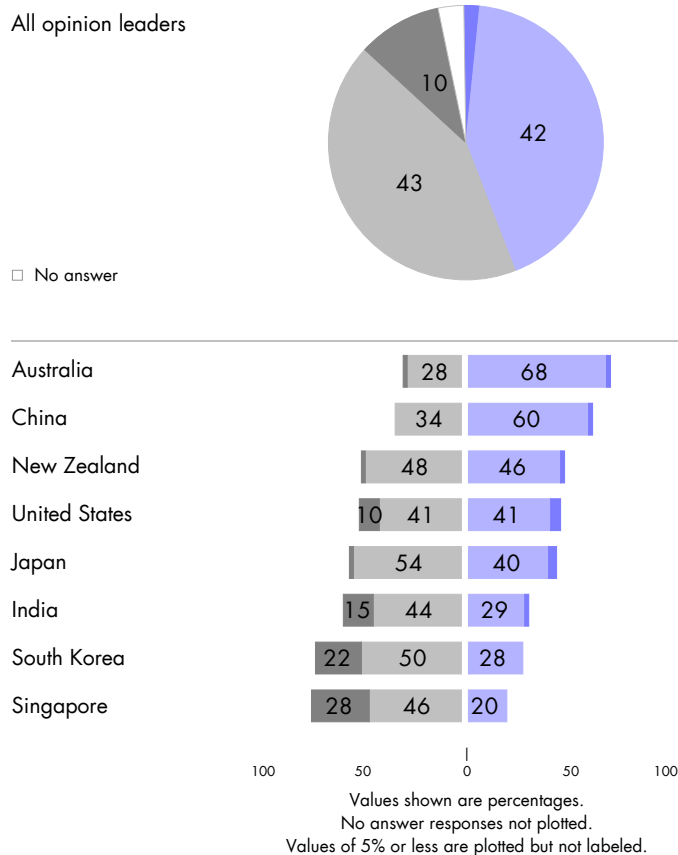
In the rest of the countries, majorities ranging from more than five in 10 in Japan (56%) to over seven in 10 in Singapore (74%) do not think that the average older person's pension and benefits are sufficient for a comfortable life.

Figure 3.2

Adequacy of retirement income

► Do you think that the average older person's pension and benefits from the government or from their employers is generally sufficient for an older person to live [●] very comfortably, [●] somewhat comfortably, [●] not too comfortably, or [●] not comfortably at all?

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Opinion leaders also report that retirement income is not distributed equitably, implying that at least some older people are being left with inadequate means to support themselves. Seven in 10 opinion leaders (71%) believe that an adequate retirement income is not available to people of all social and economic backgrounds in their country.

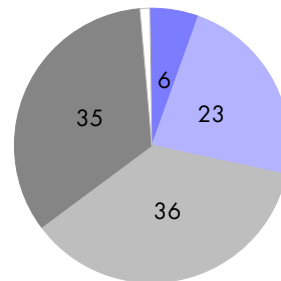
Australia and New Zealand are the only countries where roughly half of opinion leaders report that an adequate retirement income is available to everyone regardless of socioeconomic background. In the rest of the countries, only about a third or less strongly or somewhat agree that an adequate income is available to all.

Figure 3.3

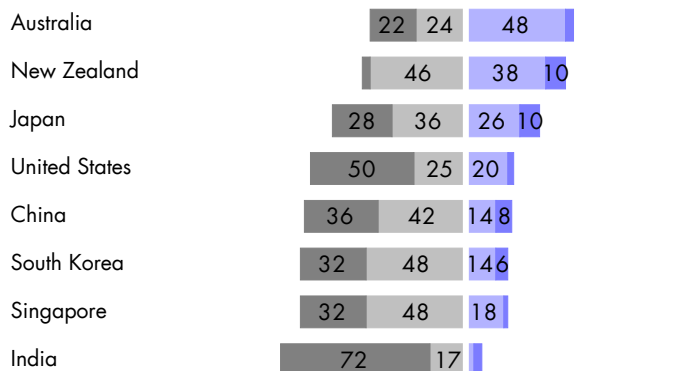
Equity and retirement income

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: An adequate retirement income is available to people of all social and economic backgrounds in our country.

All opinion leaders



□ No answer



100 50 0 50 100

Values shown are percentages.
No answer responses not plotted.
Values of 5% or less are plotted but not labeled.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Responsibility for providing for people in old age

Asked whose responsibility it is to provide for people in their old age when they are no longer able to work, opinion leaders reach no consensus. Three in 10 opinion leaders (31%) say that the primary responsibility lies with the government, but as many opinion leaders (30%) say that individual older people are responsible for providing for themselves through savings. About a quarter of opinion leaders (23%) think that responsibility should be divided among different groups. Fewer think that family members (8%) or employers (4%) ought to be primarily responsible.

Looking at individual countries, some differences emerge, although most countries have one thing in common: there is little agreement over who should be primarily responsible. The most agreement is found in China, where a solid majority of opinion leaders (62%) believe that the government should have primary responsibility for providing for people in old age.

A plurality of opinion leaders in South Korea (46%) and Japan (42%) agree with the Chinese majority: the government should bear primary responsibility. However, notable minorities in these two countries hold individual older people responsible for themselves.

Pluralities in Singapore (50%), Australia (44%), and New Zealand (43%) think that individuals should be primarily responsible for themselves, although opinion leaders are quite divided in these three countries.

In the US, a third of opinion leaders (33%) volunteer that the responsibility should be shared, while roughly as many (30%) are advocates of individual responsibility. Somewhat fewer (19%) believe that the government bears primary responsibility.

In India, a solid majority of opinion leaders (77%) believe that the responsibility should be shared, with most opinion leaders shying away from naming just one responsible entity.

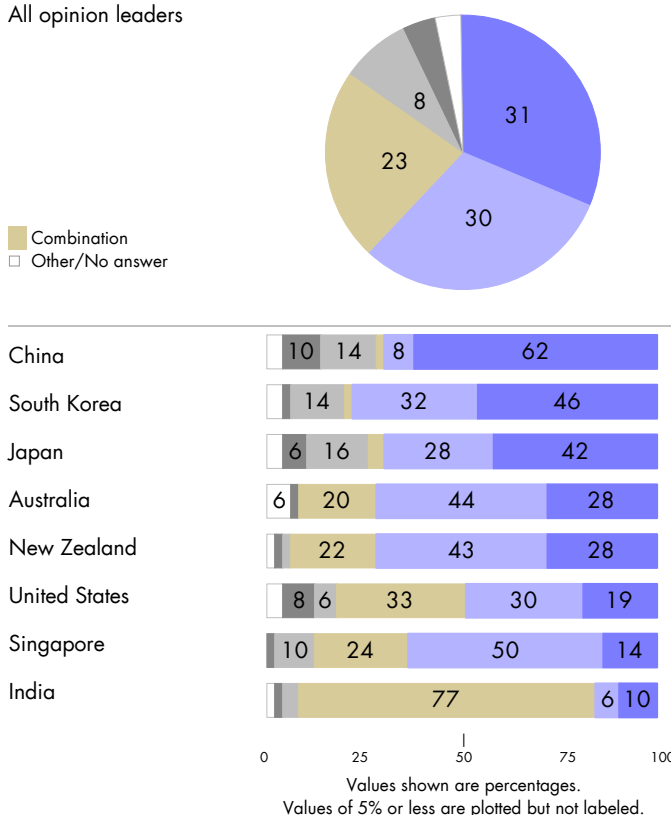
Opinion leaders' professional positions may play a role when they formulate opinions about responsibility for providing for people in their old age. In particular, opinion leaders representing nongovernmental organizations are less likely to ascribe

Figure 3.4

Primary responsibility for providing for people in their old age

► In your opinion, which of the following should have primary responsibility for providing for people in their old age: [●] government, [●] individual older people, [●] family, or [●] employers?

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

responsibility to older people personally than opinion leaders working in other sectors. Only about one in 10 opinion leaders from nongovernmental organizations (13%) think that individuals are primarily responsible for providing for themselves in retirement, compared to nearly half of government officials (46%) and roughly three in 10 opinion leaders in the private sector (33%), media (29%), and academia (29%). A plurality of opinion leaders in nongovernmental organizations (41%) think that government should be responsible.

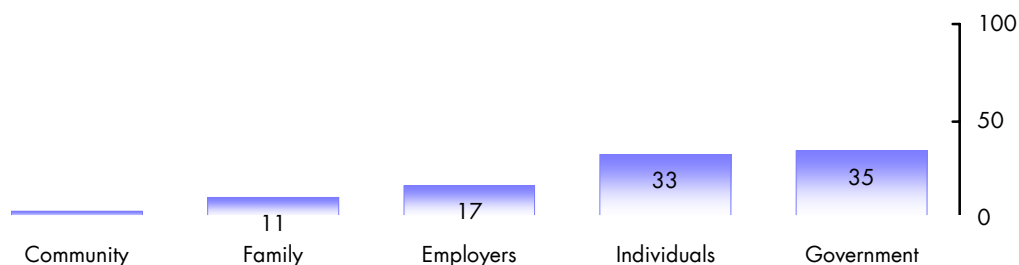
Optimal mix of income from different groups

In addition to asking about whose responsibility it is to provide for people in their old age, opinion leaders were also asked to think about the optimal mix of income for people in their old age and what percent would come from different groups. On average, 35 percent would come from government and roughly as much from individual older people themselves (33% of income), with smaller contributions expected from employers (17% of income), family members (11% of income), and the community (4% of income).

Figure 3.5

Optimal mix of income—average percent of responsibility assigned to each group

► If you had to determine the optimal mix of income for people in their old age, what percent would come from each of the following?²⁹



AARP, *Aging in Asia and Oceania*, March 2007.

Opinion leaders in different countries vary somewhat in how they would divide the income responsibility although there are also some common patterns. With the exception of Singapore, at least a third of an older person's income, on average, is expected to come from the government in each country. Opinion leaders in Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore have the highest expectations of individual older people themselves, while opinion leaders in China expect the least. US opinion leaders, on average, expect more from employers than opinion leaders in other countries, while opinion leaders in China, India, and Singapore have the highest expectations of family. More details for each country are provided below.

In Australia, the average opinion leader ascribes the largest share of responsibility to individuals (49% of income), although a notable share would also ideally come from the government (31% of income). Lesser contributions are expected from employers (13% of income), community (5% of income), or family (3% of income).

Consistent with the finding that a majority of Chinese opinion leaders believe that the government has the main responsibility to provide for older people, Chinese opinion leaders, on average, expect the largest share of a retiree's income to come from government. In China, nearly half of older people's income (45% of income) would

²⁹ These results are based on 399 opinion leaders.

ideally come from the government, according to the average opinion leader. Considerably smaller shares would come from employers (19% of income), family (17% of income), individual older people themselves (14% of income), or the community (4% of income).

Similar to the Chinese, according to Indian opinion leaders, on average, the largest chunk of income would ideally come from the government (37% of income), followed by considerably smaller shares from individual older people themselves (21% of income), family (19% of income), employers (16% of income), and community (6% of income).

60

Government is also expected to contribute the most in Japan. According to the average Japanese opinion leader, government should provide nearly half of older people's income (44% of income), with a significantly smaller share coming from older people's own savings (26% of income), employers (14% of income), family (9% of income), or the community (7% of income).

In New Zealand, the average opinion leader would ideally have most of older people's income come from the government and from older people themselves. In this optimal scenario, roughly equal shares would come from individual older people (45% of income) and from the government (42% of income). On average, New Zealand's opinion leaders expect much smaller contributions from employers (8% of income), family (4% of income), or the community (1% of income).

Singapore stands out as the country where the government is expected to contribute the least, on average. According to the average Singaporean opinion leader, nearly half of a person's retirement income would come from older people themselves (44% of income), with smaller shares from family members (18% of income), government (18% of income), employers (15% of income), and community (5% of income).

Although nearly half of South Korean opinion leaders think that the government should have the main responsibility to provide for people in old age, the average South Korean opinion leader only expects about a third of an older person's income to come from the government (31% of income). An equal amount would ideally come from older people themselves (30% of income), followed by employers (21% of income), family (12% of income), and community (5% of income).

In the US, the average opinion leader would have roughly equal shares coming from individual savings (36% of income), the government (33% of income), and employers (28% of income).

Figure 3.6

Optimal mix of income—average percent of responsibility assigned to each group

► If you had to determine the optimal mix of income for people in their old age, what percent would come from each of the following?³⁰

	Australia	China	India	Japan	New Zealand	Singapore	South Korea	United States
Government	31%	45%	37%	44%	42%	18%	31%	33%
Individuals	49	14	21	26	45	44	30	36
Employers	13	19	16	14	8	15	21	28
Family	3	17	19	9	4	18	12	2
Community	5	4	6	7	1	5	5	1

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AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

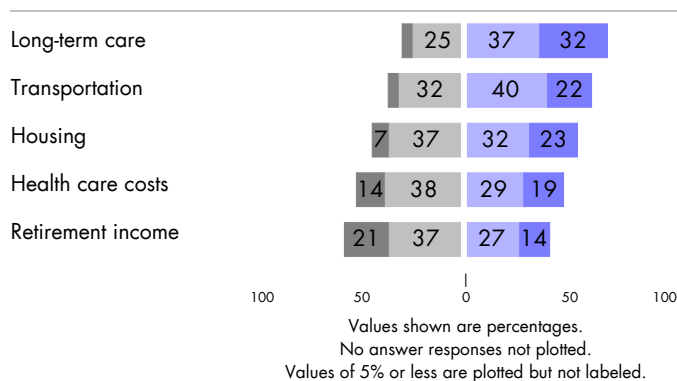
Family role

Although family is rarely seen as bearing the main responsibility for providing for older people, many opinion leaders believe that family does have a role to play in assisting older people. A majority of opinion leaders think that family should play a moderate or big role in providing long-term care for sick or disabled older family members (69%), providing transportation (62%), and providing housing (55%). In addition, about half of opinion leaders (48%) believe that family members should play at least a moderate role in covering health care costs, including medicine, and a sizable minority (41%) say the same about retirement income.

Figure 3.7

Family role in assisting older people

► In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play [●] a big role, [●] moderate role, [●] small role, or [●] no role at all in providing [INSERT]?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

But looking at individual countries, it becomes apparent that family roles vary in different cultures. At one extreme, a majority of opinion leaders in Australia believe that the family should only play a small role or no role at all in providing for these types of support. At the other extreme, a majority of Chinese and Indian opinion leaders believe that the family has at least a moderate role to play in all five areas mentioned. But the lines are somewhat less clear in the other countries.³¹

³⁰ These results are based on 46 opinion leaders in Australia, 48 in China, 50 in India, 50 in Japan, 48 in New Zealand, 49 in Singapore, 47 in South Korea, and 61 in the US.

³¹ To view the individual country results side-by-side, please refer to the Appendix.

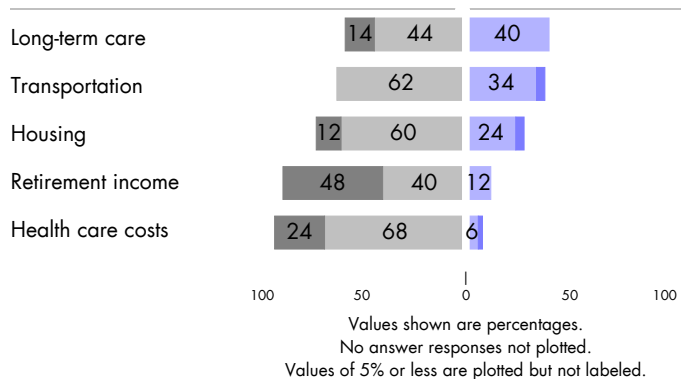
Australian opinion leaders generally believe that the family's role in assisting people in old age should be small or nonexistent. Although notable minorities do see a moderate to large role for family in the long-term care of sick or disabled older people (40%), transportation (38%), and housing (28%), a majority of Australian opinion leaders think that family members are not responsible for providing a significant amount of assistance when it comes to health care costs (92%), retirement income (88%), housing (72%), transportation (62%), or long-term care (58%).

Very different from Australia, a majority of Chinese opinion leaders believe that the family should be involved at least to a moderate degree in all areas asked about. Eliciting the strongest consensus, seven in 10 Chinese opinion leaders (70%) think that family should play a big role in the long-term care of sick or disabled older people, while most of the rest call for a moderate role. In total, nine in 10 Chinese opinion leaders (90%) believe that family should play a moderate to large role in long-term care. Majorities also believe that family should play a moderate to large role in the other areas asked about—transportation (80%), housing (76%), health care costs (60%), and retirement income (54%). Despite this majority view, however, there are some areas of contention among Chinese opinion leaders. Sizable minorities are of the opinion that the family's role in providing retirement income (44%) or covering health costs (38%) should be small or nonexistent.

Figure 3.8

Family role in assisting older people-Australia

► In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play [●] a big role, [●] moderate role, [●] small role, or [●] no role at all in providing [INSERT]?

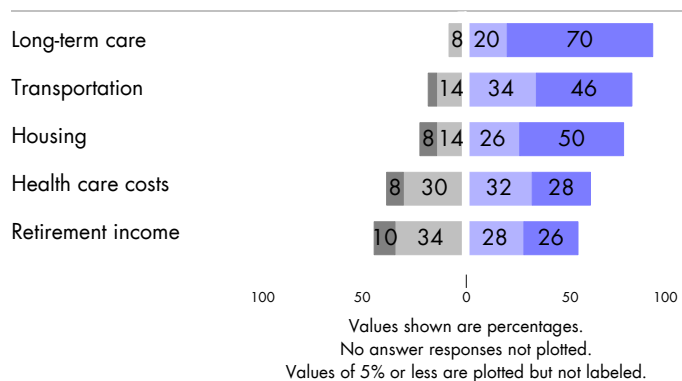


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 3.9

Family role in assisting older people-China

► In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play [●] a big role, [●] moderate role, [●] small role, or [●] no role at all in providing [INSERT]?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

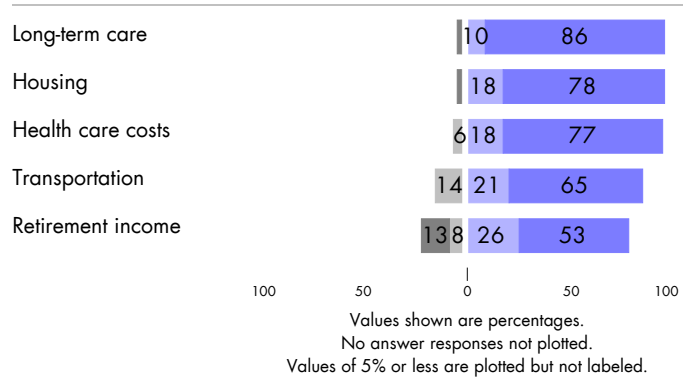
Displaying an even stronger reliance on family than the Chinese, opinion leaders in India express almost universal support for at least a moderate degree of family involvement in assisting people in old age. More than nine in 10 Indian opinion leaders believe that family should play a big or moderate role in providing long-term care (96%), housing (96%), and money for health care (95%). Support for providing transportation (86%) and retirement income (79%) is solid as well. Moreover, those calling for a big role easily outnumber those calling for a moderate family role in each area, with a majority of Indian opinion leaders indicating that family should play a large, and not just moderate, role in providing assistance to older people.

In Japan, the issue of family assistance divides opinion leaders. When it comes to providing transportation, housing, and long-term care in old age, the opinion leaders are split into almost equally large groups, with one side calling for a moderate to large family role and the other side preferring a small role or no role at all. Eliciting more agreement, a solid majority of Japanese opinion leaders think that the family should only play a small role or no role at all in providing retirement income (74%) and covering health care costs (64%).

Figure 3.10

Family role in assisting older people-India

► In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play [●] a big role, [●] moderate role, [●] small role, or [●] no role at all in providing [INSERT]?

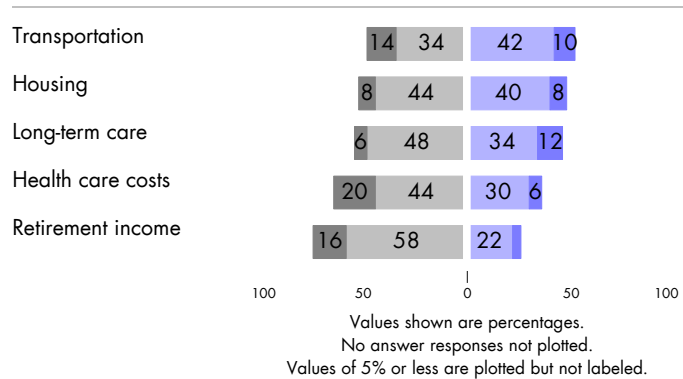


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 3.11

Family role in assisting older people-Japan

► In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play [●] a big role, [●] moderate role, [●] small role, or [●] no role at all in providing [INSERT]?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

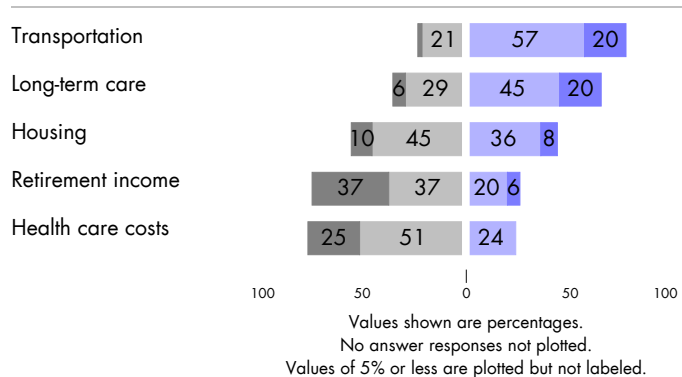
Opinion leaders in New Zealand generally think that family should be involved in long-term care and transportation of older people at least to a moderate degree, but that other types of assistance can mostly be left for others to provide. A solid majority of New Zealand's opinion leaders believe that the family should play a moderate or big role in providing transportation (77%) and long-term care for sick or disabled older people (65%). When it comes to housing, a slim majority of opinion leaders (55%) say that a small role is sufficient or that the family does not need to be involved at all. At the same time, however, a sizable minority (44%) call for a larger role in providing housing. But concerning retirement income and health care costs, a solid majority believe that the family's role should be small or nonexistent (health care costs 76% and retirement income 74%).

In Singapore, half or more of opinion leaders believe that a moderate to large family role is appropriate for providing the types of assistance asked about. But many disagree, implying that the issue can be somewhat divisive. Most Singaporean opinion leaders (90%) believe that the family should play a moderate or big role in providing long-term care for sick or disabled older people and a solid majority (70%) feel the same way about covering older relatives' health care costs. But while half or more of Singaporean opinion leaders also call for significant family involvement in providing housing (60%), retirement income (58%), and transportation (50%), sizable minorities believe that playing a small role is enough or that family does not need to play a role at all.

Figure 3.12

Family role in assisting older people-New Zealand

► In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play [●] a big role, [●] moderate role, [●] small role, or [●] no role at all in providing [INSERT]?

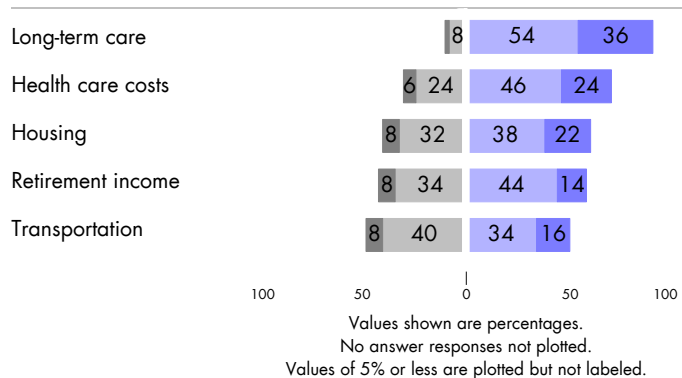


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 3.13

Family role in assisting older people-Singapore

► In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play [●] a big role, [●] moderate role, [●] small role, or [●] no role at all in providing [INSERT]?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

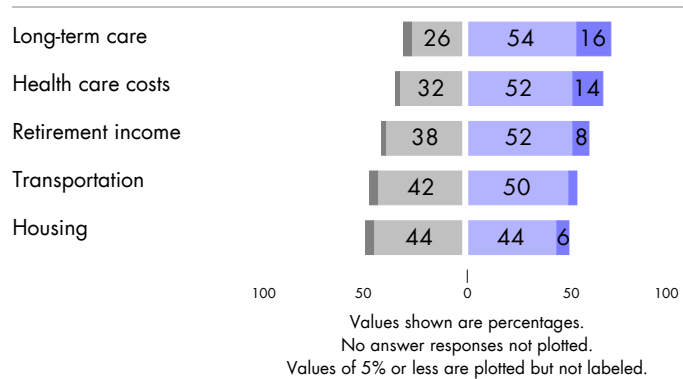
Similar to Singapore, half or more of South Korean opinion leaders believe that the family should play a moderate or large role in providing the types of support asked about, but there are many who think that a lesser role is enough. Support for a moderate or large family role in providing long-term care for sick or disabled older people is highest (70%), followed by health care costs (66%), retirement income (60%), transportation (54%), and housing (50%). But for each type of assistance, minorities of roughly a third or more say that the family's role should be small or nonexistent.

A majority of US opinion leaders call for a moderate to large family role in providing transportation and long-term care, but a lesser role in providing housing, health care costs, and retirement income. Six in 10 US opinion leaders believe that family should play a moderate or big role in providing transportation (60%) and in providing long-term care (59%). At the same time, however, sizable minorities disagree, saying that a smaller role is appropriate. And when it comes to the other types of support asked about, a majority of opinion leaders say that the family should play a small role or no role at all—retirement income (78%), health care costs (75%), and housing (60%).

Opinion leader attitudes toward the family's role do not generally vary by age.

Figure 3.14
Family role in assisting older people-South Korea

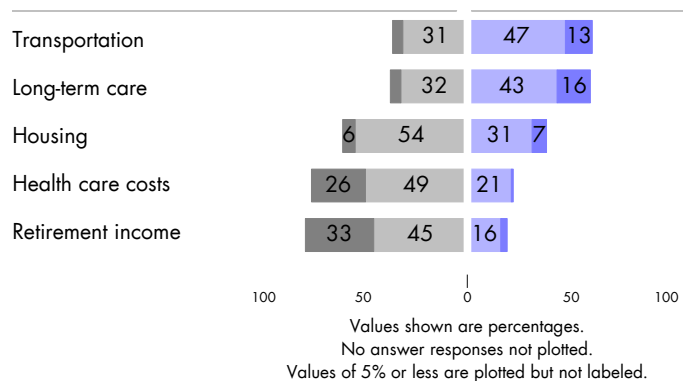
► In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play [●] a big role, [●] moderate role, [●] small role, or [●] no role at all in providing [INSERT]?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 3.15
Family role in assisting older people-United States

► In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play [●] a big role, [●] moderate role, [●] small role, or [●] no role at all in providing [INSERT]?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Although a slim majority of opinion leaders believe that the family should play a role in providing housing, this does not necessarily mean that housing should be provided *with* the family. Overall, a majority of opinion leaders (59%) think that, in general, it is best for relatively healthy older people to live independently as long as possible. Only about a quarter of opinion leaders (23%) believe that living with extended family is the best option, and even fewer (13%) would choose assisted care facilities.

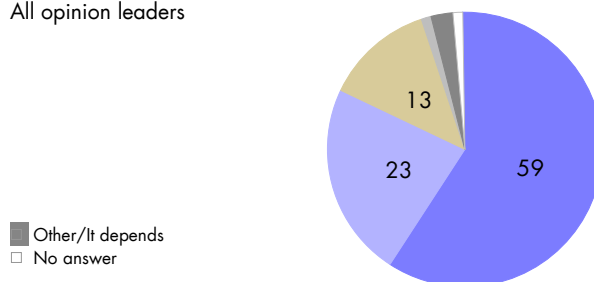
However, independent living elicits different levels of support depending on the country in question. Support for living independently as long as possible is nearly universally supported by opinion leaders in Australia (98%) and the US (87%), and majorities in New Zealand (76%), Singapore (64%), and Japan (58%) agree. But only about three in 10 opinion leaders in India, China, and South Korea believe that independent living is the best option. Half of Indian opinion leaders (49%) believe that living with extended family is the best option for relatively healthy older people. Roughly a third of South Korean opinion leaders (36%) also advocate living with extended family, although about as many (32%) think that assisted care facilities are the best option. In China, as many as four in 10 opinion leaders (40%) think that assisted care facilities are the best place.³² Roughly a quarter (22%) say that living with extended family is most ideal.

Figure 3.16

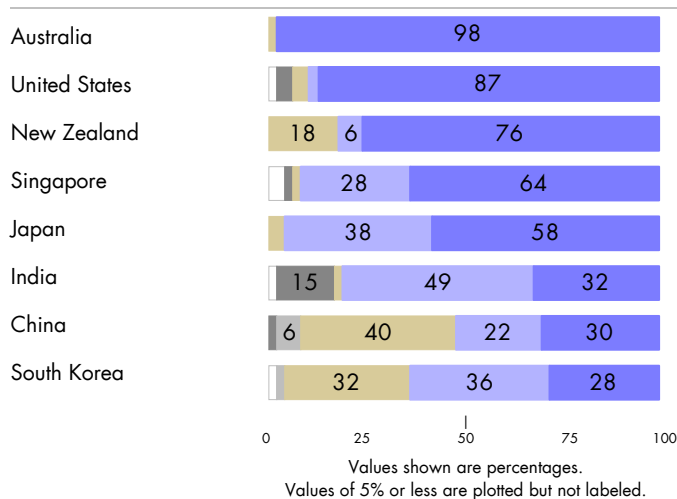
Living arrangements of older people

► In general, is it best for relatively healthy older people to [●] live independently as long as possible [●] live with extended families, [●] live in assisted care facilities, or [●] live in nursing homes?

All opinion leaders



Other/It depends
No answer



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

³² The concept of assisted living is somewhat different in China from what the term commonly entails in the US. In China, it is common for older people to continue to live independently in their own house or apartment, but to have arranged for regular assistance from family or others.

According to opinion leaders, technology will help older people live independently for a longer period of time. Most opinion leaders (85%) believe that technology, such as computers and robots, will be very or somewhat helpful in extending independent living by older people in their country over the next 20 years.

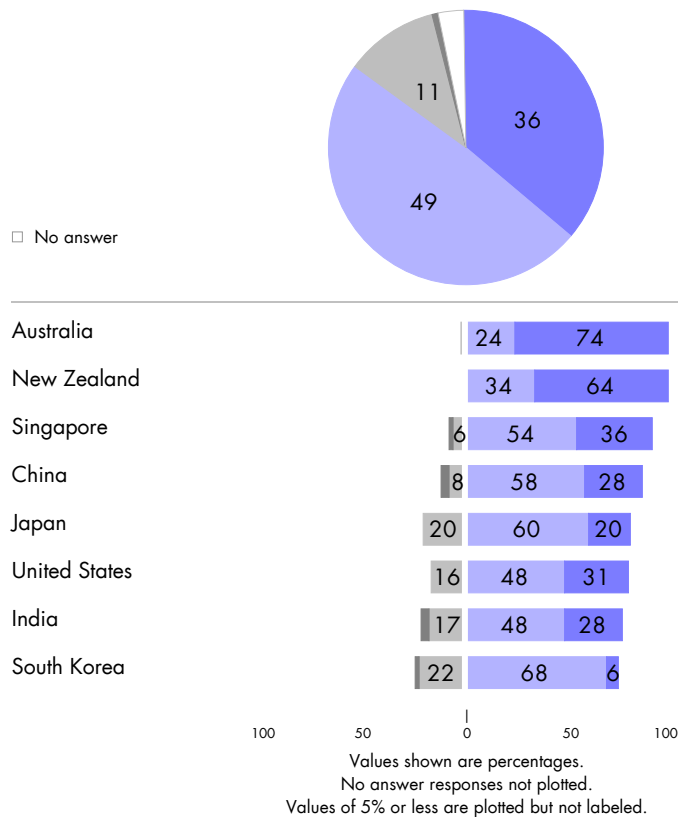
This optimistic view is shared by opinion leaders across all eight surveyed countries. Ranging from almost all opinion leaders in Australia (98%) and New Zealand (98%) to more than seven in 10 in South Korea (74%), majorities predict that technology will be at least somewhat helpful in prolonging the time older people are able to live independently.

Figure 3.17

Helpfulness of technology in extending independent living

► How helpful do you think technology, such as computers and robots will be in extending independent living by older people in our country over the next 20 years—[●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Health services

Providing health and medical care to an increasingly large elderly population is one of the top challenges opinion leaders associate with population aging and opinion leaders do not think that their current health care systems are up to the challenge. Nearly eight in 10 (77%) opinion leaders agree that their country's health care system is not well prepared to deal with an aging population.

Opinion leaders in all eight countries share this view. Ranging from nine in 10 opinion leaders in the US to about six in 10 in Singapore (58%), majorities strongly or somewhat agree that their health care system is poorly prepared to deal with an aging population. In the US (59%) and India (63%) this view is strongly held by a solid majority of opinion leaders. In the other countries surveyed concern about the health care system's ability to respond to the needs of an aging population are not as strongly held.

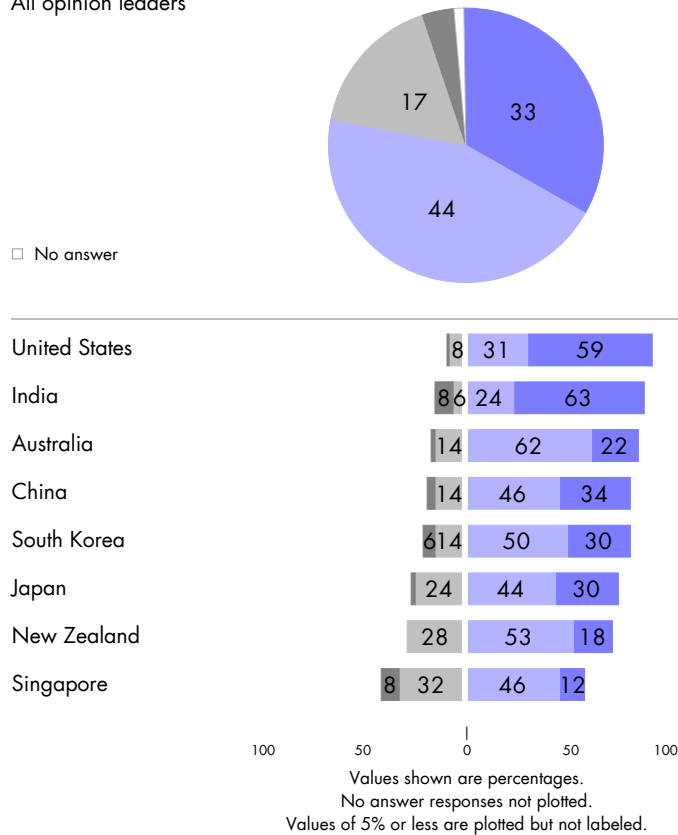
Both older and younger opinion leaders solidly agree that the health care systems could be better prepared.

Figure 3.18

Preparedness of health care system

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: Our health care system is not well prepared to deal with an aging population.

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Asked whether access to quality health care is currently available to older people of all social and economic backgrounds in their country, a slim majority of opinion leaders (53%) say that the answer is no, although a sizable minority (46%) indicate that health care delivery is equitable at least to a degree.

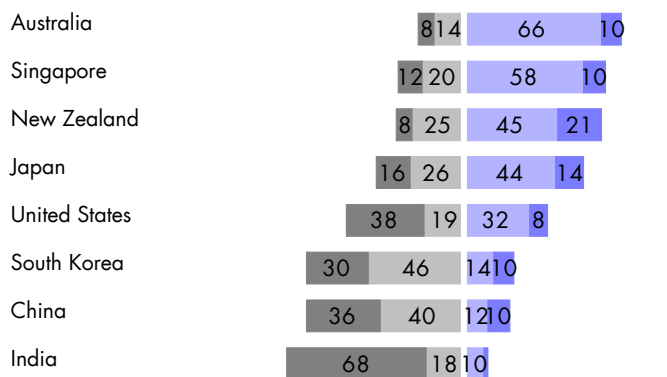
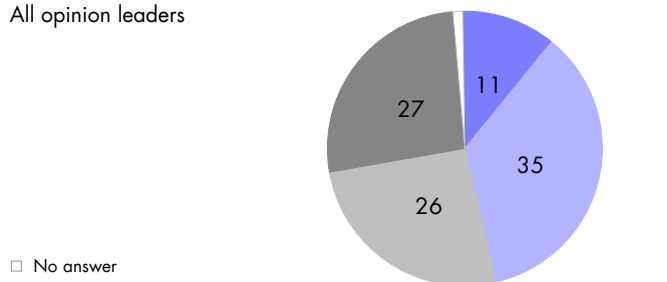
These overall figures mask significant differences among the countries surveyed. While majorities in half of the countries strongly or somewhat agree that older people of all socioeconomic backgrounds have access to quality health care—Australia (76%), Singapore (68%), New Zealand (66%), and Japan (58%)—majorities in the other four countries disagree—India (86%), China (76%), South Korea (76%), and the US (57%).

Figure 3.19

Equity and quality health care

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: Access to quality health care is available to older people of all social and economic backgrounds in our country.

All opinion leaders



Values shown are percentages.
No answer responses not plotted.
Values of 5% or less are plotted but not labeled.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Opinion leaders generally support increased government efforts to improve delivery of health services to older people. A majority of opinion leaders (53%) believe that their government should increase its efforts a great deal and most of the rest (33%) say that efforts should be increased moderately to ensure that older people receive the health services they need. Only about one in 10 opinion leaders (13%) think that government should only increase its efforts in this area a little or not at all.

The support for increased government efforts spans across all eight countries surveyed. Almost all opinion leaders in China (96%), India (96%), Singapore (96%), and South Korea (94%) believe that an increase in efforts is in order, and large majorities in the other countries agree—New Zealand (85%), Japan (84%), US (72%) and Australia (64%). At the same time, notable minorities in Australia (36%) and the US (23%) think that government efforts should be increased only a little or not at all.

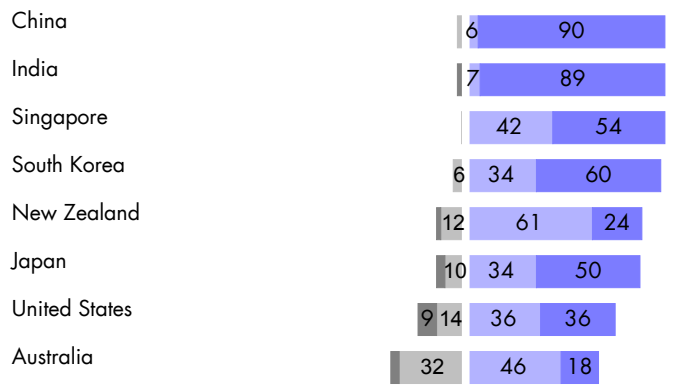
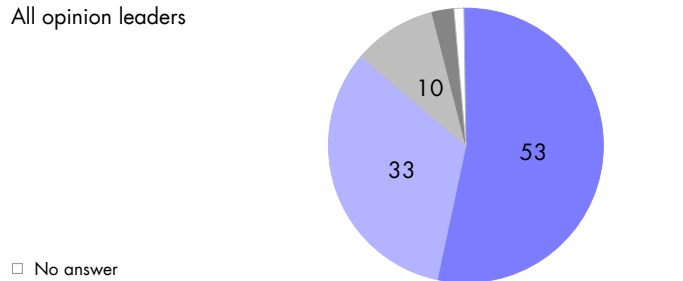
Support for increasing government efforts is also shared by younger and older opinion leaders alike, with most opinion leaders in both age groups asserting that at least a moderate increase is necessary.

Figure 3.20

Increasing government efforts to ensure older people receive health services

► Do you think our government should increase its efforts to ensure that older people receive the health services they need [●] a great deal, [●] moderately, [●] a little, or [●] not at all.

All opinion leaders



Values shown are percentages.
No answer responses not plotted.
Values of 5% or less are plotted but not labeled.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Opinion leaders are also hopeful technology will help. Most opinion leaders believe that technology, such as computers and robots, will be very or somewhat helpful in improving the health and medical care of older people in their country over the next 20 years.

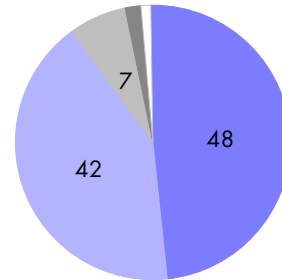
This optimism is shared by opinion leaders in all eight countries. Ranging from all opinion leaders in Australia (100%) to more than seven in 10 in South Korea (76%), large majorities are hopeful that technology will be at least somewhat helpful in improving health and medical care of older people over the next 20 years.

Figure 3.21

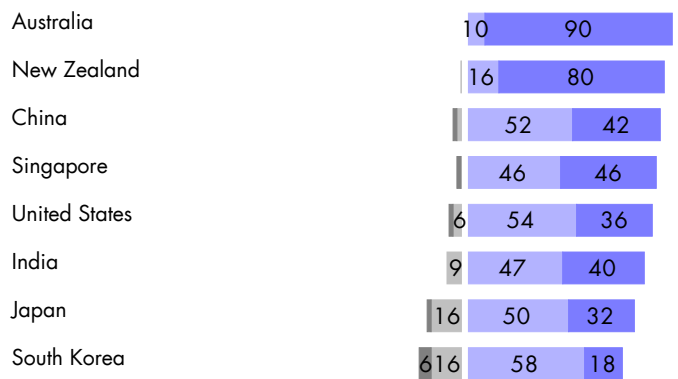
Helpfulness of technology in improving health and medical care of older people

► How helpful do you think technology, such as computers and robots will be in improving health and medical care of older people in our country over the next 20 years- [●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?

All opinion leaders



□ No answer



100 50 0 50 100

Values shown are percentages.

No answer responses not plotted.

Values of 5% or less are plotted but not labeled.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Housing

As is the case with health care services, many opinion leaders report that at least some older people do not have access to adequate housing. A majority of opinion leaders (56%) somewhat or strongly disagree with the statement that “adequate housing is available to older people of all social and economic backgrounds in our country.”

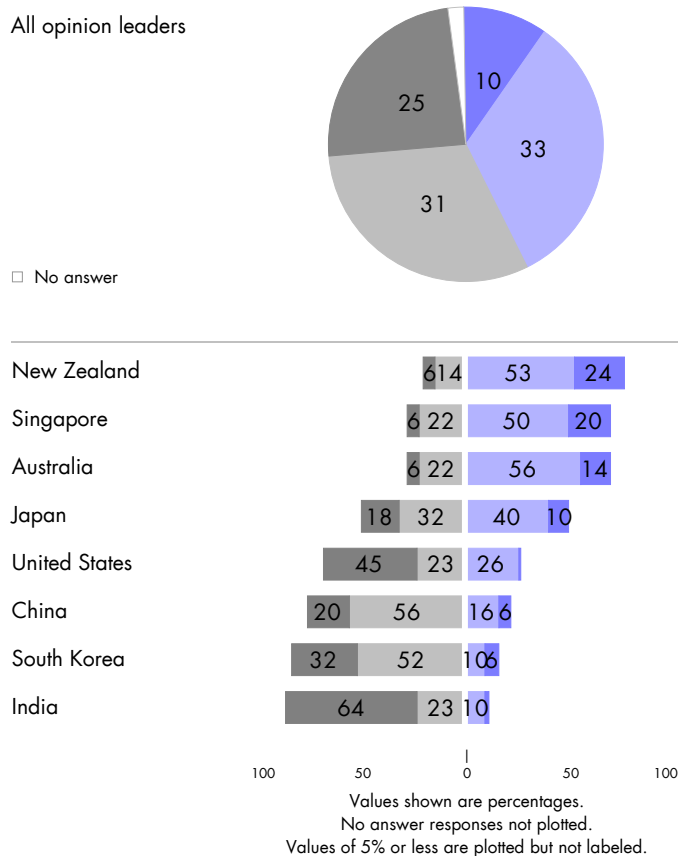
However, the situation may be better in some countries than in others. A solid majority of opinion leaders in New Zealand (77%), Singapore (70%), and Australia (70%) somewhat or strongly believe that adequate housing is available regardless of socioeconomic background. But opinion leaders in Japan are split, and solid majorities ranging from nearly nine in 10 opinion leaders in India (87%) to nearly seven in 10 in the US (68%) report that adequate housing is not available to elderly people of all social and economic backgrounds.

Figure 3.22

Equity and housing

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: Adequate housing is available to older people of all social and economic backgrounds in our country.

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Governments ought to increase their efforts in the housing field, according to opinion leaders. Nearly eight in 10 opinion leaders (77%) contend that their government should increase its efforts a great deal or moderately to ensure that older people have access to adequate housing. Most of the rest believe that efforts should be increased a little, with only a handful of opinion leaders of the view that no increase at all is necessary.

This sentiment is shared across the survey countries. Ranging from nine in 10 opinion leaders in South Korea (90%) to seven in 10 in the US (70%), majorities in each of the eight countries believe that at least a moderate increase in efforts is needed by the government to ensure that older people have adequate housing.

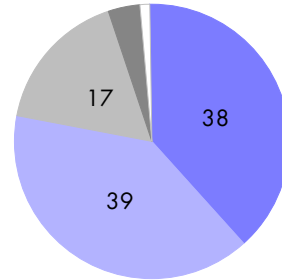
Both younger and older opinion leaders are equally likely to believe that the government should increase its efforts in the area of housing.

Figure 3.23

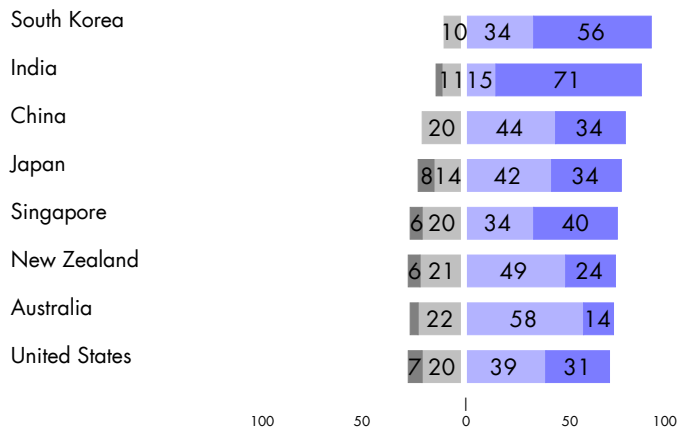
Increasing government efforts to ensure older people have access to adequate housing

► Do you think our government should increase its efforts to ensure that older people have access to adequate housing [●] a great deal, [●] moderately, [●] a little, or [●] not at all?

All opinion leaders



□ No answer



Values shown are percentages.
No answer responses not plotted.
Values of 5% or less are plotted but not labeled.

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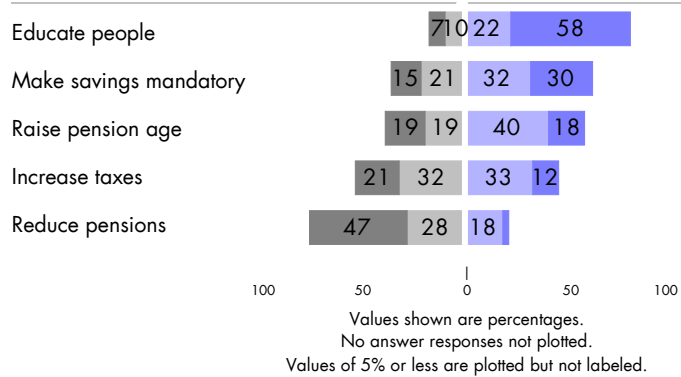
Policy changes to help cover costs related to aging

As more people reach retirement age, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To help cover these increased costs, a majority of opinion leaders support educating people about the importance of saving and encouraging them to save more (80%), making private savings mandatory or increasing mandatory private savings (62%), and increasing the age of eligibility for pensions for those receiving pensions (58%) to a great or moderate extent.³³ At the same time, tax increases and pension reductions are less popular. According to a majority of opinion leaders, pensions should be reduced (75%) and taxes increased (53%) only to a small extent or not at all.

Figure 3.24

Support for policy changes

► As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should [INSERT] to help cover these increased costs—[●] great extent, [●] moderate extent, [●] small extent, or [●] not at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

If opinion leaders' views are a reflection of what is to come in regard to policy changes, different countries will opt for a different mix of remedies to cover the increased costs of providing for older people. On the one hand, all except for Japanese opinion leaders support moderate or great use of public education campaigns to encourage people to save more, and support for pension reductions is low in all countries except South Korea, where a slim majority of opinion leaders think that pensions could be reduced to moderate or great extent. But support for the other three policy changes asked about is more mixed.³⁴

³³ Opinion leaders in China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, and the US were asked "private savings be made mandatory." Opinion leaders in Australia were asked "superannuation contributions be increased." Opinion leaders in Singapore were asked "mandatory private savings be increased."

³⁴ To view the individual country results side-by-side, please refer to the Appendix.

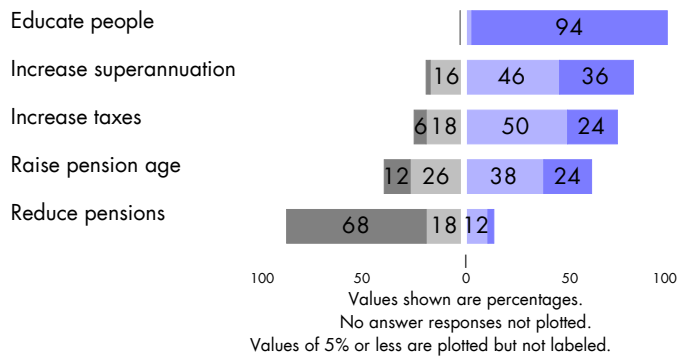
Australian opinion leaders appear enthusiastic about all potential policy solutions, with the exception of reducing pensions. In addition to nearly total support for educating people about the importance of saving for their old age (98%), a solid majority of Australian opinion leaders believe that superannuation contributions (82%), taxes (74%), and the age of eligibility for pensions (62%) should all be greatly or moderately increased. However, opinion is solidly against reducing pensions as a means to help cover costs.

In China, public education (68%) and increasing the age of eligibility for pensions (62%) to a moderate or great extent receive majority support, and a slim majority (54%) believe that taxes should be increased as well. However, the issue of mandatory savings divides Chinese opinion leaders and the response to substantial pension reductions is negative.

Figure 3.25

Support for policy changes-Australia

► As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should [INSERT] to help cover these increased costs—[●] great extent, [●] moderate extent, [●] small extent, or [●] not at all?

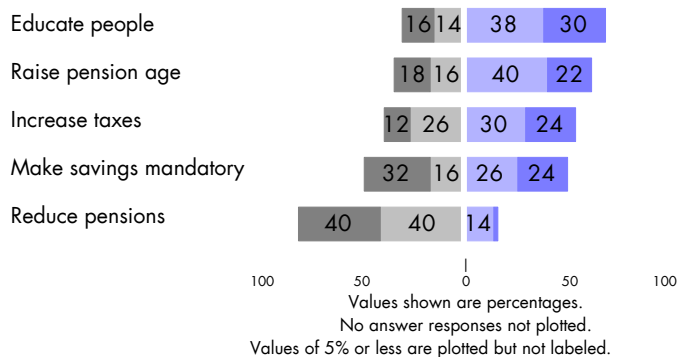


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Figure 3.26

Support for policy changes-China

► As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should [INSERT] to help cover these increased costs—[●] great extent, [●] moderate extent, [●] small extent, or [●] not at all?



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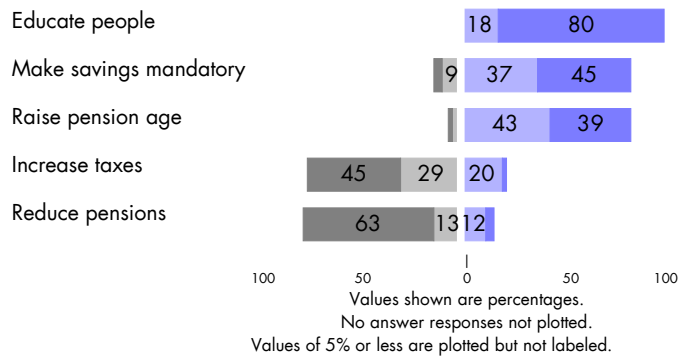
Most Indian opinion leaders support public education (98%), making private savings mandatory (82%), and increasing the age of eligibility for pensions (82%). However, a majority of Indian opinion leaders also believe that tax increases (74%) and pension reductions (76%) should only be implemented to a small extent or not at all.

In Japan, a slim majority of opinion leaders would increase taxes (56%) and the age of eligibility for pensions (54%), but the reaction to pension reductions is mixed. Moreover, unlike most other countries surveyed, a majority of opinion leaders shun the idea of mandatory private savings or public education campaigns emphasizing the importance of savings.

Figure 3.27

Support for policy changes-India

► As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should [INSERT] to help cover these increased costs—[●] great extent, [●] moderate extent, [●] small extent, or [●] not at all?

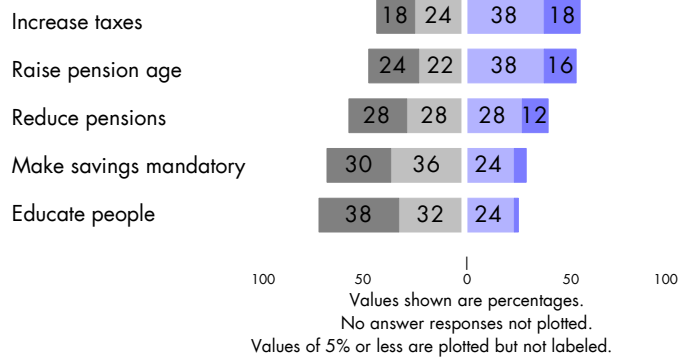


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 3.28

Support for policy changes-Japan

► As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should [INSERT] to help cover these increased costs—[●] great extent, [●] moderate extent, [●] small extent, or [●] not at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

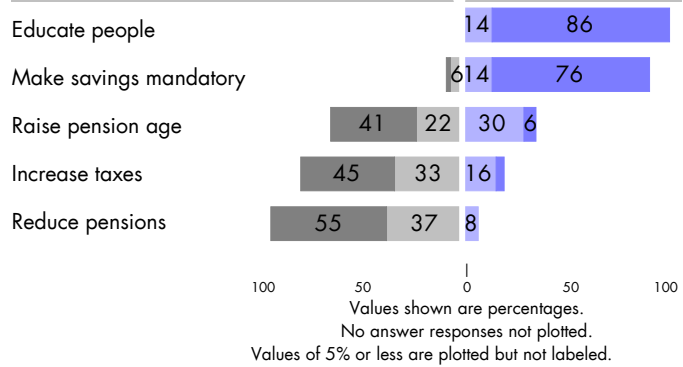
Opinion leaders in New Zealand tend to believe that public education and mandatory private savings are the answer to cost increases brought on by an aging population. All opinion leaders in New Zealand (100%) support educating the public about the importance of saving and almost all (90%) support making private savings mandatory. However, increasing the age of eligibility for pensions, tax increases, and pension reductions elicit considerably less support.

Singaporean opinion leaders are most supportive of public education campaigns. Most opinion leaders (84%) support educating people about the importance of saving. A slim majority (56%) also believe that mandatory savings should be greatly or moderately increased. However, Singaporean opinion leaders are split on the degree to which the pension age should be raised, and a majority think that pension reductions (78%) and tax increases (66%) should only be employed to a small extent or not at all.

Figure 3.29

Support for policy changes-New Zealand

► As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should [INSERT] to help cover these increased costs—[●] great extent, [●] moderate extent, [●] small extent, or [●] not at all?

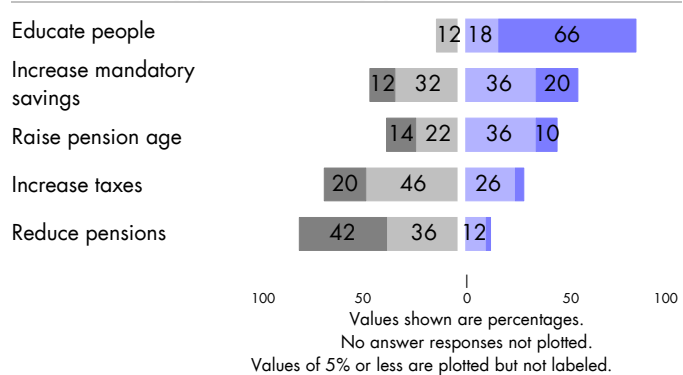


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Figure 3.30

Support for policy changes-Singapore

► As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should [INSERT] to help cover these increased costs—[●] great extent, [●] moderate extent, [●] small extent, or [●] not at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

South Korean opinion leaders stand alone in their openness to all policy tools asked about, at least to a degree. Solid majorities support educating the public (72%) and increasing the age of eligibility for pensions (70%) to a great or moderate degree. Slimmer majorities also support making private savings mandatory (58%), increasing taxes (54%), and reducing pensions for those receiving pensions (52%).

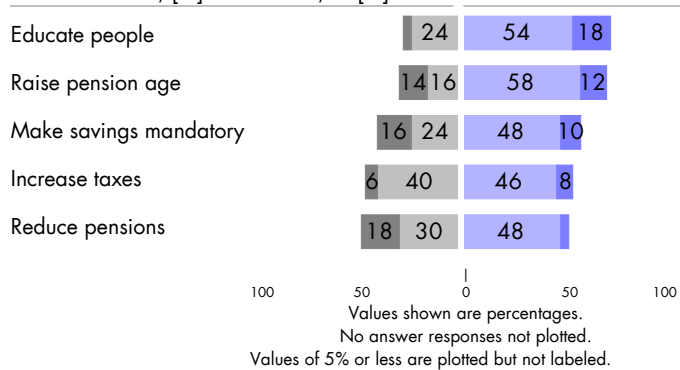
Opinion leaders in the US only agree that the public should be educated and encouraged to save more and that pensions should not be reduced. The degree to which other policy changes should be implemented, if at all, divides US opinion leaders. Roughly half of opinion leaders say that savings should be made mandatory (50%), the pension age raised (48%), and taxes increased (46%) to a great or moderate degree, but about as many think that these policies should only be implemented to a small extent or not at all.

Age does not appear to be a significant factor when it comes to support for different policy changes. Give or take a few percentage points, the policy options asked about generally receive an equal degree of support from younger and older opinion leaders.

Figure 3.31

Support for policy changes-South Korea

► As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should [INSERT] to help cover these increased costs—[●] great extent, [●] moderate extent, [●] small extent, or [●] not at all?

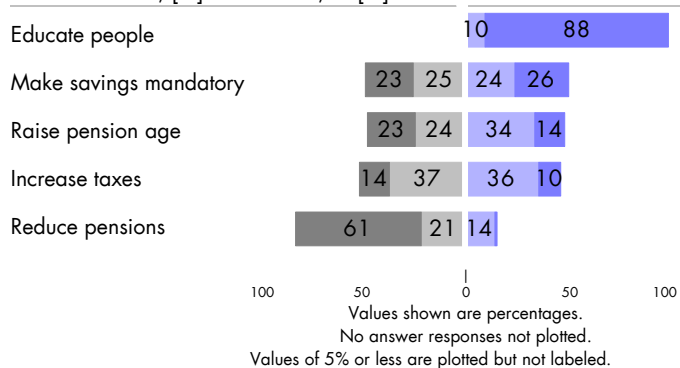


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Figure 3.32

Support for policy changes-United States

► As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should [INSERT] to help cover these increased costs—[●] great extent, [●] moderate extent, [●] small extent, or [●] not at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

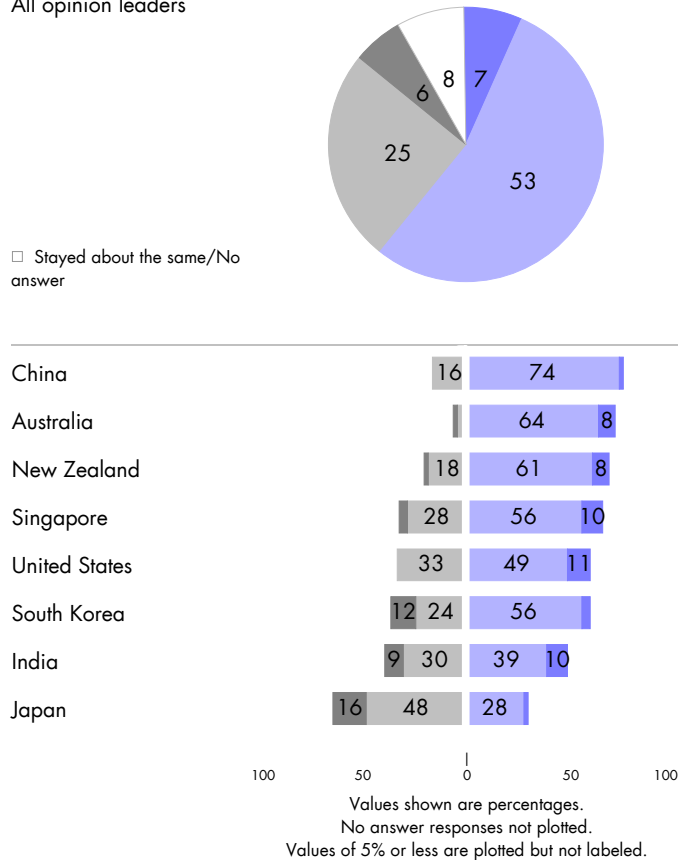
A majority of opinion leaders are optimistic about the long-term future of older people in their country. Six in 10 opinion leaders (60%) believe that 20 years from now the overall quality of life of older people will have gotten somewhat or much better. But at the same time, some opinion leaders express less hope for the future. Three in 10 opinion leaders (31%) believe that the quality of life of older people will get worse.

The level of optimism expressed by opinion leaders varies somewhat by country. More than seven in 10 opinion leaders in China (76%) and Australia (72%), followed by majorities in New Zealand (69%), Singapore (66%), the US (60%), and South Korea (60%) believe that conditions will improve. But only half of opinion leaders in India (49%) are optimistic, and a majority of opinion leaders in Japan (64%) believe that the overall quality of life of older people will worsen over the next two decades.

Figure 3.33
Quality of life in the future

► And 20 years from now, do you think the overall quality of life of older people in our country will have gotten [●] much better, [●] somewhat better, [●] somewhat worse, or [●] much worse?

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Society's commitment to older people

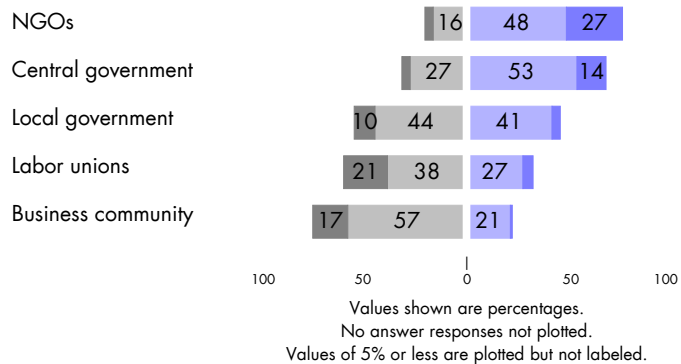
Some factions of society are not committed to improving the quality of life of older people, according to opinion leaders overall. A solid majority of opinion leaders believe that nongovernmental organizations (75%) and their country's central government (67%) are at least somewhat committed.³⁵ But perceptions of local and state government commitment are more mixed, with a slim majority (54%) saying that they are not too committed or not committed at all.³⁶ A majority of six in 10 opinion leaders (59%) also doubt the commitment of labor unions. And more than seven in 10 opinion leaders (74%) think that the business community is not too committed or not committed at all.

Perceptions of different groups' commitment to improving the quality of life of older people vary some from country to country although there are some commonalities. In all countries, labor unions and the business community are seen as least dedicated to bettering the well-being of older people. On the other hand, nongovernmental organizations and central governments are often at the top.³⁷

Figure 3.34

Commitment to improving quality of life for older people

► Is/Are [INSERT] [●] very committed, [●] somewhat committed, [●] not too committed, or [●] not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

³⁵ Opinion leaders in Australia and the US were asked about "the federal government." Opinion leaders in China, India, Japan, and South Korea were asked about "the central government." Opinion leaders in New Zealand were asked about "the government." Opinion leaders in Singapore were asked about "the Singapore government."

³⁶ Opinion leaders in Australia, India, and the US were asked about "state and local governments." Opinion leaders in China, Japan, and South Korea were asked about "local government." Opinion leaders in New Zealand and Singapore were not asked about state or local government.

³⁷ To view the individual country results side-by-side, please refer to the Appendix.

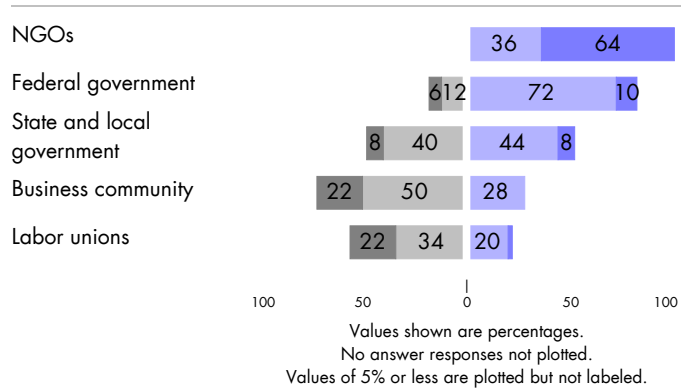
Consistent with the findings for opinion leaders overall, nongovernmental organizations and the government are seen as the most committed to older people's quality of life in Australia. All Australian opinion leaders (100%) think that nongovernmental organizations are at least somewhat committed to improving the quality of life for older people, with about two thirds (64%) thinking that they are very committed. Most Australian opinion leaders (82%) also think that the federal government of Australia is at least somewhat committed, and a slim majority (52%) say the same about state and local governments. However, about half of opinion leaders (48%) disagree, doubting the commitment of state and local governments. And a majority of opinion leaders say that the business community (72%) and labor unions (56%) are not too committed or not committed at all. At the same time, almost a quarter of Australian opinion leaders (22%) say that they do not know how committed labor unions are.

In China, only the central government is seen as committed to older people. And even though a slim majority (56%) have this positive view of the central government's commitment level, a sizable minority disagree. When it comes to other groups and institutions, half or more of Chinese opinion leaders say that they are not too committed or not committed at all to improving older people's life quality—labor unions (76%), business community (70%), local governments (64%), and nongovernmental organizations (50%).

Figure 3.35

Commitment to improving quality of life for older people-Australia

► Is/Are [INSERT] [●] very committed, [●] somewhat committed, [●] not too committed, or [●] not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?

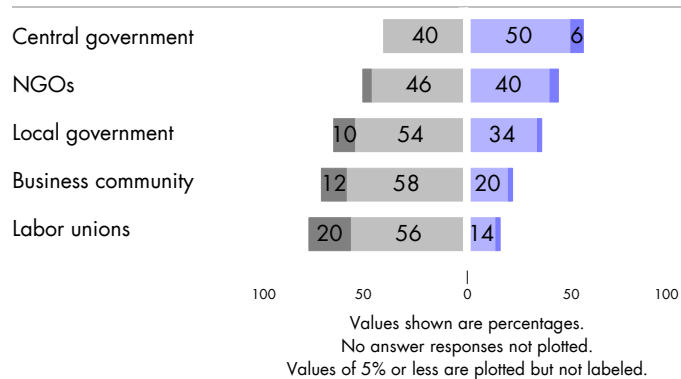


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 3.36

Commitment to improving quality of life for older people-China

► Is/Are [INSERT] [●] very committed, [●] somewhat committed, [●] not too committed, or [●] not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?



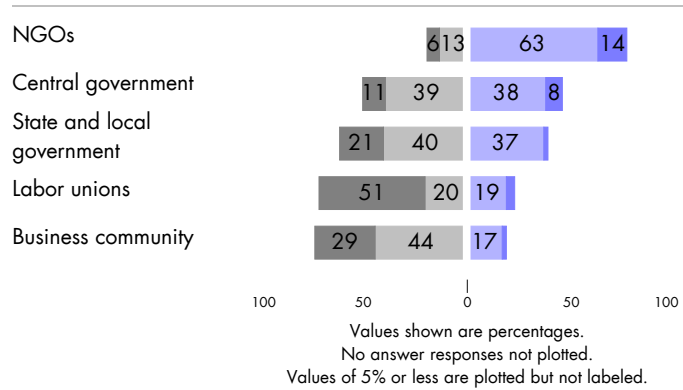
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Similarly to China, Indian opinion leaders do not think that most groups and institutions in society are committed to older people. According to a majority of Indian opinion leaders, nongovernmental organizations are the only group that is at least somewhat committed to improving the quality of life of older people. About eight in 10 opinion leaders in India (77%) report that nongovernmental organizations are at least somewhat committed to this cause. At the same time, the commitment level of the central Indian government divides opinion leaders, with nearly half saying that the central government is committed at least to a degree but the other half (50%) disagreeing with this assessment. And according to a majority of Indian opinion leaders, the other groups and institutions asked about are not very committed or not committed at all to the well-being of older people—business community (73%), labor unions (71%), and state and local governments (61%).

Figure 3.37

Commitment to improving quality of life for older people-India

► Is/Are [INSERT] [●] very committed, [●] somewhat committed, [●] not too committed, or [●] not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?



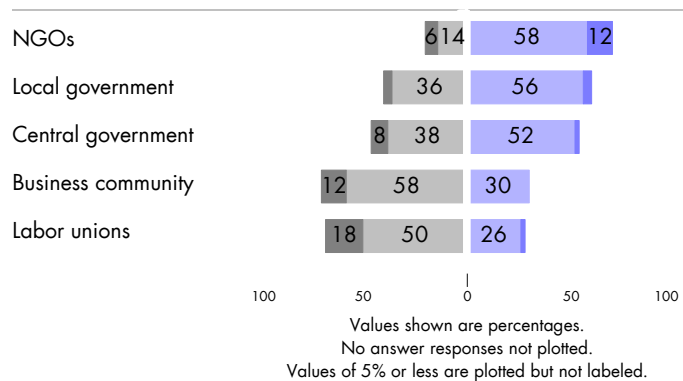
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Japanese opinion leaders have somewhat mixed views about how committed different groups and institutions are to improving older people's quality of life, with nongovernmental organizations being the group seen as committed by the largest majority. Seven in 10 Japanese opinion leaders (70%) think that nongovernmental organizations are very or somewhat committed to bettering the lives of older people. More than half of Japanese opinion leaders also think that local governments (60%) and the central Japanese government (54%) are committed to older people, although sizable minorities disagree. As for the business community and labor unions, a solid majority do not consider them too committed or do not consider them to be committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people (business community 70%, labor unions 68%).

Figure 3.38

Commitment to improving quality of life for older people-Japan

► Is/Are [INSERT] [●] very committed, [●] somewhat committed, [●] not too committed, or [●] not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

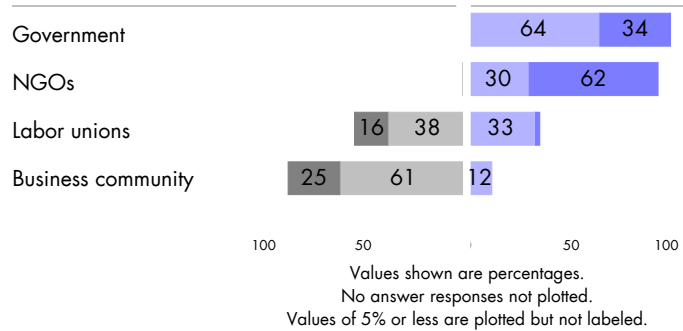
Following the common pattern, the government and nongovernmental organizations are generally seen as committed to improving the well-being of older people in New Zealand, whereas labor unions and the business community are not. Almost all opinion leaders in New Zealand think that the government (98%) and nongovernmental organizations (92%) are at least somewhat committed, with a majority describing nongovernmental organizations as very committed. At the same time, most of New Zealand’s opinion leaders (86%) believe that the business community is not too committed or not committed at all, and a slim majority (54%) say the same about labor unions.

According to Singaporean opinion leaders, only the business community lacks commitment to better older people’s lives in their country. Most Singaporean opinion leaders report that the Singapore government (94%) and nongovernmental organizations (86%) are very or somewhat committed to improving the quality of life for older people, and two thirds (66%) say the same about labor unions. However, a solid majority of opinion leaders in Singapore (76%) believe that the business community is not very committed or not committed at all.

Figure 3.39

Commitment to improving quality of life for older people-New Zealand

► Is/Are [INSERT] [●] very committed, [●] somewhat committed, [●] not too committed, or [●] not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?

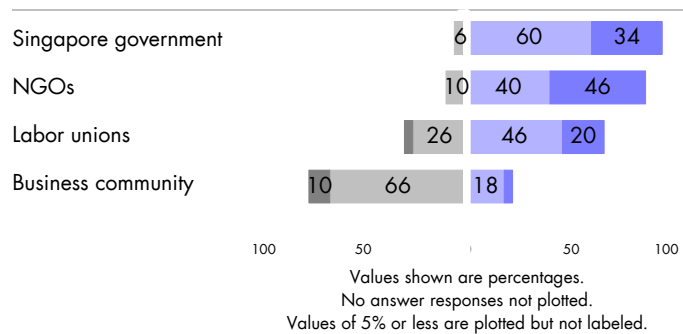


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 3.40

Commitment to improving quality of life for older people-Singapore

► Is/Are [INSERT] [●] very committed, [●] somewhat committed, [●] not too committed, or [●] not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?



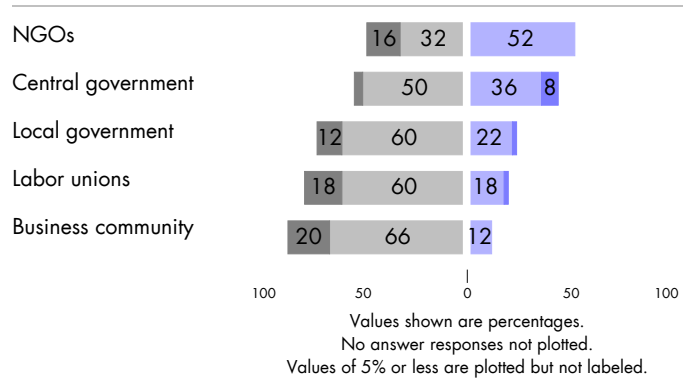
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

In South Korea, perceptions of the commitment level of different groups are mixed at best and poor at worst. Although a slim majority of South Korean opinion leaders (52%) believe that nongovernmental organizations are somewhat committed to improving the quality of life of older people, nearly as many (48%) disagree. And although a sizable minority (44%) have a positive view of the central government's level of commitment, the majority view in South Korea is that, with the exception of nongovernmental organizations, the groups and institutions asked about are not too committed or not committed at all to bettering the lives of older people—business community (88%), labor unions (78%), local governments (72%), and central government (54%).

Among US opinion leaders, nongovernmental organizations and the government are seen as the most dedicated to improving older people's life quality. Eight in 10 US opinion leaders (81%) think that nongovernmental organizations are very or somewhat committed to older people. A majority of US opinion leaders also think that both the federal government (67%) and state and local governments (60%) are committed to improving the lives of older people. However, perceptions of labor unions are mixed, with roughly four in 10 US opinion leaders (43%) thinking that they are committed to older people but about as many (41%) thinking that they are not. As for the business community, two thirds of US opinion leaders (65%) say that it is not too committed to improving older people's life quality or not committed to it at all.

Figure 3.41
Commitment to improving quality of life for older people-South Korea

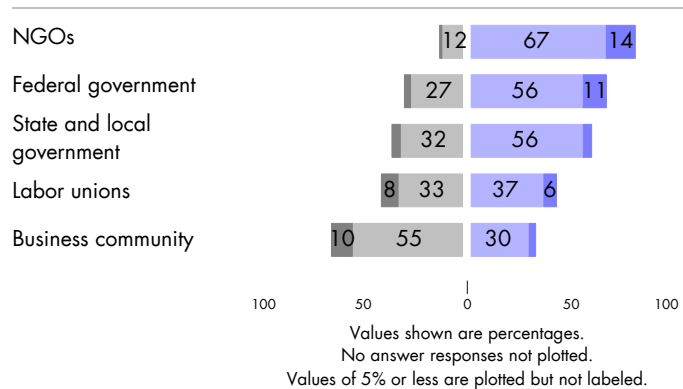
► Is/Are [INSERT] [●] very committed, [●] somewhat committed, [●] not too committed, or [●] not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 3.42
Commitment to improving quality of life for older people-United States

► Is/Are [INSERT] [●] very committed, [●] somewhat committed, [●] not too committed, or [●] not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Opinion leaders' professional position colors their assessments of the degree to which different groups are committed. Government officials tend to see themselves as more committed than opinion leaders in other sectors. Although a majority of opinion leaders in all sectors believe that the central government of their country is committed to improving the lives of older people, the government majority (88%) is notably stronger than the majorities among opinion leaders representing the private sector (65%), media (64%), nongovernmental organizations (62%), or academia (60%). Similarly, opinion leaders working for nongovernmental organizations (84%) see themselves as committed somewhat more often than opinion leaders in academia (71%) or the private sector (68%). However, opinion leaders from the private sector are no more likely to describe the business community as committed to improving older people's lives than opinion leaders in other sectors.

Section 4: Perceptions of older people

To enjoy a good quality of life, not only do older people’s physical needs have to be met, but their psychological well-being, including a sense of self-worth, is also important. The broader society’s perceptions of older people arguably contribute to how they feel about themselves and their role in society. In this section, we discuss opinion leaders’ perceptions of older people and their place in society. We find that opinion leaders generally see older people as contributing members of society as well as a market for selling products and services—not a burden on the communities they live in.

Contributing members of society

Almost all opinion leaders see older people as generally helpful, contributing members of society. About nine in 10 opinion leaders (92%) strongly or somewhat agree with this sentiment.

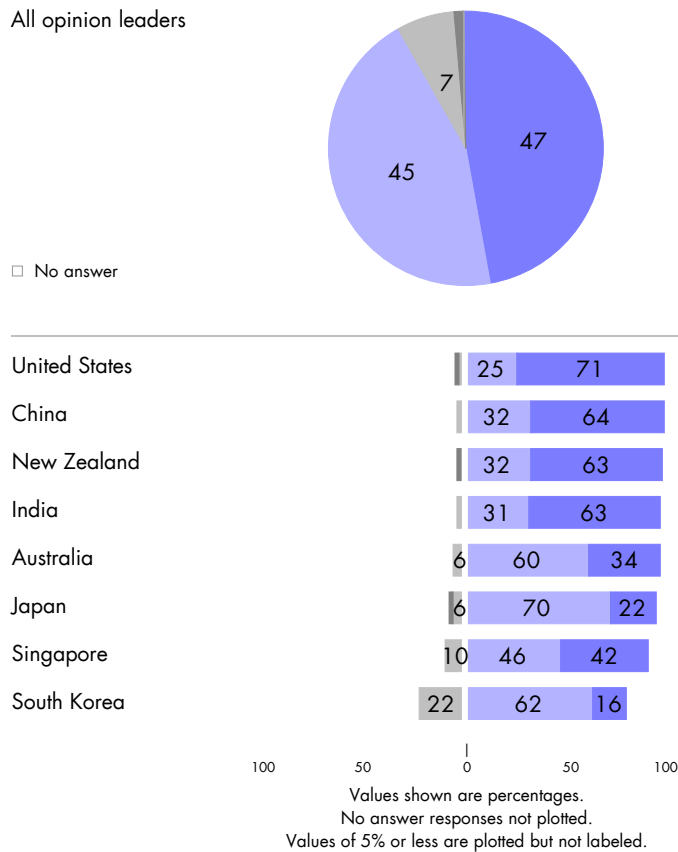
This view is shared by opinion leaders in all eight countries. Ranging from more than nine in 10 opinion leaders in the US (96%) to about eight in 10 in South Korea (78%), majorities everywhere agree with this positive way of looking at older people, and majorities in the US, China, New Zealand, and India hold this belief strongly. South Korea is the only country where a notable minority of opinion leaders (22%) disagree.

Figure 4.1

Contributing members of society

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: Older people in our country are generally helpful, contributing members of society.

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

And older people are a contributing force that could be tapped into even more, according to opinion leaders. Most opinion leaders (92%) strongly or somewhat agree that their government should do more to take advantage of the contributions that older people can make to the community by enlisting them to help with community projects.

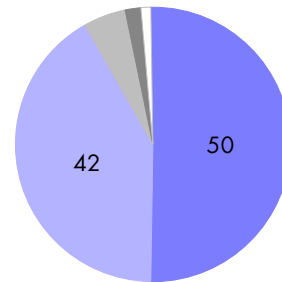
Opinion leaders in all survey countries are in agreement. Majorities ranging from nearly all opinion leaders in China (98%) to more than eight in 10 in India (86%), agree that governments should do more to get older people involved in community projects.

Figure 4.2

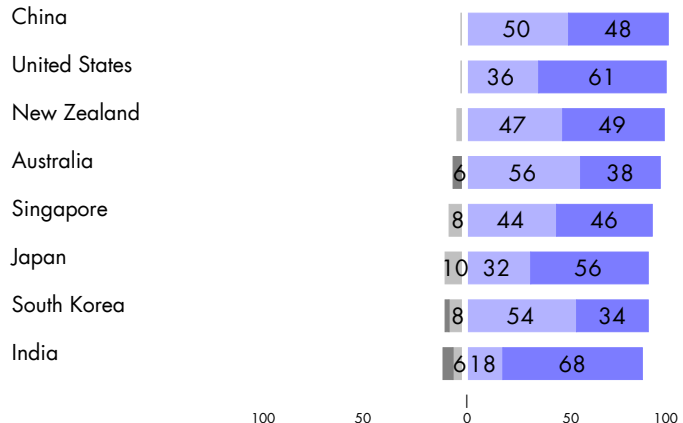
Help with community projects

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: Our government should do more to take advantage of the contributions that older people can make to the community by enlisting them to help with community projects.

All opinion leaders



□ No answer



Values shown are percentages.
No answer responses not plotted.
Values of 5% or less are plotted but not labeled.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Potential pool of productive workers

Despite the prevalent perception of older people as contributing members of society, older people are not necessarily seen as contributors in the world of work. According to a majority of six in 10 opinion leaders (60%), the business community does not view older people as a source of potential productive workers. However, a sizable minority of opinion leaders (38%) do think that, at least to a degree, businesses recognize potential in older workers.

Looking at individual countries, the verdict is mixed at best. Slim majorities of opinion leaders in Japan (52%) and the US (51%) say that the business community views older people as a source of potentially productive workers, but nearly as many opinion leaders in these two countries disagree. In the rest of the countries, majorities ranging from 82 percent in Singapore to 51 percent in India somewhat or strongly believe that businesses do not think of older people as a labor source.

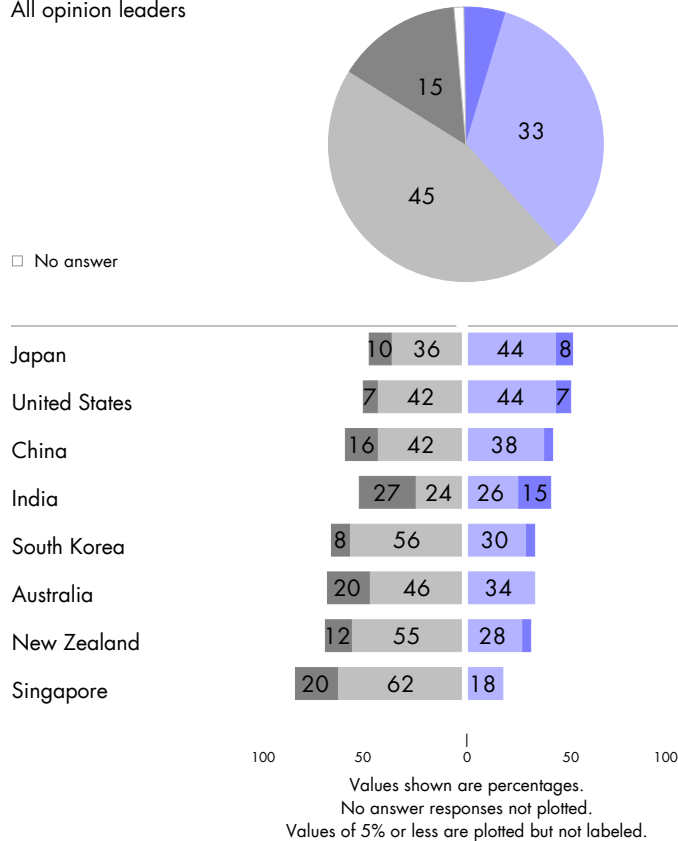
While opinions about how businesses perceive older people do not vary by age, male opinion leaders are more likely to believe that the business community views older people as having potential as productive workers than female opinion leaders. Although a majority of both genders think that businesses disregard older people, about four in 10 male opinion leaders (42%) believe that businesses do see productive potential in older people, compared to fewer than three in 10 female opinion leaders (27%).

Figure 4.3

Potential productive workers

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: The business community views older people as a source of potential productive workers.

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Marketing products

In addition to a contributing force, older people are perceived as consumers. More than seven in 10 opinion leaders (74%) agree that the business community views older people as an opportunity for marketing and selling products and services.

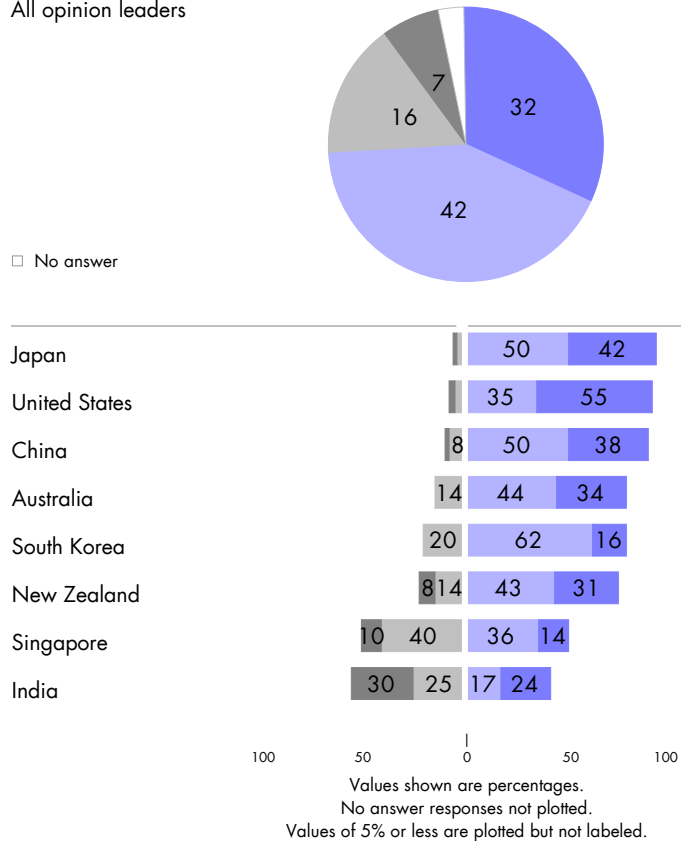
However, older people may not have reached the same status as consumers in all countries. Roughly nine in 10 opinion leaders in Japan (92%), the US (90%), and China (88%), followed by solid majorities in Australia (78%), South Korea (78%), and New Zealand (74%) believe that older people are seen as a consumer market. But only half of Singaporean opinion leaders (50%) agree, and a majority of Indian opinion leaders (55%) disagree.

Figure 4.4

Market for products and services

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: The business community views older people as an opportunity for marketing and selling products and services.

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Burden on the community

Opinion leaders do not generally see older people as a burden. Seven in 10 opinion leaders (72%) disagree with the view that older people are often a burden on the community, easily outnumbering opinion leaders who think that older people are frequently burdensome (28%).

However, these overall figures cover-up some differences between the countries surveyed. Although majorities ranging from more than nine in 10 Indian opinion leaders (95%) to about seven in 10 opinion leaders in New Zealand (68%) disagree with characterizing older people as a burden, a slim majority of opinion leaders in Australia (56%) and South Korea (56%) share a different view.

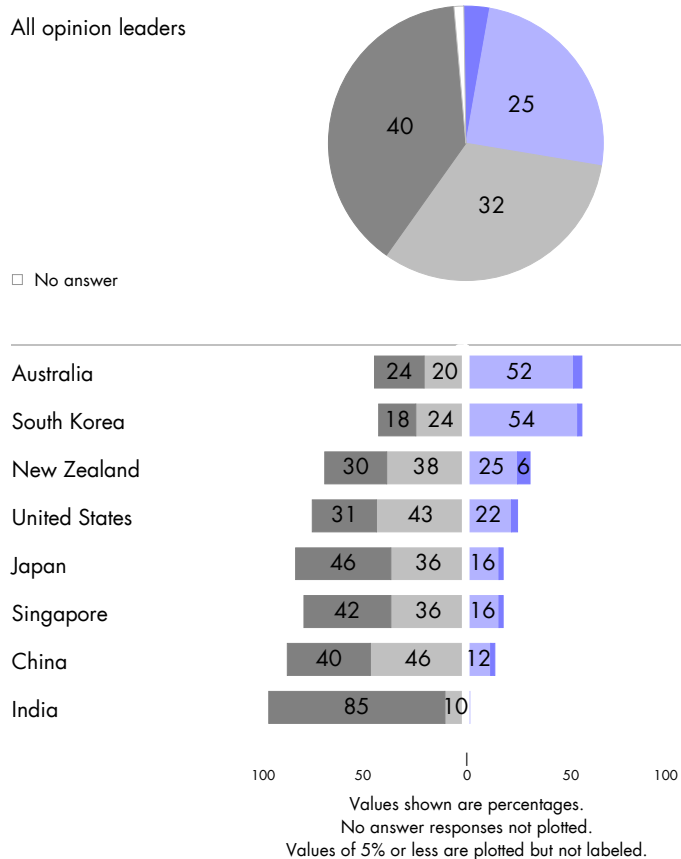
Opinion leaders representing the private sector are more likely to think of older people as a burden on the community than opinion leaders in most other sectors. About four in 10 private sector leaders (42%) say that older people are often a burden on the community they live in, compared to roughly two in 10 opinion leaders working in academia (24%), government (21%), and nongovernmental organizations (17%).

Figure 4.5

Burden on the community

► Do you [●] strongly agree, [●] somewhat agree, [●] somewhat disagree, or [●] strongly disagree with the following statement: Older people are often a burden on the community.

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Section 5: Aging advocacy organizations

Older people in the US have a number of organizations that advocate on their behalf and serve as an information source on aging issues, but this is not necessarily the case everywhere. In this section, we discuss opinion leaders' awareness and opinions of such organizations, including their familiarity with and perception of AARP.³⁸

91

Perceptions of AARP

As might be expected, AARP is much better known in the US than in Asia and Oceania. Overall, a solid majority of opinion leaders surveyed (70%) say that they are not too familiar or not familiar at all with AARP. While almost all opinion leaders in the US (92%) say that they are at least somewhat familiar with the organization, a majority of opinion leaders outside the US say that they are not. Ranging from almost all opinion leaders in New Zealand (96%) to about six in 10 in Australia (58%), majorities report being not too or not at all familiar with AARP.

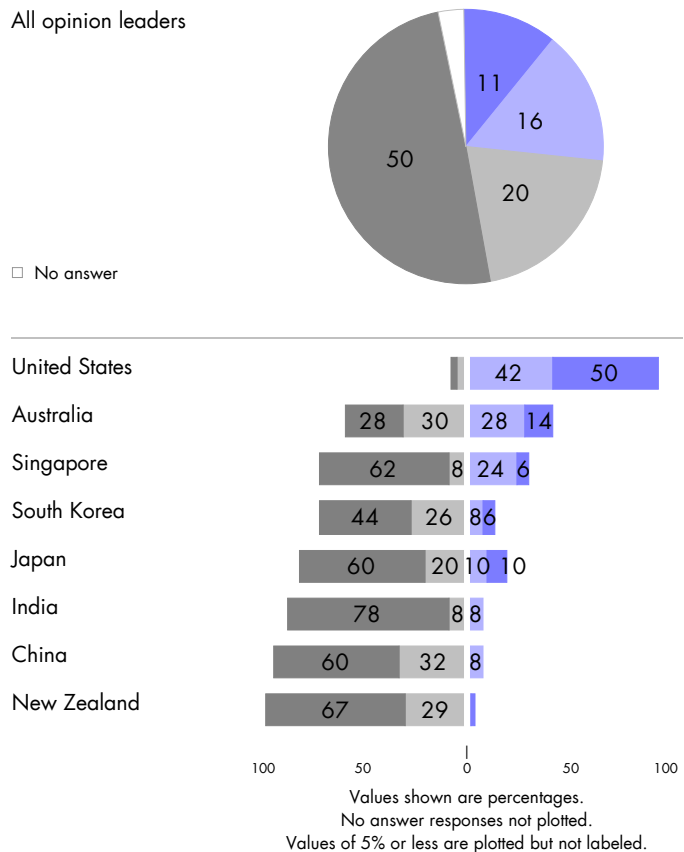
Not surprisingly, opinion leaders who have studied in the US are more likely to be at least somewhat familiar with AARP than opinion leaders who have never been to the US. Four in 10 opinion leaders who have studied in the US (42%) are familiar with AARP, compared to 16 percent of opinion leaders who have only visited the US and 10 percent of those who have never been to the US.

Figure 5.1

Familiarity with AARP

► How familiar are you with the US organization called AARP, formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons—[●] very familiar, [●] somewhat familiar, [●] not too familiar, or [●] not familiar at all?³⁹

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

³⁸ It should be noted that AARP was identified as commissioning the survey when opinion leaders were invited to participate, which could have influenced the results to questions having to do with AARP.

³⁹ Opinion leaders in the US were asked "How familiar are you with AARP, formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons?"

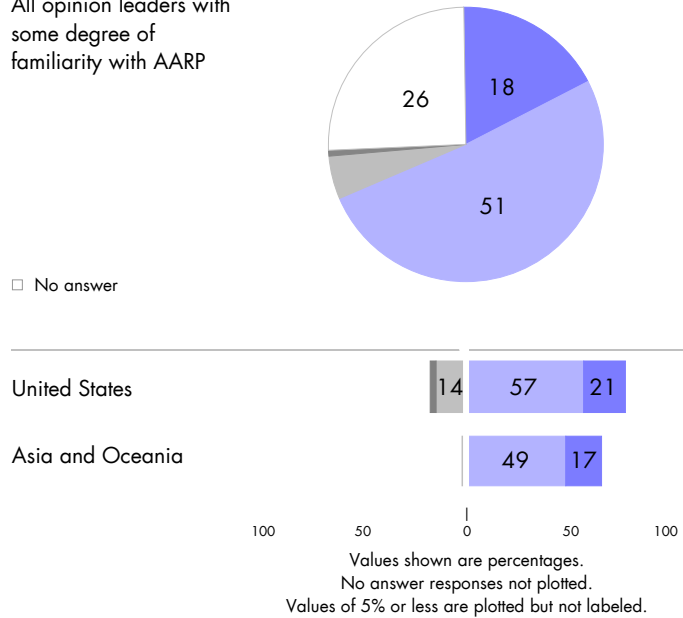
Among those who have some degree of familiarity with AARP, the impression of the organization is generally favorable. Seven in 10 opinion leaders (69%) say that their impression of AARP is very or somewhat favorable, with very few opinion leaders (6%) saying that their opinion is not very favorable or not favorable at all. However, a notable share of opinion leaders (26%) decline to answer the question.

In the US, the home base of AARP, nearly eight in 10 of those familiar with the organization (78%) have at least a somewhat favorable opinion. Although this figure is somewhat smaller among the opinion leaders interviewed outside the US (66%), there are not any more opinion leaders with unfavorable views.⁴¹ Rather, a third of these opinion leaders (33%) decline to answer the question.

Figure 5.2
Impression of AARP

► What is your overall impression of AARP—[●] very favorable, [●] somewhat favorable, [●] not very favorable, or [●] not favorable at all?⁴⁰

All opinion leaders with some degree of familiarity with AARP



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁴⁰ The total results are based on 210 respondents. The US results are based on 71 respondents. The Asia and Oceania results are based on 139 respondents.

⁴¹ Due to small sample sizes, this question is not analyzed at the country level.

Helpfulness of organizations like AARP

Most overseas opinion leaders would welcome an organization like AARP in their country.⁴² More than eight in 10 opinion leaders (85%) say that if an organization like AARP was established in their country, it would be very or somewhat helpful to older people. Only one in 10 opinion leaders (10%) say that such an organization would not be helpful or would not be helpful at all.

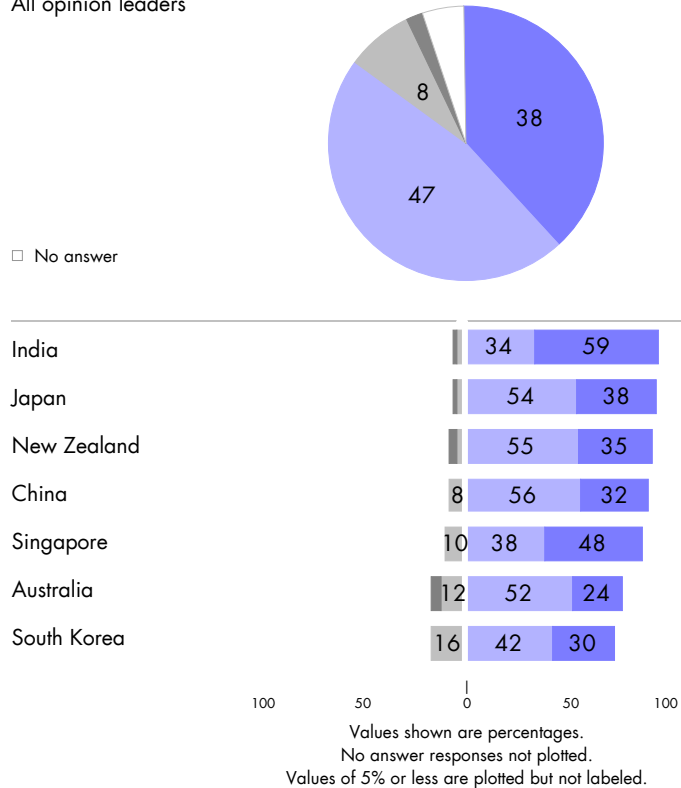
This sentiment is shared by majorities in all countries surveyed in Asia and Oceania. Ranging from more than nine in 10 opinion leaders in India (93%) to seven in 10 in South Korea (72%), majorities believe that an AARP-style organization would be at least somewhat helpful.

Figure 5.3

Helpfulness of organizations like AARP

► If an organization like AARP was established in our country, how helpful would this be to older people—[●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?

All opinion leaders



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁴² This question was not asked of opinion leaders in the US. Prior to being asked this question, opinion leaders outside the US were read the following text: "AARP is a not-for-profit organization that works to improve the quality of life of older people who are age 50 or older. The organization works with the US central government, local governments, and businesses to be sure that older people have what they need for their health, finances, and jobs. It also offers education programs, travel discounts, and social opportunities for the older people who join. To join AARP, older people pay approximately \$12 a year, which is a low fee in the US."

Opinion leaders who think that an AARP-like organization would be helpful in their country were asked about three potential reasons why such an organization would be helpful. According to most of these opinion leaders, all of them are a moderate or big reason why the organization would be helpful: it would raise awareness about aging (94%), it would provide knowledge and expertise (92%), and it would influence government policy (89%).

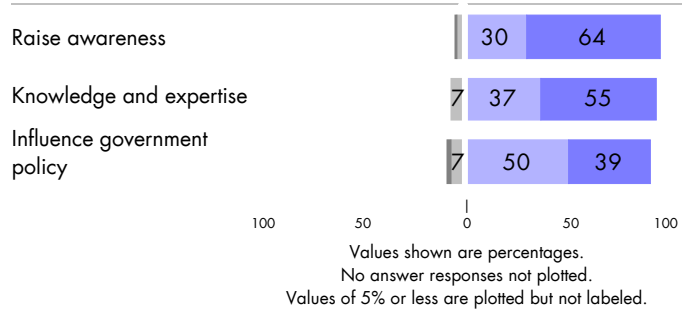
In each of the countries surveyed, majorities agree that all the potential explanations why an organization like AARP would be helpful are a moderate or big reason. More details for each country are provided below.⁴⁵

In Australia, as in the other countries, a majority of opinion leaders who think that an organization like AARP would be helpful point to influencing government policy (98%), raising awareness (95%), and knowledge and expertise (84%) as reasons. The need to raise awareness about aging stands out in particular, with seven in 10 opinion leaders (71%) saying that it is a big reason an AARP-style organization would be helpful.

Figure 5.4

Reasons an organization like AARP would be helpful

► Why do you think the organization would be helpful? Is [INSERT] [●] a big reason, [●] moderate reason, [●] small reason, or [●] not a reason at all?⁴³

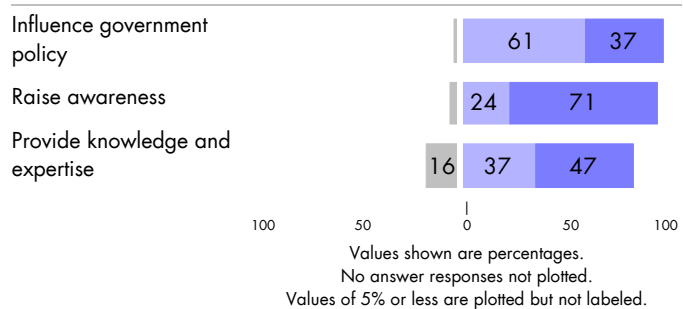


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 5.5

Reasons an organization like AARP would be helpful-Australia

► Why do you think the organization would be helpful? Is [INSERT] [●] a big reason, [●] moderate reason, [●] small reason, or [●] not a reason at all?⁴⁴



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁴³ These results are based on 297 respondents.

⁴⁴ These results are based on 38 respondents.

⁴⁵ To view the individual country results side-by-side, please refer to the Appendix.

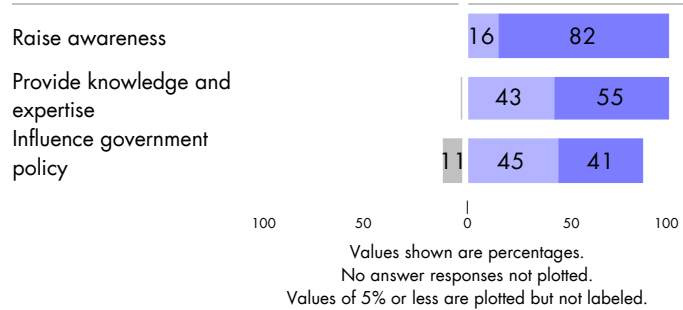
In China, raising awareness about aging stands out as the biggest reason an organization like AARP would be helpful. Although most Chinese opinion leaders who think that an organization like AARP would be helpful see all the reasons asked about as at least moderate reasons, raising awareness is identified by most opinion leaders (82%) as a big reason an AARP-style organization would be helpful.

Similarly to China, raising awareness about aging stands out as the biggest reason an organization like AARP would be helpful in India. Most Indian opinion leaders who think that an organization like AARP would be beneficial say that all three reasons asked about are big or moderate reasons for their opinion—raising awareness (98%), providing knowledge and expertise (92%), and influencing government policy (81%). And nearly eight in 10 opinion leaders (76%) say that raising awareness about aging is a big reason. More than half of opinion leaders (57%) also say that the provision of knowledge and expertise by the organization is also a big reason.

Figure 5.6

Reasons an organization like AARP would be helpful-China

► Why do you think the organization would be helpful. Is [INSERT] [●] a big reason, [●] moderate reason, [●] small reason, or [●] not a reason at all?⁴⁶

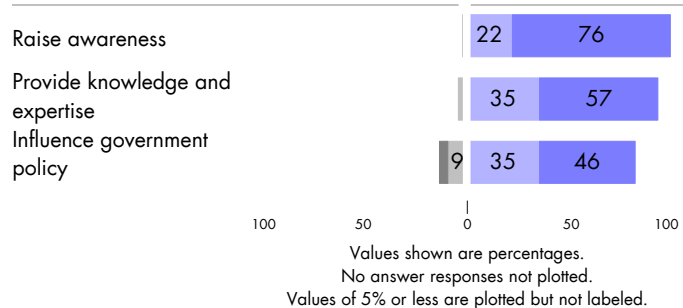


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 5.7

Reasons an organization like AARP would be helpful-India

► Why do you think the organization would be helpful. Is [INSERT] [●] a big reason, [●] moderate reason, [●] small reason, or [●] not a reason at all?⁴⁷



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁴⁶ These results are based on 44 respondents.

⁴⁷ These results are based on 46 respondents.

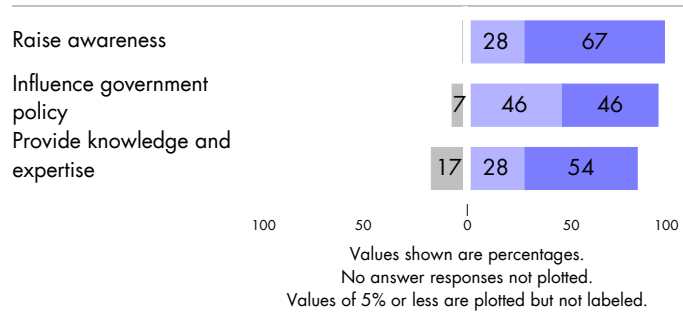
Japanese opinion leaders would also like to see an organization like AARP in Japan first and foremost because it would raise awareness about aging. While most Japanese opinion leaders who think that an AARP-style organization would be helpful characterize all three reasons asked about as at least moderate reasons—raising awareness (95%), influencing government policy (92%), providing knowledge and expertise (82%)—two thirds (67%) say that raising awareness is a big reason. A slim majority (54%) say the same about the provision of knowledge and expertise by the organization.

In New Zealand, providing knowledge and expertise and raising awareness about aging stand out as the biggest reason an organization like AARP would be helpful. Practically all opinion leaders think that the three reasons asked about are at least moderately important—knowledge and expertise (100%), awareness (100%) and government policy (97%). But according to a majority of New Zealand’s opinion leaders who think that an organization like AARP would be helpful, providing knowledge and expertise (66%) and raising awareness about aging (61%) are big reasons.

Figure 5.8

Reasons an organization like AARP would be helpful-Japan

► Why do you think the organization would be helpful? Is [INSERT] [●] a big reason, [●] moderate reason, [●] small reason, or [●] not a reason at all?⁴⁸

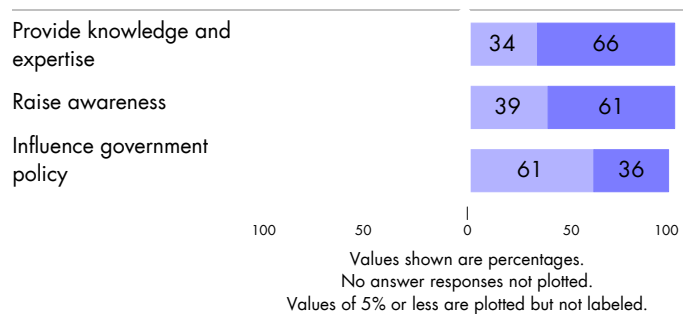


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 5.9

Reasons an organization like AARP would be helpful-New Zealand

► Why do you think the organization would be helpful? Is [INSERT] [●] a big reason, [●] moderate reason, [●] small reason, or [●] not a reason at all?⁴⁹



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁴⁸ These results are based on 46 respondents.

⁴⁹ These results are based on 44 respondents.

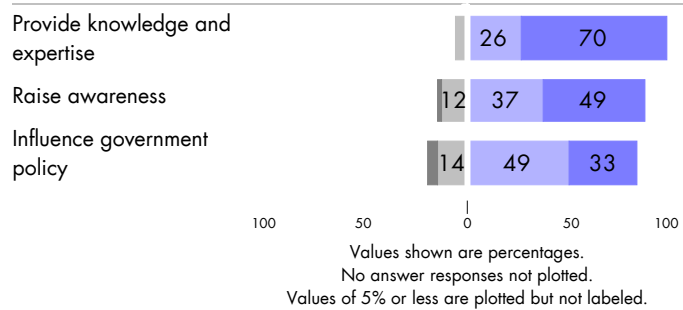
Singaporean opinion leaders would also value the knowledge and expertise provided by an organization like AARP above other benefits. Among Singaporean opinion leaders who think that an AARP-style organization would be helpful in Singapore, most identify all three reasons asked about as at least moderately important—knowledge and expertise (96%), awareness (86%), and government policy (82%). But the only one identified by a solid majority (70%) as a big reason is the knowledge and expertise that an organization like AARP would provide.

In South Korea, most opinion leaders who think that an organization like AARP would be helpful in South Korea identify each of the three reasons asked about as at least moderately important—knowledge and expertise (91%), government policy (89%), awareness (86%). However, none of the reasons is identified by a majority as a big reason.

Figure 5.10

Reasons an organization like AARP would be helpful-Singapore

► Why do you think the organization would be helpful? Is [INSERT] [●] a big reason, [●] moderate reason, [●] small reason, or [●] not a reason at all?⁵⁰

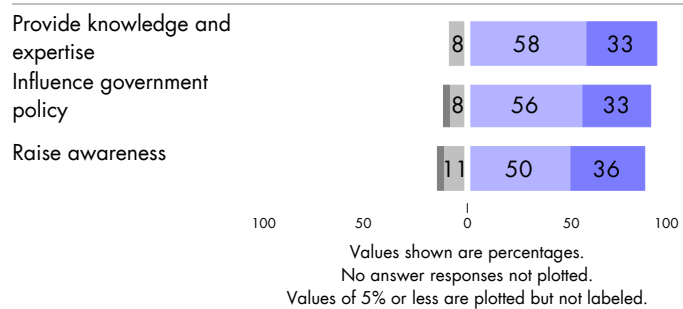


AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 5.11

Reasons an organization like AARP would be helpful-South Korea

► Why do you think the organization would be helpful? Is [INSERT] [●] a big reason, [●] moderate reason, [●] small reason, or [●] not a reason at all?⁵¹



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁵⁰ These results are based on 43 respondents.

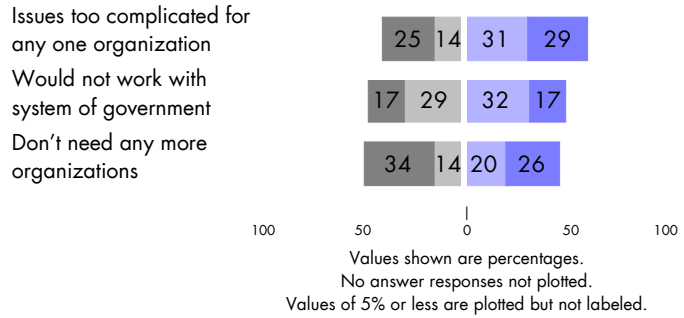
⁵¹ These results are based on 36 respondents.

The relatively few opinion leaders (10%) who do not think that an organization similar to AARP would be helpful were also asked about potential reasons.⁵³ According to a majority (60%) the issues are too complicated for any one organization to tackle. Half (49%) say that it would not work with their system of government and nearly as many (46%) say that more organizations are not needed and that there are too many already.

Figure 5.12

Reasons an organization like AARP would not be helpful

► Why do you think the organization would not be helpful? Is [INSERT] [●] a big reason, [●] moderate reason, [●] small reason, or [●] not a reason at all?⁵²



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁵² These results are based on 35 respondents.

⁵³ This series of questions was not asked in the US. Due to small sample sizes, the results are not analyzed by country.

Local organizations advocating for older people

Opinion leaders were also asked if they are aware of any organizations in their country that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues. If awareness of organizations is any indication of their presence, the countries vary widely in the number and reach of existing organizations. Majorities in Japan (84%), China (64%), and South Korea (62%) say that they are not aware of any such organization or that they do not know. Nearly half of opinion leaders in New Zealand (47%) say the same. In contrast, this number is substantially smaller in Singapore (30%), India (29%), and Australia (22%). And only one in 10 US opinion leaders (9%) say that they are not aware of any organization or that they do not know. The most frequently mentioned organizations are listed in the table below.⁵⁴

99

Figure 5.13

Local organizations

► Are you aware of any organizations in our country that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues?

<u>Australia</u>	<u>China</u>	<u>India</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>New Zealand</u>	<u>Singapore</u>	<u>South Korea</u>	<u>United States</u>
Council on the Aging (42%)	China National Committee on Aging (18%)	HelpAge (48%)		Grey Power (30%)	Singapore Action Group of Elders (34%)	Ministry of Health and Welfare (22%)	AARP (65%)
National Seniors Association (30%)		Care (15%)		Age Concern (12%)	Tsao Foundation (14%)	Korea Senior Citizen Association (16%)	
Salvation Army (20%)							
Advocare (14%)							
Not aware of any /Don't know (22%)	Not aware of any /Don't know (64%)	Not aware of any /Don't know (29%)	Not aware of any /Don't know (84%)	Not aware of any /Don't know (47%)	Not aware of any /Don't know (30%)	Not aware of any /Don't know (62%)	Not aware of any /Don't know (9%)

Based on multiple mentions.

Specific organizations mentioned by 10 percent or more of respondents are listed.

AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁵⁴ To view the full list of organizations for each country, please refer to the Appendix.

AARP role abroad

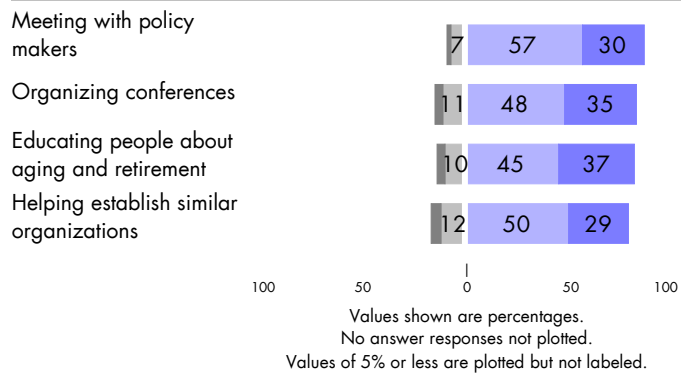
Opinion leaders generally welcome AARP engagement in various activities outside the US.⁵⁶ Asked about four potential ways for AARP to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the US, a solid majority of opinion leaders believe that AARP involvement would be very or somewhat helpful. Nearly nine in 10 opinion leaders (87%) believe that meeting with government policy makers to exchange information about aging and retirement would be helpful, followed by organizing conferences to bring together policy makers and aging experts from various countries (83%), educating people about issues related to aging and retirement (82%), and helping establish similar organizations in other countries (79%).

Majorities in all eight countries agree that if AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people outside the US, engaging in the four activities asked about would be at least somewhat helpful. More details for each country follow.⁵⁷

Figure 5.14

AARP role abroad

► If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would [INSERT] be [●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?⁵⁵



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

⁵⁵ Opinion leaders in the US were asked "If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be for other countries?"

⁵⁶ Prior to being asked this question, opinion leaders in the US were read the following text: "AARP is a not-for-profit organization that works to improve the quality of life of older people who are age 50 or older. The organization works with the federal government, local government, and businesses to be sure that older people have what they need for their health, finances, and jobs. It also offers education programs, travel discounts, and social opportunities for the older people who join. To join AARP, older people pay approximately \$12 a year." Opinion leaders outside the US were read a similar statement prior to being asked questions that were not asked in the US.

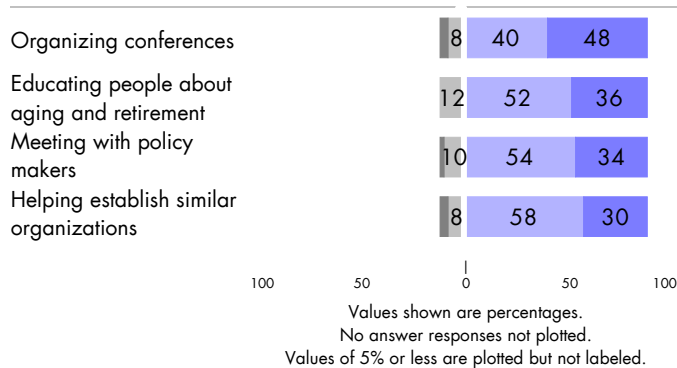
⁵⁷ To view the individual country results side-by-side, please refer to the Appendix.

In Australia, most opinion leaders think that, if AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the US, all the activities asked about would be at least somewhat helpful—organizing conferences (88%), educating people about aging and retirement (88%), meeting with policy makers (88%), and helping establish similar organizations in other countries (88%). However, for all activities, except for organizing conferences, Australian opinion leaders are more likely to say that AARP’s involvement in these activities would be somewhat, rather than very helpful.

Chinese opinion leaders, like opinion leaders in the other countries surveyed, generally think that AARP involvement in activities outside the US would be helpful. Meeting with government policy makers to exchange information about aging and retirement (84%) tops the list, followed by organizing conferences (74%), educating the public (72%), and helping establish similar organizations (70%). However, opinion leaders who think that engaging in these activities would be somewhat helpful by far outnumber those who think that it would be very helpful.

Figure 5.15
AARP role abroad-Australia

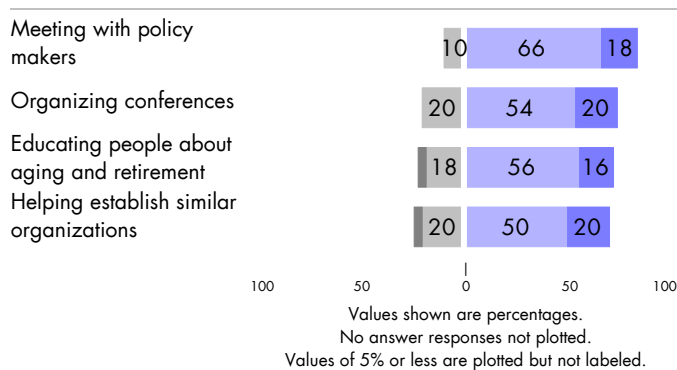
► If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would [INSERT] be [●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 5.16
AARP role abroad-China

► If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would [INSERT] be [●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?



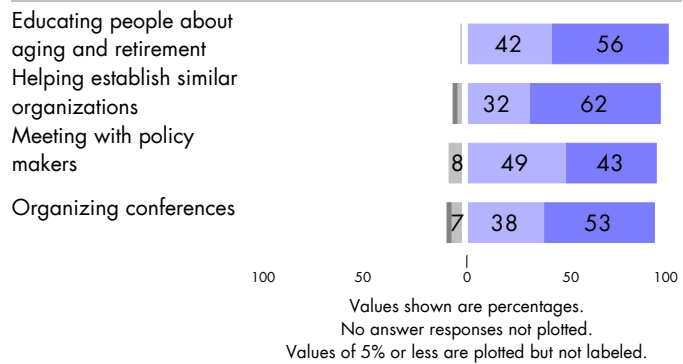
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Almost all opinion leaders in India think that AARP playing a role to promote the interests of older people in countries other than the US would be helpful. Nine in 10 or more Indian opinion leaders think that educating people about issues related to aging and retirement (98%), helping establish similar organizations (94%), meeting with government policy makers (92%), and organizing conferences (91%) would be at least somewhat helpful. Moreover, a majority of opinion leaders think that AARP involvement in helping establish AARP-style organizations (62%), public education (56%), and conferences (53%) would be very helpful.

Consistent with the findings in other countries, Japanese opinion leaders generally think that AARP involvement in activities outside the US would be helpful. Eight in 10 or more Japanese opinion leaders think that if AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the US, engaging in public education (84%), meeting with government policy makers (84%), helping establish AARP-style organizations (80%), and organizing conferences (80%) would be helpful. However, a majority of opinion leaders think that engaging in these activities would be somewhat helpful rather than very helpful.

Figure 5.17
AARP role abroad-India

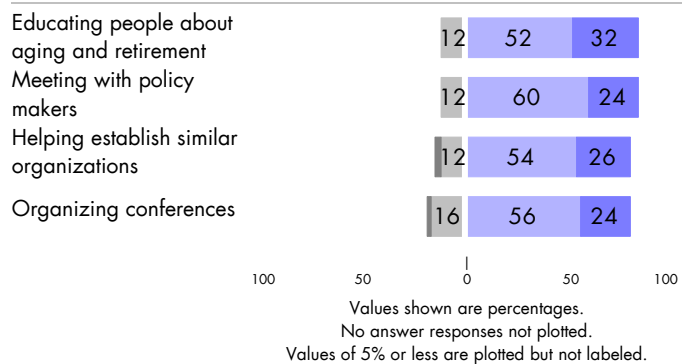
► If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would [INSERT] be [●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 5.18
AARP role abroad-Japan

► If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would [INSERT] be [●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?



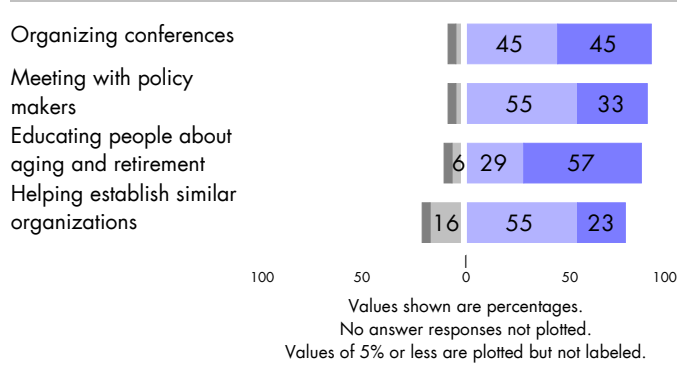
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Most opinion leaders in New Zealand indicate that AARP engagement in activities outside the US would be helpful—organizing conferences (90%), meeting with government policy makers (88%), public education (86%), and helping establish similar organizations (78%). But educating people about issues related to aging and retirement is the only area where a majority of New Zealand’s opinion leaders (57%) would find AARP involvement very helpful.

Following opinion leaders in other surveyed countries, Singaporean opinion leaders appear supportive of AARP engagement in activities outside the US. Almost all Singaporean opinion leaders say that AARP involvement in educating people about issues related to aging and retirement (98%) and meeting with government policy makers to exchange information (96%) would be helpful. Most say the same about organizing conferences (88%) and helping establish AARP-style organizations (84%). However, public education is the only area where a slim majority of Singaporean opinion leaders (52%) would find AARP engagement very helpful.

Figure 5.19
AARP role abroad-New Zealand

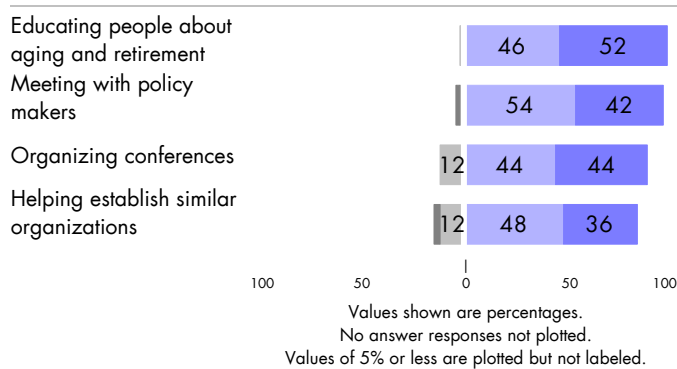
► If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would [INSERT] be [●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 5.20
AARP role abroad-Singapore

► If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would [INSERT] be [●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?



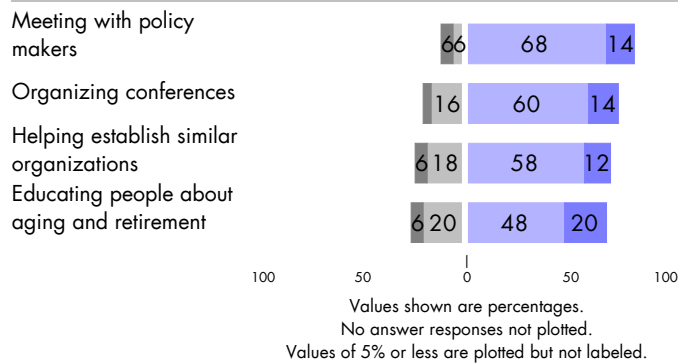
AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Opinion leaders in South Korea generally think that if AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people outside the US, its involvement in the activities asked about would be helpful. Meeting with government policy makers to exchange information about aging and retirement tops the list (82%), followed by organizing conferences (74%), helping establish similar organizations (70%), and educating people about aging and retirement (68%). However, opinion leaders in South Korea are much more likely to say that AARP involvement would be somewhat helpful than very helpful.

Opinion leaders in the US generally agree that AARP involvement in various activities outside the US would be helpful for people in other countries, including meeting with government policy makers (80%), organizing conferences (74%), helping establish similar organizations (67%), and educating people about issues related to aging and retirement (63%). However, opinion leaders who think that engaging in these activities would be somewhat helpful outnumber those who think that it would be very helpful.

Figure 5.21
AARP role abroad-South Korea

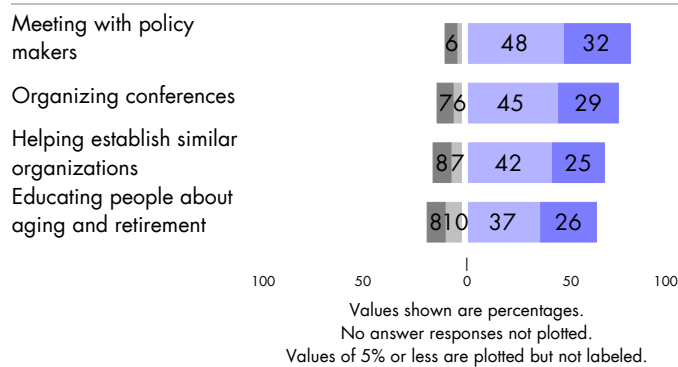
► If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would [INSERT] be [●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Figure 5.22
AARP role abroad-United States

► If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be for other countries? Would [INSERT] be [●] very helpful, [●] somewhat helpful, [●] not too helpful, or [●] not helpful at all?



AARP, Aging in Asia and Oceania, March 2007.

Methodology

In 2006 AARP commissioned Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI) to conduct a survey of opinion leaders in the United States and in seven countries in Asia and Oceania. The survey was designed to increase AARP's knowledge of aging issues and attitudes in key Asian markets and to compare attitudes and policies towards aging in the US to attitudes and policies in Asian and Oceania societies. PSRAI teamed up with local research firms to conduct interviews in Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and the US. Between October and December 2006, interviewers spoke with more than 400 individuals who hold senior level positions in government, nongovernmental organizations, private sector, media, and academia. Below we discuss details of the survey methodology, including the sample sizes, sample selection, recruitment, questionnaire design, and fieldwork logistics.

Sample sizes

A minimum of 50 interviews were conducted in each of the survey countries, for a total of 423 interviews. For the full sample, the margin of error is ± 5 percentage points. Margins of error for individual country samples are displayed in the table on the right.

The survey sample consists of opinion leaders from the following five categories: (1) government, (2) nongovernmental organizations, (3) private sector, (4) media, and (5) academia. The sample was equally divided among the five professional sectors, with a goal of interviewing 10 opinion leaders per sector in each country. The table below outlines the definitions that were used to classify opinion leaders.

Figure 6.1

Country sample sizes

	Number of interviews	Margin of error
Australia	50	14
China	50	14
India	50	14
Japan	50	14
New Zealand	49	14
Singapore	50	14
South Korea	50	14
United States	74	11
Total	423	5

Figure 6.2

Eligibility criteria

Category	Eligible organizations	Eligible individuals
Government	Departments and agencies that deal with finance, economics, taxing, pensions/retirement, labor/employment, social services/welfare, social affairs, or social security (e.g. Ministries of Health, Social Development, Social Security, Labor, Finance)	Senior Civil Servant level and above (typically Director or Director General level)
	Parliamentarians or politicians, where applicable	Parliamentarians or senior staff of relevant committees, such as aging, health, social security, finance, or retirement
Non-governmental organizations	Both local and multinational nongovernmental, nonprofit, religious, charitable, and/or advocacy organizations, foundations, and movements whose mission is related to public policy, economic affairs, social affairs, health care and disabilities, aging, or the labor force	Heads of or senior staff of nongovernmental organizations
Private Sector	Reputable private sector firms and business associations (e.g. chambers of commerce)	Senior business leaders, consultants, or business experts who are known for their expertise on economic and social issues and executives with responsibility for insurance, retirement, human resources, or employee/labor force policy
Media	An organization that derives its business from media driven activities including both publicly and privately funded radio, television, press, and the Internet	Producers, editors, or journalists who report on social, economic, and/or political issues
Academia	Any university, college, or think tank	Professors within relevant departments, such as Social Sciences, Economics, Public Health, Demographics, Public Policy, and Political Science
		Heads of, or senior staff of, relevant think tanks or institutions

The survey results were weighted to approximate the original sampling plan and to ensure that no countries or professional sectors are over- or underrepresented in the final analysis and that there was equal representation from all countries and professional sectors included in the survey.

Sample selection

Names of potential respondents were compiled from two sources. PSRAI and individual survey research firms in each country used publicly available material for each of the sectors mentioned above to compile lists of opinion leaders. From these lists, PSRAI randomly selected opinion leaders to be contacted for the survey.

Recruiting opinion leaders

The randomly chosen opinion leaders were sent letters inviting them to participate in the survey and explaining the purpose of the survey. These letters consisted of two components: (1) a letter written by the local firm inviting participation and providing contact information and (2) a letter from AARP’s Director of International Affairs that explained the purpose of the survey. To protect the respondents’ privacy, the letters from AARP did not identify the respondents by name. The letters were emailed, faxed, mailed, or hand-delivered to the respondents depending on what was determined to be the most reliable and time-efficient method in the particular country.

Each respondent was contacted at least five times before replacing the respondent with another name from the sample. Only conversations with an actual

person counted as contacts. If the respondent clearly refused to participate, he or she was replaced with the next person on the list of randomly selected names. Response rates to the survey were typical of opinion leader surveys, ranging from about 20 percent to more than 60 percent. Detailed disposition of all contacts is available upon request.

As the table on the right shows, the survey respondents represent a range of demographic backgrounds. Age-wise, the respondents can be divided into three equal size groups—40 years of age or younger (30%), 41 to 50 years (30%), 51 to 60 years (30%)—and a smaller contingent of opinion leaders over 60 years of age (8%). About three quarters of the respondents are men (74%), a quarter women (26%). Among opinion leaders outside the US, four in 10 (40%) have studied abroad. Nearly half of these opinion leaders have studied in the US. About two thirds of the overseas respondents (63%) have traveled in the US.

Figure 6.3

Respondent demographics

Age	
40 or less	30%
41 to 50	30
51 to 60	30
Over 60	8
Sex	
Male	74%
Female	26

Questionnaire design and translations

The questionnaire was designed by PSRAI in consultation with AARP. The format for the questionnaire was mostly close-ended, although a few open-end questions were also included. Coding frames for the open-end questions were developed and data for the open-end questions coded at PSRAI.

Figure 6.4

Survey languages

Australia	English
China	Mandarin, Cantonese
India	English
Japan	Japanese
New Zealand	English
Singapore	English
South Korea	Korean
United States	English

PSRAI gave most respondents the opportunity to take the survey in the language of their choice. As is standard PSRAI practice for international work, we employed independent translators to translate the questionnaires back to English to ensure the meaning of the translations closely mirrored the original English questionnaire.

Fieldwork logistics

To accommodate the respondents' busy schedules, multiple modes of interviewing were offered. More than half of the respondents were interviewed on the phone, while about a quarter were interviewed face-to-face.

Figure 6.5

Interview mode

Phone	56%
Face-to-face	27
Paper and pencil	11
Online	7

The rest responded to the survey questions online or filled out the questionnaire on paper. The interviews were completed between October and December 2006. PSRAI's partner firms in each country, the field dates, and the mode of interview are displayed in the following table.

Figure 6.6

Fieldwork logistics

	Local company conducting the interviews	Interviewing dates	Mode of interview
Australia	TNS Australia	11/08-12/15/2006	Phone
China	Horizonkey	11/03-11/17/2006	Phone, paper and pencil
India	TNS India	11/15-12/18/2006	Face-to-face, phone, paper and pencil
Japan	Lyncs	10/31-11/27/2006	Phone
New Zealand	TNS Australia	11/13-12/19/2006	Phone
Singapore	TNS Singapore	10/31-12/01/2006	Face-to-face, phone
South Korea	Gallup Korea	11/02-12/07/2006	Face-to-face, paper and pencil
United States	Princeton Data Source	10/31-12/11/2006	Phone, online

PSRAI expects its partner research firms to maintain the highest ethical standards. Nearly all of our partner firms are members of their regional survey research professional association, which also seeks to hold its members to the highest ethical standards.

Only skilled interviewers who have experience interviewing opinion leaders were employed in this study. In developing countries, many of our partner survey firms have their executives conduct high-level interviews, as this is often the only means to get an appointment with a high-level government official. In other countries, the firms employ specially trained, well-educated elite interviewers.

Before an interviewer is certified to conduct an interview, the survey firms conduct final mock interviews with the interviewer to verify that the person is fully prepared to conduct the survey. It is also common procedure in survey research to conduct a certain number of back-checks (normally 20 to 50 percent of interviews) to verify that the interviewer conducted the survey correctly.

Appendix: Annotated questionnaire

Annotated questionnaire

AARP Opinion Leader Survey in Asia and Oceania

Country	Sample Size	Field Dates
Australia:	n = 50	11.08.2006-12.15.2006
China:	n = 50	11.03.2006-11.17.2006
India:	n = 50	11.15.2006-12.18.2006
Japan:	n = 50	10.31.2006-11.27.2006
New Zealand	n = 49	11.13.2006-12.19.2006
Singapore:	n = 50	10.31.2006-12.01.2006
South Korea:	n = 50	11.02.2006-12.07.2006
United States:	n = 74	11.13.2006-12.11.2006

Margin of error is + or - 5 percentage points based on the full sample, + or - 11 points based on the US sample, and + or - 14 points based on the rest of the country samples.

Q1. In your opinion, what are the most important economic challenges facing our country in the next 20 years?⁵⁸

BASED ON MULTIPLE MENTIONS		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Growing population of older people/aging of the population	40%	48%	38%	6%	34%	45%	66%	60%	25%
	Low birth rate	10%	-	-	-	36%	-	6%	38%	-
	Income inequality/gap between rich and poor	15%	-	10%	28%	10%	-	12%	48%	11%
	Increasing poverty	5%	-	2%	21%	-	4%	-	12%	4%
	Meeting basic needs, social welfare	13%	56%	10%	13%	2%	10%	8%	-	2%
	Health care spending/costs	12%	20%	2%	9%	8%	10%	2%	4%	40%
	Health problems/disease	3%	2%	-	12%	4%	-	-	2%	1%
	Paying for pensions, retirement income	10%	6%	2%	4%	18%	4%	6%	10%	27%
	Education	7%	4%	2%	11%	2%	4%	4%	16%	14%
	Slow economic growth/development	15%	20%	16%	10%	16%	16%	12%	24%	4%
	Unemployment, lack of jobs	16%	2%	8%	35%	4%	6%	16%	50%	6%
	Jobs going to other countries	5%	6%	2%	9%	2%	8%	6%	4%	6%
	Labor shortages	12%	16%	12%	14%	6%	32%	6%	-	8%
	Problems with government, policies, corruption, reform	9%	4%	34%	12%	4%	4%	2%	8%	1%
	Funding government spending, deficits, debt	5%	-	-	4%	2%	2%	-	2%	28%
	Meeting energy needs	10%	26%	24%	2%	6%	16%	-	-	7%
	Environmental issues	6%	10%	22%	2%	2%	8%	-	2%	5%
	Global competition, globalization	9%	-	6%	-	4%	15%	38%	-	12%
	Agricultural problems	5%	12%	-	12%	2%	6%	-	8%	1%
	Demographic issues (Overpopulation, immigration, emigration)	6%	4%	4%	13%	2%	12%	4%	-	5%
	Problems with business environment, business practices	6%	2%	22%	8%	2%	2%	10%	-	4%
	Labor issues	2%	-	2%	-	2%	2%	10%	-	1%
	Terrorism, civil strife, security, war, international relations	5%	16%	4%	2%	6%	2%	4%	4%	2%
	Inflation, high cost of living	2%	2%	4%	4%	-	-	4%	-	1%
	Other	8%	2%	8%	7%	4%	6%	8%	-	23%
	Don't know	1%	-	2%	-	2%	2%	2%	-	1%
	Refused	*	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

112

⁵⁸ In a notification letter to respondents, AARP was identified as a sponsor of the survey.

Q2. The populations of many countries are growing older as life expectancy increases and birth rates decline. Do you think the aging of the population will have a largely positive, largely negative, or both a positive and negative impact on our country over the next 20 years?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Positive impact	6%	4%	-	17%	10%	10%	4%	2%	5%
	Negative impact	35%	28%	40%	24%	36%	20%	38%	70%	25%
	Both positive and negative impact	54%	66%	52%	50%	52%	69%	54%	28%	64%
	No impact (Volunteered)	3%	2%	8%	9%	2%	-	2%	-	-
	Don't know	1%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	4%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%

113

Q3. In what ways will the aging of the population have a positive impact on our country or provide new opportunities over the next 20 years?

Based on respondents who think the aging population will have a positive, negative or both a positive and negative impact

Based on multiple mentions		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	406	49	46	45	49	49	48	50	70
	WEIGHTED BASE	385	49	46	45	49	50	48	50	47
	Knowledge and experience of older people	50%	61%	22%	59%	41%	65%	54%	56%	43%
	Market for products and services	29%	22%	37%	13%	12%	43%	40%	46%	14%
	Potential pool of productive workers	21%	20%	17%	8%	12%	24%	29%	20%	38%
	Increased diversity	21%	55%	9%	7%	8%	39%	15%	28%	2%
	Assisting younger family members by providing child care	8%	4%	2%	11%	-	19%	15%	12%	2%
	Older workforce with beneficial qualities (e.g. skills, expertise)	2%	-	-	-	-	-	8%	-	8%
	Better health and medical care, longer lives	6%	4%	2%	4%	6%	-	10%	2%	20%
	More opportunities available for younger people	5%	2%	20%	9%	-	-	-	-	11%
	Greater volunteerism/community service	2%	-	-	-	-	2%	4%	-	11%
	Increased demand will improve public and social services	2%	2%	9%	2%	-	-	2%	2%	-
	New ideas, innovation, and research to deal with the issue	2%	-	2%	-	-	-	2%	-	9%
	Environmental benefits (slower population growth, less consumption)	2%	-	7%	-	4%	-	2%	-	2%
	Intergenerational interaction	1%	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	5%
	Older people have stabilizing influence	1%	-	2%	-	-	-	6%	-	3%
	Economic benefits	2%	-	2%	-	6%	-	2%	-	5%
	None	2%	-	-	-	10%	2%	-	-	-
	Other	6%	4%	13%	6%	6%	2%	6%	2%	11%
	Don't know	8%	20%	20%	8%	-	12%	2%	4%	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-

Q4. How will the aging of the population in our country have a negative impact or pose new challenges over the next 20 years?

Based on respondents who think the aging population will have a positive, negative or both a positive and negative impact

Based on multiple mentions		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	406	49	46	45	49	49	48	50	70
	WEIGHTED BASE	385	49	46	45	49	50	48	50	47
	Increased cost of providing health care	60%	86%	30%	44%	18%	88%	69%	74%	66%
	Increased cost of providing pension/retirement income	55%	78%	70%	30%	43%	68%	25%	78%	49%
	Providing housing and other basic accommodations for older people	16%	29%	22%	4%	2%	8%	15%	38%	6%
	People may need to work longer than they would like before they can retire	14%	35%	4%	9%	8%	14%	15%	22%	4%
	Children having to take care of their parents	13%	4%	15%	11%	4%	8%	33%	20%	8%
	Greater fraction of population out of the workforce	13%	4%	35%	4%	10%	-	21%	10%	19%
	Increased need for accommodations for the physically disabled	7%	24%	-	4%	-	14%	10%	-	3%
	Economic problems	4%	-	9%	2%	10%	-	6%	2%	5%
	Increase in physical and mental health problems in the population	3%	-	4%	-	-	-	8%	-	15%
	Intergenerational conflicts, social instability	4%	2%	2%	-	8%	4%	8%	-	3%
	Adapting to an older workforce	3%	2%	2%	-	6%	-	10%	-	7%
	More old people with financial problems	4%	-	-	19%	-	-	13%	-	2%
	None	1%	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-	-
	Other	6%	2%	7%	4%	16%	4%	4%	-	9%
	Don't know	2%	-	4%	9%	-	-	-	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

114

Q5. Compared to other issues facing our country, how important an issue is the aging of the population—very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very important	51%	38%	28%	48%	70%	30%	52%	80%	61%
	Somewhat important	41%	52%	58%	39%	20%	68%	42%	18%	34%
	Not very important	7%	8%	12%	13%	10%	2%	4%	2%	3%
	Not important at all	*	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Don't know	*	2%	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q6. Overall, how prepared is our country to deal with potential changes that may result from the aging of the population—very prepared, somewhat prepared, not too prepared, or not prepared at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very prepared	4%	10%	-	2%	4%	-	12%	-	2%
	Somewhat prepared	32%	60%	4%	25%	18%	65%	52%	4%	29%
	Not too prepared	48%	20%	80%	25%	66%	27%	30%	74%	63%
	Not prepared at all	15%	10%	14%	46%	12%	8%	2%	22%	6%
	Don't know	1%	-	2%	2%	-	-	2%	-	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-

115

Q7a. In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid too much attention, about the right amount of attention, or too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it: **the central/federal government.**⁵⁹

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Too much attention	5%	6%	-	-	12%	10%	4%	6%	-
	Right amount of attention	43%	48%	30%	22%	72%	43%	70%	46%	15%
	Too little attention	49%	46%	68%	76%	16%	47%	20%	44%	79%
	Don't know	2%	-	2%	2%	-	-	6%	4%	2%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%

Q7b. In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid too much attention, about the right amount of attention, or too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it: **the business community.**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Too much attention	2%	-	2%	-	10%	2%	-	-	3%
	Right amount of attention	23%	14%	14%	14%	52%	18%	10%	36%	30%
	Too little attention	72%	86%	82%	80%	38%	80%	88%	62%	61%
	Don't know	2%	-	2%	6%	-	-	2%	2%	2%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%

Q7c. In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid too much attention, about the right amount of attention, or too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it: **non-governmental groups.**⁶⁰

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Too much attention	6%	6%	2%	8%	20%	4%	2%	6%	-
	Right amount of attention	52%	72%	30%	55%	32%	69%	60%	58%	37%
	Too little attention	33%	14%	62%	29%	30%	11%	32%	34%	48%
	Don't know	10%	8%	6%	8%	18%	16%	6%	2%	12%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

⁵⁹ Respondents in Australia and the US were asked about "the federal government." Respondents in China, India, Japan, and South Korea were asked about "the central government." Respondents in New Zealand were asked about "the government." Respondents in Singapore were asked about "the Singapore government."

⁶⁰ Respondents were given two or three examples of local groups.

Q7d. In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid too much attention, about the right amount of attention, or too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it: **state/local governments.**⁶¹

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	324	50	50	50	50	-	-	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	300	50	50	50	50	-	-	50	50
	Too much attention	6%	-	2%	-	30%	-	-	4%	-
	Right amount of attention	23%	20%	12%	16%	42%	-	-	26%	19%
	Too little attention	67%	76%	82%	78%	26%	-	-	66%	75%
	Don't know	4%	4%	4%	6%	2%	-	-	4%	3%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

116

Q7e. In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid too much attention, about the right amount of attention, or too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it: **the media.**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Too much attention	9%	10%	10%	3%	22%	6%	4%	8%	8%
	Right amount of attention	42%	42%	36%	13%	44%	49%	48%	56%	44%
	Too little attention	46%	48%	50%	75%	32%	42%	46%	34%	41%
	Don't know	3%	-	4%	9%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

Q7f. In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid too much attention, about the right amount of attention, or too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it: **the younger people of our country.**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Too much attention	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Right amount of attention	12%	12%	6%	17%	18%	10%	12%	12%	6%
	Too little attention	85%	84%	94%	74%	82%	90%	86%	82%	88%
	Don't know	3%	4%	-	9%	-	-	2%	6%	2%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

Q7g. In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid too much attention, about the right amount of attention, or too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it: **the older people of our country.**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Too much attention	15%	6%	16%	17%	42%	6%	4%	16%	14%
	Right amount of attention	50%	64%	44%	29%	36%	70%	48%	64%	45%
	Too little attention	30%	24%	34%	43%	20%	24%	42%	18%	36%
	Don't know	4%	6%	6%	11%	2%	-	6%	2%	3%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

⁶¹ Respondents in Australia, India, and the US were asked about "state and local governments." Respondents in China, Japan, and South Korea were asked about "local government." This question was not asked in New Zealand or Singapore.

Q7h. In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid too much attention, about the right amount of attention, or too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it:
the health care community, including doctors and hospitals.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Too much attention	9%	2%	10%	-	50%	-	-	4%	6%
	Right amount of attention	46%	60%	22%	19%	40%	70%	56%	60%	38%
	Too little attention	42%	34%	68%	75%	6%	30%	40%	32%	53%
	Don't know	3%	4%	-	6%	4%	-	4%	4%	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

117

Q7i. In your opinion, have the following groups and institutions paid too much attention, about the right amount of attention, or too little attention to the aging of the population and the challenges and opportunities associated with it:
labor unions.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Too much attention	2%	-	4%	-	8%	2%	-	-	3%
	Right amount of attention	36%	28%	10%	12%	62%	51%	54%	38%	31%
	Too little attention	51%	50%	78%	69%	28%	35%	38%	60%	49%
	Don't know	11%	22%	8%	18%	2%	12%	8%	2%	14%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

Q8a. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements:
Our government has the necessary knowledge and expertise to address issues related to the aging of the population.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	22%	46%	12%	22%	12%	37%	22%	-	24%
	Somewhat agree	44%	40%	30%	41%	56%	51%	56%	40%	41%
	Somewhat disagree	24%	10%	46%	18%	26%	6%	18%	44%	21%
	Strongly disagree	10%	4%	12%	17%	6%	6%	4%	14%	14%
	Don't know	*	-	-	2%	-	-	-	2%	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q8b. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements:
The aging of the population should not be a priority; we have other, more pressing issues to address.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	6%	2%	6%	12%	16%	2%	4%	2%	4%
	Somewhat agree	17%	6%	32%	23%	22%	10%	16%	12%	11%
	Somewhat disagree	36%	24%	48%	35%	38%	44%	26%	42%	32%
	Strongly disagree	40%	68%	14%	30%	22%	43%	52%	42%	53%
	Don't know	1%	-	-	-	2%	-	2%	-	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-

Q8c. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements:
Our health care system is not well prepared to deal with an aging population.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	33%	22%	34%	63%	30%	18%	12%	30%	59%
	Somewhat agree	44%	62%	46%	24%	44%	53%	46%	50%	31%
	Somewhat disagree	17%	14%	14%	6%	24%	28%	32%	14%	8%
	Strongly disagree	4%	2%	4%	8%	2%	-	8%	6%	1%
	Don't know	*	-	2%	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

118

Q8d. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements:
The aging of the population is an opportunity to create new roles for older people in our country.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	46%	68%	12%	42%	56%	56%	52%	12%	71%
	Somewhat agree	41%	30%	60%	39%	40%	40%	34%	56%	29%
	Somewhat disagree	9%	2%	22%	11%	4%	2%	12%	20%	-
	Strongly disagree	3%	-	4%	4%	-	-	2%	12%	-
	Don't know	1%	-	2%	4%	-	2%	-	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q9. In your opinion, at what age is a worker an "older" worker?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	40 to 49	3%	4%	2%	-	-	10%	2%	2%	1%
	50 to 54	13%	38%	4%	16%	-	14%	20%	10%	3%
	55 to 59	14%	24%	12%	10%	2%	12%	26%	18%	9%
	60 to 64	27%	18%	48%	36%	8%	27%	26%	40%	17%
	65 to 69	22%	6%	24%	13%	52%	22%	8%	18%	35%
	70 to 74	10%	4%	8%	8%	32%	2%	4%	6%	16%
	75 to 85	1%	-	-	3%	2%	-	-	-	3%
	Depends on mindset/attitude (Volunteered)	2%	2%	-	6%	-	4%	2%	2%	-
	Depends on physical health (Volunteered)	2%	2%	-	4%	-	2%	4%	-	6%
	Depends on occupation (Volunteered)	2%	-	2%	-	-	2%	4%	2%	4%
	Depends on something else (Volunteered)	2%	-	-	2%	2%	2%	4%	-	3%
	Combination of any of the above (Volunteered)	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	1%
	Don't know	1%	2%	-	-	2%	2%	-	-	-
	Refused	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	3%

Q10a. In general, at what age do you think most male workers should retire or stop working?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	45 to 49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	50 to 54	*	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	55 to 59	2%	2%	4%	8%	-	-	2%	4%	-
	60	16%	8%	26%	22%	6%	6%	12%	44%	4%
	61 to 64	2%	-	4%	4%	4%	-	2%	-	2%
	65	35%	38%	46%	28%	50%	35%	38%	28%	20%
	66 to 69	3%	2%	2%	-	4%	2%	6%	-	9%
	70	13%	22%	6%	8%	18%	16%	8%	10%	18%
	71 to 74	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	75	2%	-	-	-	2%	2%	4%	-	5%
	76 to 85	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Never/when die	4%	2%	-	2%	10%	6%	4%	4%	6%
	Depends on mindset/attitude (Volunteered)	8%	16%	-	7%	-	21%	6%	4%	7%
	Depends on physical health (Volunteered)	4%	2%	4%	12%	4%	4%	2%	-	3%
	Depends on occupation (Volunteered)	3%	2%	6%	2%	-	4%	4%	4%	3%
	Depends on something else (Volunteered)	*	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	2%
	Combination of any of the above (Volunteered)	4%	6%	2%	-	2%	-	8%	2%	9%
	Don't know	3%	-	-	7%	-	4%	-	-	10%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%

119

Q10b. In general, at what age do you think most female workers should retire or stop working?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	45 to 49	*	-	2%	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	50 to 54	2%	-	2%	8%	2%	-	2%	4%	-
	55 to 59	8%	2%	34%	4%	2%	2%	2%	16%	-
	60	20%	10%	38%	23%	14%	18%	18%	34%	4%
	61 to 64	2%	-	4%	7%	-	-	4%	-	3%
	65	27%	38%	8%	25%	48%	31%	26%	24%	19%
	66 to 69	3%	-	-	2%	2%	2%	8%	-	9%
	70	9%	22%	4%	-	14%	6%	6%	6%	17%
	71 to 74	1%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	3%
	75	2%	-	-	2%	4%	2%	2%	-	4%
	76 to 85	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%
	Never/when die	4%	2%	-	2%	8%	6%	4%	4%	6%
	Depends on mindset/attitude (Volunteered)	7%	16%	-	4%	-	19%	8%	4%	7%
	Depends on physical health (Volunteered)	4%	2%	4%	12%	4%	4%	2%	-	5%
	Depends on occupation (Volunteered)	2%	2%	2%	2%	-	4%	4%	4%	2%
	Depends on something else (Volunteered)	1%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	3%
	Combination of any of the above (Volunteered)	4%	6%	2%	2%	2%	2%	10%	2%	7%
	Don't know	3%	-	-	9%	-	4%	-	-	10%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%

Q11. In some countries workers are required to retire at a particular age. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the idea of a mandatory retirement age?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly support	7%	-	8%	29%	10%	2%	4%	2%	2%
	Somewhat support	22%	2%	42%	28%	34%	2%	18%	44%	4%
	Somewhat oppose	30%	12%	34%	24%	36%	23%	40%	38%	31%
	Strongly oppose	37%	82%	6%	10%	16%	73%	34%	12%	62%
	Support mandatory retirement for some occupations/It depends (Volunteered)	4%	4%	6%	9%	4%	-	4%	4%	1%
	Don't know	*	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

120

Q12. And what should the mandatory retirement age be?

Based on respondents who either strongly support or somewhat support a mandatory retirement age

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	117	1	25	28	22	2	11	23	5
	WEIGHTED BASE	116	1	25	28	22	2	11	23	3
	50 to 59	10%	-	12%	25%	-	-	-	9%	-
	60	28%	-	32%	26%	9%	-	18%	57%	-
	61 to 64	6%	-	4%	15%	-	-	9%	4%	-
	65	41%	100%	44%	20%	77%	47%	45%	26%	35%
	66 to 70	8%	-	8%	-	14%	-	18%	4%	47%
	Don't know	5%	-	-	15%	-	53%	9%	-	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18%

Q13. In your opinion, how well prepared are employers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry] for a future workforce comprised of more older workers—very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?⁶²

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very well	4%	4%	4%	6%	2%	8%	2%	-	4%
	Somewhat well	27%	48%	8%	31%	26%	47%	8%	16%	36%
	Not too well	47%	32%	42%	40%	62%	35%	60%	68%	41%
	Not well at all	19%	16%	46%	15%	10%	10%	28%	12%	14%
	Don't know	2%	-	-	6%	-	-	2%	4%	1%
	Refused	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	4%

⁶² Prior to being asked this question, all respondents were read the following: For the rest of this interview, when we ask about older workers we are referring to workers who are 50 years of age or older.

Q14. To the best of your knowledge, is discrimination against older people a big problem, a moderate problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all when employers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry] are recruiting and hiring employees?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Big problem	34%	22%	40%	38%	52%	12%	44%	36%	27%
	Moderate problem	40%	32%	34%	42%	34%	47%	42%	44%	44%
	Small problem	19%	44%	16%	4%	8%	39%	10%	14%	21%
	Not a problem	5%	-	10%	13%	6%	2%	2%	2%	8%
	Don't know	1%	2%	-	3%	-	-	2%	4%	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

121

Q15a. Next, thinking about ways in which employers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry] may accommodate older workers, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following practices: **allowing older workers to work fewer hours?**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly support	44%	60%	22%	34%	48%	41%	60%	22%	67%
	Somewhat support	39%	34%	62%	32%	44%	39%	28%	46%	28%
	Somewhat oppose	12%	4%	10%	17%	6%	20%	6%	26%	3%
	Strongly oppose	2%	-	-	6%	2%	-	6%	4%	1%
	Don't know	2%	2%	6%	9%	-	-	-	2%	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-

Q15b. Thinking about ways in which employers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry] may accommodate older workers, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following practices: **providing opportunities for additional training and education?**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly support	55%	86%	20%	57%	60%	57%	54%	34%	72%
	Somewhat support	36%	14%	54%	28%	28%	41%	40%	56%	28%
	Somewhat oppose	6%	-	16%	10%	10%	2%	4%	8%	-
	Strongly oppose	1%	-	4%	2%	2%	-	2%	2%	-
	Don't know	1%	-	6%	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	Refused	*	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-

Q15c. Thinking about ways in which employers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry] may accommodate older workers, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following practices: **establishing and enforcing policies that prohibit discrimination based on age at the workplace?**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly support	58%	90%	32%	56%	50%	65%	58%	34%	79%
	Somewhat support	29%	10%	50%	26%	30%	29%	28%	46%	14%
	Somewhat oppose	9%	-	14%	10%	16%	2%	8%	16%	3%
	Strongly oppose	2%	-	2%	2%	-	4%	6%	2%	1%
	Don't know	1%	-	2%	2%	4%	-	-	2%	1%
	Refused	1%	-	-	4%	-	-	-	-	1%

Q15d. Thinking about ways in which employers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry] may accommodate older workers, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following practices: **offering older workers a different position with fewer responsibilities?**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly support	33%	46%	28%	30%	34%	15%	50%	20%	43%
	Somewhat support	42%	38%	56%	34%	38%	37%	30%	64%	39%
	Somewhat oppose	17%	10%	10%	22%	16%	44%	12%	16%	8%
	Strongly oppose	4%	2%	2%	10%	4%	4%	8%	-	6%
	Don't know	3%	4%	4%	4%	8%	-	-	-	2%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

122

Q16a. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements. In general, private businesses [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry] have **the necessary knowledge and expertise** to address issues related to an older workforce.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	16%	34%	6%	18%	10%	13%	24%	16%	7%
	Somewhat agree	33%	34%	24%	40%	30%	56%	10%	26%	44%
	Somewhat disagree	37%	14%	42%	22%	58%	21%	52%	52%	32%
	Strongly disagree	12%	16%	22%	15%	2%	8%	12%	4%	13%
	Don't know	2%	2%	6%	5%	-	2%	-	2%	2%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	2%

Q16b. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements. In general, private businesses [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry] have **the will and desire** to address issues related to an older workforce.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	12%	14%	16%	22%	6%	4%	16%	12%	6%
	Somewhat agree	37%	50%	16%	29%	48%	57%	26%	30%	42%
	Somewhat disagree	37%	28%	44%	33%	40%	31%	40%	46%	35%
	Strongly disagree	12%	8%	20%	13%	6%	6%	16%	10%	16%
	Don't know	1%	-	4%	2%	-	2%	-	2%	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-

Q16c. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements. In general, private businesses [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry] have **financial resources** to address issues related to an older workforce.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	19%	48%	14%	21%	2%	17%	20%	16%	14%
	Somewhat agree	37%	34%	50%	29%	16%	46%	42%	30%	51%
	Somewhat disagree	32%	8%	22%	32%	64%	32%	28%	42%	25%
	Strongly disagree	9%	6%	10%	11%	14%	4%	6%	10%	9%
	Don't know	3%	4%	4%	6%	4%	-	2%	2%	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-

Q16d. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements. In general, private businesses [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry] have a **responsibility to society** to address issues related to an older workforce.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	46%	84%	48%	30%	58%	47%	30%	18%	51%
	Somewhat agree	29%	12%	30%	33%	32%	45%	26%	30%	25%
	Somewhat disagree	19%	2%	14%	29%	8%	6%	32%	42%	19%
	Strongly disagree	5%	-	6%	6%	2%	2%	10%	8%	4%
	Don't know	1%	2%	2%	2%	-	-	-	2%	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-

123

Q17. To the best of your knowledge, is there a particular business sector or industry in our country that is doing a good job of employing and using older workers to their full potential? What is the name of the business or industry?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Services (e.g. food, retail)	13%	-	-	-	16%	2%	64%	10%	14%
	Non-profits/charitable organizations	12%	26%	2%	8%	2%	16%	6%	32%	1%
	Academia	11%	12%	12%	15%	8%	10%	2%	20%	6%
	Government	10%	28%	12%	7%	2%	25%	2%	6%	1%
	Manufacturing/Construction	4%	-	-	6%	22%	-	-	4%	1%
	Agriculture	3%	-	-	4%	12%	-	-	10%	-
	Financial sector	2%	6%	-	3%	-	-	2%	6%	2%
	Health services	2%	-	2%	-	-	4%	4%	2%	3%
	Social welfare services	1%	2%	-	-	6%	-	-	-	-
	Other	4%	2%	2%	11%	6%	-	2%	4%	3%
	No such industry	15%	14%	42%	-	12%	10%	6%	2%	37%
	Don't know	21%	10%	28%	48%	14%	32%	12%	2%	24%
	Refused	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	7%

Q18a. In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry]—very well, somewhat well, not too well, not well at all: **Flexible**.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very well	12%	16%	2%	10%	6%	36%	2%	6%	14%
	Somewhat well	41%	62%	14%	45%	32%	39%	28%	54%	56%
	Not too well	40%	22%	68%	35%	54%	24%	56%	36%	24%
	Not well at all	5%	-	14%	-	6%	-	12%	2%	4%
	Don't know	2%	-	2%	10%	2%	-	-	-	1%
	Refused	1%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	2%	1%

Q18b. In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry]—very well, somewhat well, not too well, not well at all: **Fast learners**.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very well	5%	6%	-	10%	2%	16%	-	-	8%
	Somewhat well	33%	62%	10%	19%	16%	57%	28%	16%	58%
	Not too well	51%	32%	74%	50%	68%	27%	56%	74%	29%
	Not well at all	8%	-	16%	13%	12%	-	12%	8%	-
	Don't know	2%	-	-	8%	2%	-	2%	-	5%
	Refused	1%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	2%	1%

124

Q18c. In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry]—very well, somewhat well, not too well, not well at all: **Open to new technology**.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very well	5%	14%	2%	5%	-	12%	2%	-	3%
	Somewhat well	36%	62%	34%	41%	10%	44%	30%	16%	49%
	Not too well	48%	20%	56%	39%	74%	34%	52%	74%	38%
	Not well at all	8%	4%	2%	9%	12%	10%	14%	6%	6%
	Don't know	3%	-	6%	6%	4%	-	-	2%	4%
	Refused	1%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	2%	1%

Q18d. In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry]—very well, somewhat well, not too well, not well at all: **Wise**.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very well	39%	70%	10%	45%	56%	62%	22%	8%	42%
	Somewhat well	51%	28%	80%	41%	38%	36%	64%	68%	55%
	Not too well	7%	-	10%	6%	4%	-	12%	22%	1%
	Not well at all	*	-	-	-	2%	-	2%	-	-
	Don't know	2%	2%	-	8%	-	2%	-	-	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	1%

Q18e. In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry]—very well, somewhat well, not too well, not well at all: **Productive**.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very well	18%	42%	6%	18%	6%	31%	8%	-	35%
	Somewhat well	48%	58%	32%	48%	42%	53%	60%	36%	58%
	Not too well	27%	-	50%	21%	44%	16%	24%	56%	5%
	Not well at all	3%	-	6%	4%	8%	-	4%	4%	-
	Don't know	3%	-	6%	9%	-	-	2%	2%	2%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	2%	2%	-

Q18f. In your opinion, how well do the following words describe older workers [IF PRIVATE SECTOR: in your industry]—very well, somewhat well, not too well, not well at all: **Respected**.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very well	28%	28%	36%	47%	16%	39%	12%	8%	37%
	Somewhat well	54%	62%	62%	36%	60%	51%	62%	50%	53%
	Not too well	14%	10%	2%	6%	18%	10%	22%	34%	8%
	Not well at all	2%	-	-	2%	6%	-	2%	6%	-
	Don't know	2%	-	-	10%	-	-	-	-	2%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	2%	2%	-

125

Q19. In your view, how likely is it that our country will experience a labor shortage within the next 20 years—very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very likely	37%	30%	26%	14%	48%	43%	48%	56%	26%
	Somewhat likely	32%	34%	36%	12%	34%	42%	26%	34%	34%
	Not too likely	19%	24%	26%	21%	16%	10%	18%	8%	29%
	Not likely at all	11%	10%	10%	49%	2%	4%	2%	-	7%
	Don't know	2%	2%	2%	3%	-	-	6%	2%	2%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

Q20. How likely is it that we will adopt more liberal immigration policies to compensate for this labor shortage—very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

Based on respondents who think a labor shortage is very likely or somewhat likely

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	285	32	31	13	41	42	37	45	44
	WEIGHTED BASE	272	32	31	13	41	43	37	45	30
	Very likely	34%	53%	3%	41%	10%	53%	62%	33%	18%
	Somewhat likely	41%	34%	35%	37%	51%	33%	30%	47%	59%
	Not too likely	16%	3%	42%	22%	29%	7%	3%	13%	20%
	Not likely at all	4%	-	13%	-	10%	-	3%	4%	-
	Don't know	4%	9%	6%	-	-	7%	3%	2%	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

Q21. In your opinion, which of the following should have primary responsibility for providing for people in their old age?⁶³

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Government	31%	28%	62%	10%	42%	28%	14%	46%	19%
	Employers	4%	2%	10%	2%	6%	2%	2%	2%	8%
	Individual older people	30%	44%	8%	6%	28%	43%	50%	32%	30%
	Family members/children	8%	-	14%	4%	16%	2%	10%	14%	6%
	Community	1%	2%	-	2%	4%	-	-	2%	-
	Combination (Volunteered)	23%	20%	2%	77%	4%	22%	24%	2%	33%
	Don't know	1%	2%	4%	-	-	2%	-	2%	-
	Refused	1%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%

126

Q22a. If you had to determine the optimal mix of income for people in their old age, what percent would come from each of the following: **Government**.

Based on those who responded to this series of questions

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	399	46	48	50	50	48	49	47	61
	WEIGHTED BASE	380	46	48	50	50	49	49	47	41
	0%	5%	2%	-	8%	-	2%	24%	-	4%
	1-10%	12%	9%	13%	18%	8%	6%	16%	17%	8%
	11-20%	15%	13%	10%	10%	10%	4%	31%	30%	16%
	21-30%	21%	39%	13%	12%	22%	17%	18%	23%	28%
	31-40%	13%	24%	10%	6%	6%	34%	-	6%	16%
	41-50%	19%	13%	25%	27%	30%	19%	8%	13%	18%
	51-60%	5%	-	4%	8%	6%	8%	2%	4%	5%
	61-70%	5%	-	15%	4%	14%	2%	-	-	1%
	71-80%	2%	-	6%	4%	-	4%	-	2%	-
	81-90%	1%	-	-	-	-	4%	-	4%	-
	91-100%	2%	-	4%	4%	4%	-	-	-	2%

Q22b. If you had to determine the optimal mix of income for people in their old age, what percent would come from each of the following: **Employers**.

Based on those who responded to this series of questions

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	399	46	48	50	50	48	49	47	61
	WEIGHTED BASE	380	46	48	50	50	49	49	47	41
	0%	27%	20%	21%	32%	32%	52%	31%	13%	14%
	1-10%	22%	46%	23%	15%	22%	20%	20%	26%	4%
	11-20%	19%	17%	21%	16%	22%	15%	18%	23%	15%
	21-30%	21%	11%	25%	28%	18%	11%	20%	23%	29%
	31-40%	5%	4%	2%	-	-	-	4%	9%	20%
	41-50%	6%	2%	4%	9%	6%	2%	6%	4%	14%
	51-60%	1%	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	2%
	61-70%	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	2%
	71-80%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	81-90%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	91-100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

⁶³ Prior to being asked this question, all respondents were read the following: In the following questions, when we ask about people in their old age or older people, we are referring to older people who are retired or past retirement age. (By retired, we mean no longer working for pay.)

Q22c. If you had to determine the optimal mix of income for people in their old age, what percent would come from each of the following: **Individual older people themselves.**

Based on those who responded to this series of questions

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	399	46	48	50	50	48	49	47	61
	WEIGHTED BASE	380	46	48	50	50	49	49	47	41
	0%	13%	-	35%	32%	12%	2%	4%	9%	5%
	1-10%	14%	-	25%	18%	20%	8%	10%	21%	8%
	11-20%	13%	4%	19%	11%	18%	8%	10%	15%	16%
	21-30%	15%	17%	10%	14%	20%	8%	16%	13%	23%
	31-40%	13%	28%	4%	6%	10%	23%	6%	9%	19%
	41-50%	16%	15%	2%	11%	16%	23%	22%	28%	10%
	51-60%	7%	15%	-	4%	-	11%	14%	4%	8%
	61-70%	3%	7%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	-	5%
	71-80%	4%	9%	-	-	2%	10%	8%	2%	3%
	81-90%	1%	2%	-	-	-	2%	-	-	3%
	91-100%	2%	2%	-	2%	-	2%	6%	-	-

127

Q22d. If you had to determine the optimal mix of income for people in their old age, what percent would come from each of the following: **Family members/Children.**

Based on those who responded to this series of questions

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	399	46	48	50	50	48	49	47	61
	WEIGHTED BASE	380	46	48	50	50	49	49	47	41
	0%	40%	59%	10%	28%	38%	69%	22%	26%	70%
	1-10%	29%	41%	40%	13%	36%	27%	16%	34%	25%
	11-20%	16%	-	27%	19%	20%	-	29%	30%	5%
	21-30%	9%	-	15%	22%	6%	-	22%	6%	-
	31-40%	2%	-	4%	4%	-	2%	6%	2%	-
	41-50%	2%	-	2%	10%	-	-	-	2%	-
	51-60%	1%	-	2%	3%	-	2%	4%	-	-
	61-70%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	71-80%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	81-90%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	91-100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q22e. If you had to determine the optimal mix of income for people in their old age, what percent would come from each of the following: **Community.**

Based on those who responded to this series of questions

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	399	46	48	50	50	48	49	47	61
	WEIGHTED BASE	380	46	48	50	50	49	49	47	41
	0%	61%	43%	52%	60%	52%	94%	53%	51%	86%
	1-10%	30%	48%	40%	27%	26%	6%	39%	43%	12%
	11-20%	6%	9%	8%	8%	12%	-	4%	6%	2%
	21-30%	2%	-	-	-	10%	-	4%	-	-
	31-40%	*	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	41-50%	*	-	-	3%	-	-	-	-	-
	51-60%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	61-70%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	71-80%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	81-90%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	91-100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q22f. If you had to determine the optimal mix of income for people in their old age, what percent would come from each of the following: **Other**.

Based on those who responded to this series of questions

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	399	46	48	50	50	48	49	47	61
	WEIGHTED BASE	380	46	48	50	50	49	49	47	41
	0%	95%	100%	79%	96%	100%	100%	100%	87%	96%
	1-10%	5%	-	21%	2%	-	-	-	11%	4%
	11-20%	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	2%	-
	21-30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	31-40%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	41-50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	51-60%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	61-70%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	71-80%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	81-90%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	91-100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

128

Q23a. In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play a big role, moderate role, small role, or no role at all in **providing retirement income**?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Big role	14%	-	26%	53%	4%	6%	14%	8%	3%
	Moderate role	27%	12%	28%	26%	22%	20%	44%	52%	16%
	Small role	37%	40%	34%	8%	58%	37%	34%	38%	45%
	No role at all	21%	48%	10%	13%	16%	37%	8%	2%	33%
	Don't know	*	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

Q23b. In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play a big role, moderate role, small role, or no role at all in **providing long-term care for sick or disabled**?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Big role	32%	-	70%	86%	12%	20%	36%	16%	16%
	Moderate role	37%	40%	20%	10%	34%	45%	54%	54%	43%
	Small role	25%	44%	8%	2%	48%	29%	8%	26%	32%
	No role at all	5%	14%	-	2%	6%	6%	2%	4%	5%
	Don't know	1%	2%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

Q23c. In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play a big role, moderate role, small role, or no role at all in **providing housing**?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Big role	23%	4%	50%	78%	8%	8%	22%	6%	7%
	Moderate role	32%	24%	26%	18%	40%	36%	38%	44%	31%
	Small role	37%	60%	14%	2%	44%	45%	32%	44%	54%
	No role at all	7%	12%	8%	2%	8%	10%	8%	4%	6%
	Don't know	*	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Refused	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	2%

129

Q23d. In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play a big role, moderate role, small role, or no role at all in **providing transportation**?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Big role	22%	4%	46%	65%	10%	20%	16%	4%	13%
	Moderate role	40%	34%	34%	21%	42%	57%	34%	50%	47%
	Small role	32%	62%	14%	14%	34%	21%	40%	42%	31%
	No role at all	5%	-	4%	-	14%	2%	8%	4%	5%
	Don't know	1%	-	2%	-	-	-	2%	-	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

Q23e. In your opinion, how big a role should family play in providing the following types of support to people in their old age? Should family play a big role, moderate role, small role, or no role at all in **providing health care costs, including medicine**?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Big role	19%	2%	28%	77%	6%	-	24%	14%	1%
	Moderate role	29%	6%	32%	18%	30%	24%	46%	52%	21%
	Small role	38%	68%	30%	6%	44%	51%	24%	32%	49%
	No role at all	14%	24%	8%	-	20%	25%	6%	2%	26%
	Don't know	*	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

Q24a. As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should **the age of eligibility for pensions be increased, for those receiving pensions** to help cover these increased costs—great extent, moderate extent, small extent, or not at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Great extent	18%	24%	22%	39%	16%	6%	10%	12%	14%
	Moderate extent	40%	38%	40%	43%	38%	30%	36%	58%	34%
	Small extent	19%	26%	16%	4%	22%	22%	22%	16%	24%
	Not at all	19%	12%	18%	2%	24%	41%	14%	14%	23%
	Don't know	3%	-	4%	8%	-	-	8%	-	2%
	Refused	2%	-	-	5%	-	-	10%	-	2%

Q24b. As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should **taxes be increased** to help cover these increased costs—great extent, moderate extent, small extent, or not at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Great extent	12%	24%	24%	2%	18%	4%	4%	8%	10%
	Moderate extent	33%	50%	30%	20%	38%	16%	26%	46%	36%
	Small extent	32%	18%	26%	29%	24%	33%	46%	40%	37%
	Not at all	21%	6%	12%	45%	18%	45%	20%	6%	14%
	Don't know	2%	2%	8%	4%	2%	2%	2%	-	-
	Refused	1%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	3%

130

Q24c. As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should **private savings be made mandatory/mandatory private savings be increased** to help cover these increased costs—great extent, moderate extent, small extent, or not at all?⁶⁴

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Great extent	30%	36%	24%	45%	6%	76%	20%	10%	26%
	Moderate extent	32%	46%	26%	37%	24%	14%	36%	48%	24%
	Small extent	21%	16%	16%	9%	36%	6%	32%	24%	25%
	Not at all	15%	2%	32%	4%	30%	2%	12%	16%	23%
	Don't know	2%	-	2%	4%	2%	2%	-	2%	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	2%

Q24d. As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should **pensions be reduced, for those receiving pensions** to help cover these increased costs—great extent, moderate extent, small extent, or not at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Great extent	3%	2%	2%	4%	12%	-	2%	4%	1%
	Moderate extent	18%	12%	14%	12%	28%	8%	12%	48%	14%
	Small extent	28%	18%	40%	13%	28%	37%	36%	30%	21%
	Not at all	47%	68%	40%	63%	28%	55%	42%	18%	61%
	Don't know	2%	-	4%	6%	4%	-	6%	-	-
	Refused	1%	-	-	4%	-	-	2%	-	3%

⁶⁴ Opinion leaders in China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, and the US were asked "private savings be made mandatory." Opinion leaders in Australia were asked "superannuation contributions be increased." Opinion leaders in Singapore were asked "mandatory private savings be increased."

Q24e. As more people age and stop working, the costs for providing for this growing number of older people will increase. To what extent should **people be educated about the importance of saving and encouraged to save more** to help cover these increased costs—great extent, moderate extent, small extent, or not at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Great extent	58%	94%	30%	80%	2%	86%	66%	18%	88%
	Moderate extent	22%	4%	38%	18%	24%	14%	18%	54%	10%
	Small extent	10%	-	14%	-	32%	-	12%	24%	-
	Not at all	7%	2%	16%	-	38%	-	-	4%	-
	Don't know	1%	-	2%	2%	2%	-	2%	-	1%
	Refused	1%	-	-	-	2%	-	2%	-	2%

131

Q25. In general, is it best for relatively healthy older people to...

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	live independently as long as possible	59%	98%	30%	32%	58%	76%	64%	28%	87%
	live with extended families	23%	-	22%	49%	38%	6%	28%	36%	3%
	live in assisted care facilities	13%	2%	40%	2%	4%	18%	2%	32%	4%
	live in nursing homes	1%	-	6%	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	Other/It depends (Volunteered)	3%	-	2%	15%	-	-	2%	-	4%
	Don't know	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	4%	2%	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

Q26a. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree: **Older people in our country are generally helpful, contributing members of society.**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	47%	34%	64%	63%	22%	63%	42%	16%	71%
	Somewhat agree	45%	60%	32%	31%	70%	32%	46%	62%	25%
	Somewhat disagree	7%	6%	4%	4%	6%	2%	10%	22%	3%
	Strongly disagree	1%	-	-	-	2%	2%	-	-	2%
	Don't know	*	-	-	2%	-	-	2%	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q26b. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree: **The business community views older people as an opportunity for marketing and selling products and services.**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	32%	34%	38%	24%	42%	31%	14%	16%	55%
	Somewhat agree	42%	44%	50%	17%	50%	43%	36%	62%	35%
	Somewhat disagree	16%	14%	8%	25%	4%	14%	40%	20%	5%
	Strongly disagree	7%	-	2%	30%	2%	8%	10%	-	3%
	Don't know	3%	8%	2%	4%	2%	4%	-	2%	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%

Q26c. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree: **The business community views older people as a source of potential productive workers.**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	5%	-	4%	15%	8%	4%	-	4%	7%
	Somewhat agree	33%	34%	38%	26%	44%	28%	18%	30%	44%
	Somewhat disagree	45%	46%	42%	24%	36%	55%	62%	56%	42%
	Strongly disagree	15%	20%	16%	27%	10%	12%	20%	8%	7%
	Don't know	1%	-	-	8%	2%	-	-	2%	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

132

Q26d. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree: **Our government should do more to take advantage of the contributions that older people can make to the community by enlisting them to help with community projects.**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	50%	38%	48%	68%	56%	49%	46%	34%	61%
	Somewhat agree	42%	56%	50%	18%	32%	47%	44%	54%	36%
	Somewhat disagree	5%	-	2%	6%	10%	4%	8%	8%	2%
	Strongly disagree	2%	6%	-	5%	-	-	-	2%	-
	Don't know	1%	-	-	4%	2%	-	2%	2%	1%
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q26e. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree: **Older people are often a burden on the community.**

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	3%	4%	2%	-	2%	6%	2%	2%	3%
	Somewhat agree	25%	52%	12%	2%	16%	25%	16%	54%	22%
	Somewhat disagree	32%	20%	46%	10%	36%	38%	36%	24%	43%
	Strongly disagree	40%	24%	40%	85%	46%	30%	42%	18%	31%
	Don't know	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	2%	2%	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	2%	-	-	2%	-	-

Q27. How would you describe the overall quality of life of older people in our country—is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very good	13%	24%	-	6%	6%	37%	8%	-	25%
	Somewhat good	49%	72%	50%	30%	58%	55%	66%	4%	55%
	Somewhat bad	28%	-	44%	40%	30%	8%	22%	64%	13%
	Very bad	8%	-	2%	21%	4%	-	4%	32%	-
	Don't know	1%	2%	4%	3%	-	-	-	-	3%
	Refused	1%	2%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	4%

Q28. And 20 years from now, do you think the overall quality of life of older people in our country will have gotten much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse, or much worse?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Much better	7%	8%	2%	10%	2%	8%	10%	4%	11%
	Somewhat better	53%	64%	74%	39%	28%	61%	56%	56%	49%
	Somewhat worse	25%	4%	16%	30%	48%	18%	28%	24%	33%
	Much worse	6%	2%	-	9%	16%	2%	4%	12%	-
	Stayed about the same (Volunteered)	6%	20%	6%	10%	4%	6%	-	2%	3%
	Don't know	2%	2%	2%	2%	-	4%	2%	2%	2%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	1%

133

Q29. Do you think that the average older person's pension and benefits from the government or from their employers is generally sufficient for an older person to live very comfortably, somewhat comfortably, not too comfortably, or not comfortably at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very comfortably	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	-	-	5%
	Somewhat comfortably	42%	68%	60%	29%	40%	46%	20%	28%	41%
	Not too comfortably	43%	28%	34%	44%	54%	48%	46%	50%	41%
	Not comfortably at all	10%	2%	-	15%	2%	2%	28%	22%	10%
	Don't know	2%	-	4%	7%	-	2%	4%	-	1%
	Refused	1%	-	-	3%	-	-	2%	-	2%

Q30a. Do you think our government should increase its efforts to **ensure that older people receive the health services they need** a great deal, moderately, a little, or not at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	A great deal	53%	18%	90%	89%	50%	24%	54%	60%	36%
	Moderately	33%	46%	6%	7%	34%	61%	42%	34%	36%
	A little	10%	32%	4%	2%	10%	12%	2%	6%	14%
	Not at all	3%	4%	-	2%	4%	2%	-	-	9%
	Government should decrease efforts (Volunteered)	*	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-
	Don't know	*	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

Q30b. Do you think our government should increase its efforts to **ensure that older people have access to adequate housing** a great deal, moderately, a little, or not at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	A great deal	38%	14%	34%	71%	34%	24%	40%	56%	31%
	Moderately	39%	58%	44%	15%	42%	49%	34%	34%	39%
	A little	17%	22%	20%	11%	14%	21%	20%	10%	20%
	Not at all	4%	4%	-	2%	8%	6%	6%	-	7%
	Government should decrease efforts (Volunteered)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Don't know	1%	2%	2%	-	2%	-	-	-	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

134

Q31a. Is the **central/federal government** very committed, somewhat committed, not too committed, or not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?⁶⁵

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very committed	14%	10%	6%	8%	2%	34%	34%	8%	11%
	Somewhat committed	53%	72%	50%	38%	52%	64%	60%	36%	56%
	Not too committed	27%	12%	40%	39%	38%	-	6%	50%	27%
	Not committed at all	4%	6%	-	11%	8%	-	-	4%	3%
	Don't know	1%	-	4%	2%	-	2%	-	2%	-
	Refused	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	3%

Q31b. Is the **business community** very committed, somewhat committed, not too committed, or not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very committed	1%	-	2%	2%	-	-	4%	-	3%
	Somewhat committed	21%	28%	20%	17%	30%	12%	18%	12%	30%
	Not too committed	57%	50%	58%	44%	58%	61%	66%	66%	55%
	Not committed at all	17%	22%	12%	29%	12%	25%	10%	20%	10%
	Don't know	3%	-	8%	7%	-	2%	2%	2%	-
	Refused	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	3%

⁶⁵ Respondents in Australia and the US were asked about "the federal government." Respondents in China, India, Japan, and South Korea were asked about "the central government." Respondents in New Zealand were asked about "the government." Respondents in Singapore were asked about "the Singapore government."

Q31c. Are **non-governmental organizations** very committed, somewhat committed, not too committed, or not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?⁶⁶

		total	COUNTRY							
			Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very committed	27%	64%	4%	14%	12%	62%	46%	-	14%
	Somewhat committed	48%	36%	40%	63%	58%	30%	40%	52%	67%
	Not too committed	16%	-	46%	13%	14%	2%	10%	32%	12%
	Not committed at all	4%	-	4%	6%	6%	-	-	16%	1%
	Don't know	4%	-	6%	4%	10%	6%	4%	-	3%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

135

Q31d. Are **local governments/state and local governments** very committed, somewhat committed, not too committed, or not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?⁶⁷

		total	COUNTRY							
			Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	324	50	50	50	50	-	-	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	300	50	50	50	50	-	-	50	50
	Very committed	4%	8%	2%	2%	4%	-	-	2%	4%
	Somewhat committed	41%	44%	34%	37%	56%	-	-	22%	56%
	Not too committed	44%	40%	54%	40%	36%	-	-	60%	32%
	Not committed at all	10%	8%	10%	21%	4%	-	-	12%	4%
	Don't know	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	2%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

Q31e. Are **labor unions** very committed, somewhat committed, not too committed, or not committed at all to improving the quality of life for older people?

		total	COUNTRY							
			Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very committed	5%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	20%	2%	6%
	Somewhat committed	27%	20%	14%	19%	26%	33%	46%	18%	37%
	Not too committed	38%	22%	56%	20%	50%	38%	26%	60%	33%
	Not committed at all	21%	34%	20%	51%	18%	16%	4%	18%	8%
	Don't know	8%	22%	8%	4%	4%	10%	4%	2%	11%
	Refused	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	4%

Q32a. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements:
An adequate retirement income is available to people of all social and economic backgrounds in our country.

		total	COUNTRY							
			Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	6%	4%	8%	4%	10%	10%	2%	6%	3%
	Somewhat agree	23%	48%	14%	4%	26%	38%	18%	14%	20%
	Somewhat disagree	36%	24%	42%	17%	36%	46%	48%	48%	25%
	Strongly disagree	35%	22%	36%	72%	28%	4%	32%	32%	50%
	Don't know	1%	2%	-	2%	-	2%	-	-	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

⁶⁶ Respondents were given two or three examples of local groups.

⁶⁷ Respondents in Australia, India, and the US were asked about "state and local governments." Respondents in China, Japan, and South Korea were asked about "local government." This question was not asked in New Zealand or Singapore.

Q32b. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements:
Access to quality health care is available to older people of all social and economic backgrounds in our country.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	11%	10%	10%	2%	14%	21%	10%	10%	8%
	Somewhat agree	35%	66%	12%	10%	44%	45%	58%	14%	32%
	Somewhat disagree	26%	14%	40%	18%	26%	25%	20%	46%	19%
	Strongly disagree	27%	8%	36%	68%	16%	8%	12%	30%	38%
	Don't know	1%	2%	2%	2%	-	2%	-	-	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

136

Q32c. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements:
Adequate housing is available to older people of all social and economic backgrounds in our country.

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Strongly agree	10%	14%	6%	2%	10%	24%	20%	6%	1%
	Somewhat agree	33%	56%	16%	10%	40%	53%	50%	10%	26%
	Somewhat disagree	31%	22%	56%	23%	32%	14%	22%	52%	23%
	Strongly disagree	25%	6%	20%	64%	18%	6%	6%	32%	45%
	Don't know	2%	2%	2%	2%	-	2%	2%	-	3%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

Q33a. How helpful do you think technology, such as computers and robots, will be in **extending the productive work lives of older workers** in our country over the next 20 years—very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not helpful at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very helpful	35%	60%	18%	48%	22%	47%	40%	8%	36%
	Somewhat helpful	45%	38%	52%	27%	56%	51%	46%	42%	45%
	Not too helpful	16%	2%	24%	16%	18%	-	8%	44%	16%
	Not helpful at all	3%	-	6%	6%	4%	-	4%	6%	-
	Don't know	1%	-	-	4%	-	2%	2%	-	1%
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%

Q33b. How helpful do you think technology, such as computers and robots, will be in **extending independent living by older people** in our country over the next 20 years—very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not helpful at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very helpful	36%	74%	28%	28%	20%	64%	36%	6%	31%
	Somewhat helpful	49%	24%	58%	48%	60%	34%	54%	68%	48%
	Not too helpful	11%	2%	8%	17%	20%	-	6%	22%	16%
	Not helpful at all	1%	-	4%	4%	-	-	2%	2%	-
	Don't know	2%	-	2%	4%	-	2%	2%	2%	1%
	Refused	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%

Q33c. How helpful do you think technology, such as computers and robots, will be in **improving health and medical care of older people** in our country over the next 20 years—very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not helpful at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very helpful	48%	90%	42%	40%	32%	80%	46%	18%	36%
	Somewhat helpful	42%	10%	52%	47%	50%	16%	46%	58%	54%
	Not too helpful	7%	-	4%	9%	16%	2%	2%	16%	6%
	Not helpful at all	2%	-	2%	-	2%	-	2%	6%	2%
	Don't know	1%	-	-	4%	-	2%	4%	2%	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

137

Q34AUS. Are you aware of any organizations in our country that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues?

BASED ON MULTIPLE MENTIONS		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Council on the Aging	-	42%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	National Seniors Association	-	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Advocare	-	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Salvation Army	-	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Red Cross	-	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Alzheimers Australia	-	6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	National Heart Foundation Australia	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Australian Retired Persons Association	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	St Vincent de Paul Society	-	6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Anglicare	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Catholic Social Services	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Over 50s Association	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Association of Independent Retirees	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Grey Pass website	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Community Housing Group	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Carers Australia	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Aged and Community Services Association	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Australian Association of Gerontologists	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	National Council of Social Services	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Department of Health and Ageing	-	6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Office of Seniors Interests	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Government agencies	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Charitable organizations	-	34%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Universities	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Websites	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Religious organizations	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No, not aware of any organizations	-	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Don't know	-	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q34CHI. Are you aware of any organizations in our country that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues?

		total	country							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
	China National Committee on Aging	-	-	18%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	National Population and Family Planning Commission of China	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Old Age Association	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Civil affairs organizations	-	-	6%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Elderly activity centers	-	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nursing homes	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	University research institutes	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No, not aware of any organizations	-	-	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Don't know	-	-	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

138

Q34IND. Are you aware of any organizations in our country that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues?

BASED ON MULTIPLE MENTIONS		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-
	HelpAge	-	-	-	48%	-	-	-	-	-
	Care	-	-	-	15%	-	-	-	-	-
	Harmony Initiative	-	-	-	8%	-	-	-	-	-
	Dignity Foundation	-	-	-	6%	-	-	-	-	-
	Age Care	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	Mother Theresa Organization	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-
	Sonali Shiksha Community	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	Vishranthi Charitable Trust	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	All India Pensioners' Association	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	ASTHA	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	Prayas	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	Lions Club	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	ICICI Bank	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-
	Charitable organizations, NGOs	-	-	-	9%	-	-	-	-	-
	Old homes	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-
	No, not aware of any organization	-	-	-	21%	-	-	-	-	-
	Don't know	-	-	-	8%	-	-	-	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-

Q34JPN. Are you aware of any organizations in our country that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues?

BASED ON MULTIPLE MENTIONS		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-
	Japanese Society of Caregiving for the Elderly	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-	-
	International Longevity Center	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-
	Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-
	Ikiki-Zaidan	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-
	Institute for the Support of the Elderly and Handicapped	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-
	Association of Elderly Clubs	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-
	Social Welfare Committee	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-
	Care Insurance Service Provider	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-
	No, not aware of any organizations	-	-	-	-	40%	-	-	-	-
	Don't know	-	-	-	-	44%	-	-	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

139

Q34KOR. Are you aware of any organizations in our country that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues?

BASED ON MULTIPLE MENTIONS		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-
	Korean Senior Citizen Association	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16%	-
	Korean Association of Retired Persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	Silver Line	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	Federation of Korean Gerontological Societies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	Korean Information and Referral Service Center on Aging	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	Ministry of Health and Welfare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22%	-
	Ministry of Gender Equality and Family	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	Ministry of Labor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	National Pension Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6%	-
	Local government social welfare agencies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-
	Seoul City Job Introduction Center	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	Korea Labor Force Development Institute for the Aged	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6%	-
	Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-
	Korea Development Institute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-
	No, not aware of any organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22%	-
	Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40%	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-

Q34NZ. Are you aware of any organizations in our country that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues?

BASED ON MULTIPLE MENTIONS		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	-	-	49	-	-	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-
	Grey Power	-	-	-	-	-	30%	-	-	-
	Age Concern	-	-	-	-	-	12%	-	-	-
	Red Cross	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-
	St Vincent de Paul Society	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-
	Alzheimers New Zealand	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-
	Retirement Commission	-	-	-	-	-	6%	-	-	-
	Human Rights Commission	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-
	Equal Employment Opportunities Trust	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-
	University of Third Age	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-
	City Councils	-	-	-	-	-	6%	-	-	-
	District Health Boards	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-
	Government agencies	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-
	Charitable organizations	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-
	Research institutes	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-
	Religious organizations	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-
	No, not aware of any organizations	-	-	-	-	-	13%	-	-	-
	Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	34%	-	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

140

Q34SIN. Are you aware of any organizations in our country that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues?

BASED ON MULTIPLE MENTIONS		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-
	Singapore Action Group of Elders	-	-	-	-	-	-	34%	-	-
	Tsao Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%	-	-
	St. Luke's Hospital and Eldercare	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Lions Befrienders	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-
	Marine Parade Family Service Center	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Agency for Lifelong Learning	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Thye Hwa Kwan Moral Society	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Lien Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Caring Hands Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	National Kidney Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	National Council of Social Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-
	Singapore National Employers Federation	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-
	National Trade Union Congress	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%	-	-
	Singapore Professionals and Executives Cooperative	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Ministry of Community Development, Youth, and Sports	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%	-	-
	Ministry of Health	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Ministry of Manpower	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Central Provident Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Singapore Human Resources Institute	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	YAH Community College	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Religious Organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Volunteer welfare organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	Community organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-
	Aware, but did not specify	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-
	No, not aware of any organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	26%	-	-
	Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q34US. Are you aware of any organizations in our country that work to improve the quality of life of older people and serve as an information source on aging issues?

BASED ON MULTIPLE MENTIONS.		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
	AARP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65%
	AFL-CIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Alliance for Retired Americans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	American Society on Aging	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%
	Area Agency on Aging	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
	Association of Retired Americans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Better Business Bureaus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%
	Catholic Charities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%
	Civic Ventures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Commonwealth Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Councils on Aging	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9%
	Employer Retiree Association	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Gerontological Society of America	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Gray Panthers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Hospice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
	Institute for Women's Policy Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Kaiser Family Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Long-term Care Coalition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Lutheran Charities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Medicare Rights Center	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	National Alliance for Caregiving	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%
	National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	National Institutes of Health	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
	Older Women's League	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
	Red Cross	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Salvation Army	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	United Way	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
	Urban Institute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Women's Research and Education Institute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%
	Social Security Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%
	State government agencies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Labor unions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
	Professional associations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%
	Religious organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%
	Local organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%
	Aware, but did not specify	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9%
	No, not aware of any organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6%
	Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

Q35. How familiar are you with the US organization called A-A-R-P, formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons—very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not familiar at all?⁶⁸

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very familiar	11%	14%	-	-	10%	2%	6%	6%	50%
	Somewhat familiar	16%	28%	8%	8%	10%	2%	24%	8%	42%
	Not too familiar	20%	30%	32%	8%	20%	29%	8%	26%	4%
	Not familiar at all	50%	28%	60%	78%	60%	67%	62%	44%	3%
	Don't know	2%	-	-	4%	-	-	-	14%	-
	Refused	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	2%	1%

143

Q36. What is your overall impression of AARP—very favorable, somewhat favorable, not very favorable, or not favorable at all?

Based on respondents who are very familiar, somewhat familiar or not too familiar with AARP

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	210	36	20	8	20	16	19	20	71
	WEIGHTED BASE	187	36	20	8	20	16	19	20	48
	Very favorable	18%	19%	10%	27%	20%	-	21%	20%	21%
	Somewhat favorable	51%	36%	65%	36%	50%	37%	74%	45%	57%
	Not very favorable	5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%	14%
	Not favorable at all	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
	Don't know	23%	44%	25%	25%	30%	63%	5%	15%	-
	Refused	3%	-	-	11%	-	-	-	10%	5%

Q37. If an organization like AARP was established in our country, how helpful would this be to older people—very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not helpful at all?^{69,70}

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	349	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	350	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	-
	Very helpful	38%	24%	32%	59%	38%	35%	48%	30%	-
	Somewhat helpful	47%	52%	56%	34%	54%	55%	38%	42%	-
	Not too helpful	8%	12%	8%	4%	4%	4%	10%	16%	-
	Not helpful at all	2%	4%	-	2%	2%	4%	-	-	-
	Don't know	5%	8%	4%	2%	2%	2%	4%	10%	-
	Refused	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-

⁶⁸ Respondents in the US were asked “How familiar are you with A-A-R-P, formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons—very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not familiar at all?”

⁶⁹ Q37 through Q39 were not asked in the US.

⁷⁰ Before being asked this question, respondents outside the US were read the following: AARP is a not-for-profit organization that works to improve the quality of life of older people who are age 50 or older. The organization works with the U.S. central government, local governments and businesses to be sure that older people have what they need for their health, finances and jobs. It also offers education programs, travel discounts and social opportunities for the older people who join. To join AARP, older people pay approximately \$12 a year, which is a low fee in the U.S.

Q38a. Why do you think the organization would be helpful. Is **it would provide knowledge and expertise** a big reason, moderate reason, small reason, or not a reason at all such an organization would be helpful?

Based on respondents who think an organization like AARP would be very helpful or somewhat helpful

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	297	38	44	46	46	44	43	36	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	298	38	44	46	46	45	43	36	-
	Big reason	55%	47%	55%	57%	54%	66%	70%	33%	-
	Moderate reason	37%	37%	43%	35%	28%	34%	26%	58%	-
	Small reason	7%	16%	2%	4%	17%	-	5%	8%	-
	Not a reason at all	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Don't know	1%	-	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

144

Q38b. Why do you think the organization would be helpful. Is **it would raise awareness about aging** a big reason, moderate reason, small reason, or not a reason at all such an organization would be helpful?

Based on respondents who think an organization like AARP would be very helpful or somewhat helpful

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	297	38	44	46	46	44	43	36	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	298	38	44	46	46	45	43	36	-
	Big reason	64%	71%	82%	76%	67%	61%	49%	36%	-
	Moderate reason	30%	24%	16%	22%	28%	39%	37%	50%	-
	Small reason	4%	5%	-	2%	2%	-	12%	11%	-
	Not a reason at all	1%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	3%	-
	Don't know	*	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-
	Refused	*	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q38c. Why do you think the organization would be helpful. Is **it would influence government policy** a big reason, moderate reason, small reason, or not a reason at all such an organization would be helpful?

Based on respondents who think an organization like AARP would be very helpful or somewhat helpful

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	297	38	44	46	46	44	43	36	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	298	38	44	46	46	45	43	36	-
	Big reason	39%	37%	41%	46%	46%	36%	33%	33%	-
	Moderate reason	50%	61%	45%	35%	46%	61%	49%	56%	-
	Small reason	7%	3%	11%	9%	7%	-	14%	8%	-
	Not a reason at all	2%	-	-	4%	-	-	5%	3%	-
	Don't know	2%	-	-	6%	2%	2%	-	-	-
	Refused	*	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q39a. Why do you think the organization would not be helpful. Is **it would not work with our system of government** a big reason, moderate reason, small reason, or not a reason at all such an organization would not be helpful?

Based on respondents who think an organization like AARP would not be too helpful or not helpful at all

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	35	8	4	3	3	4	5	8	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	35	8	4	3	3	4	5	8	-
	Big reason	17%	38%	25%	34%	-	-	20%	-	-
	Moderate reason	32%	25%	50%	34%	-	27%	20%	50%	-
	Small reason	29%	25%	25%	-	33%	24%	20%	50%	-
	Not a reason at all	17%	13%	-	31%	33%	49%	20%	-	-
	Don't know	6%	-	-	-	33%	-	20%	-	-
Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

145

Q39b. Why do you think the organization would not be helpful. Is **we don't need any more organizations; there are too many already** a big reason, moderate reason, small reason, or not a reason at all such an organization would not be helpful?

Based on respondents who think an organization like AARP would not be too helpful or not helpful at all

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	35	8	4	3	3	4	5	8	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	35	8	4	3	3	4	5	8	-
	Big reason	26%	75%	-	34%	33%	27%	-	-	-
	Moderate reason	20%	13%	25%	-	-	-	-	63%	-
	Small reason	14%	-	50%	34%	-	24%	20%	-	-
	Not a reason at all	34%	13%	25%	31%	33%	49%	80%	25%	-
	Don't know	6%	-	-	-	33%	-	-	13%	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q39c. Why do you think the organization would not be helpful. Is **the issues are too complicated for any one organization to tackle** a big reason, moderate reason, small reason, or not a reason at all such an organization would not be helpful?

Based on respondents who think an organization like AARP would not be too helpful or not helpful at all

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	35	8	4	3	3	4	5	8	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	35	8	4	3	3	4	5	8	-
	Big reason	29%	13%	100%	34%	67%	27%	-	13%	-
	Moderate reason	31%	38%	-	34%	-	-	20%	75%	-
	Small reason	14%	13%	-	-	-	24%	40%	13%	-
	Not a reason at all	25%	38%	-	31%	33%	49%	40%	-	-
	Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Q40a. If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would **educating people in other countries about issues related to aging and retirement** be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not helpful at all?^{71,72}

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very helpful	37%	36%	16%	56%	32%	57%	52%	20%	26%
	Somewhat helpful	45%	52%	56%	42%	52%	29%	46%	48%	37%
	Not too helpful	10%	12%	18%	2%	12%	6%	2%	20%	10%
	Not helpful at all	3%	-	4%	-	-	4%	-	6%	8%
	Don't know	3%	-	2%	-	4%	4%	-	6%	8%
	Refused	2%	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	12%

146

Q40b. If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would **organizing conferences to bring together policy makers and aging experts from various countries** be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not helpful at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very helpful	35%	48%	20%	53%	24%	45%	44%	14%	29%
	Somewhat helpful	48%	40%	54%	38%	56%	45%	44%	60%	45%
	Not too helpful	11%	8%	20%	7%	16%	4%	12%	16%	6%
	Not helpful at all	3%	4%	-	2%	2%	4%	-	4%	7%
	Don't know	2%	-	2%	-	2%	2%	-	6%	4%
	Refused	2%	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	9%

Q40c. If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would **meeting with government policy makers to exchange information about aging and retirement** be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not helpful at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very helpful	30%	34%	18%	43%	24%	33%	42%	14%	32%
	Somewhat helpful	57%	54%	66%	49%	60%	55%	54%	68%	48%
	Not too helpful	7%	10%	10%	8%	12%	4%	2%	6%	4%
	Not helpful at all	2%	2%	-	-	-	4%	2%	6%	6%
	Don't know	2%	-	2%	-	4%	4%	-	6%	3%
	Refused	1%	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	7%

⁷¹ Before being asked this question, respondents in the US were read the following: AARP is a not-for-profit organization that works to improve the quality of life of older people who are age 50 or older. The organization works with the federal government, local governments, and businesses to be sure that older people have what they need for their health, finances and jobs. It also offers education programs, travel discounts and social opportunities for the older people who join. To join AARP, older people pay approximately \$12 a year.

⁷² Respondents in the US were asked "If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be for other countries?"

Q40d. If AARP were to play a role in promoting the interests of older people in countries other than the United States, how helpful would the following activities be? Would **helping establish similar organizations in other countries** be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not helpful at all?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Very helpful	29%	30%	20%	62%	26%	23%	36%	12%	25%
	Somewhat helpful	50%	58%	50%	32%	54%	55%	48%	58%	42%
	Not too helpful	12%	8%	20%	4%	12%	16%	12%	18%	7%
	Not helpful at all	4%	4%	4%	2%	2%	4%	2%	6%	8%
	Don't know	3%	-	2%	-	6%	2%	2%	6%	8%
	Refused	2%	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	10%

147

D1. Sex

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Male	74%	62%	86%	81%	90%	47%	72%	92%	60%
	Female	26%	38%	14%	19%	10%	53%	28%	8%	39%
	No answer	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%

D2. What is your age?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	423	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	74
	WEIGHTED BASE	400	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	40 or less	30%	26%	52%	27%	20%	24%	42%	34%	12%
	41 to 50	30%	36%	26%	19%	16%	39%	28%	54%	20%
	51 to 60	30%	34%	20%	37%	36%	33%	24%	8%	50%
	Over 60	8%	2%	2%	11%	24%	2%	6%	4%	12%
	Refused	3%	2%	-	6%	4%	2%	-	-	7%

D3. Have you ever studied abroad?⁷³

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	349	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	350	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	-
	Yes	40%	50%	22%	26%	20%	45%	74%	40%	-
	No	60%	50%	78%	72%	76%	55%	26%	60%	-
	Refused	1%	-	-	2%	4%	-	-	-	-

⁷³ D3 through D5 were not asked in the US.

D4. Which country or countries did you study in?

Based on respondents who have studied abroad

BASED ON MULTIPLE MENTIONS		total	topline_country							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	138	25	11	13	10	22	37	20	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	138	25	11	13	10	22	37	20	-
	United States	45%	44%	36%	31%	60%	32%	49%	60%	-
	United Kingdom	31%	36%	27%	22%	20%	37%	38%	15%	-
	Australia	15%	8%	-	8%	10%	36%	22%	5%	-
	Canada	12%	36%	-	-	-	13%	11%	5%	-
	Sweden	5%	24%	-	-	-	5%	-	-	-
	India	4%	-	-	-	-	4%	14%	-	-
	Germany	4%	4%	9%	-	10%	-	5%	-	-
	France	2%	4%	-	-	-	-	5%	-	-
	Italy	2%	4%	-	7%	-	5%	-	-	-
	Singapore	2%	-	9%	8%	-	-	-	5%	-
	China	1%	-	-	-	10%	-	3%	-	-
	Japan	2%	-	-	10%	-	-	-	5%	-
	Netherlands	1%	-	-	14%	-	-	-	-	-
	Switzerland	2%	4%	-	-	-	5%	-	-	-
	Zimbabwe	2%	-	-	-	-	9%	-	-	-
	Austria	1%	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Belgium	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	-
	Finland	1%	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New Zealand	1%	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Russia	1%	-	9%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	South Africa	1%	-	-	-	-	5%	-	-	-
	South Korea	1%	-	-	-	-	-	3%	-	-
	Thailand	1%	-	-	-	-	-	3%	-	-
	Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Refused	1%	-	9%	-	-	-	-	-	-

148

D5a. Have you ever traveled to the United States?

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	349	50	50	50	50	49	50	50	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	350	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	-
	Yes	63%	66%	38%	47%	56%	77%	88%	70%	-
	No	36%	34%	62%	49%	42%	23%	12%	30%	-
	Refused	1%	-	-	4%	2%	-	-	-	-

D5b. Was this within the past 10 years or earlier?

Based on respondents who have traveled to the United States

		total	COUNTRY							
		Total	AUS	CHI	IND	JPN	NZ	SIN	KOR	US
	UNWEIGHTED BASE	221	33	19	24	28	38	44	35	-
	WEIGHTED BASE	221	33	19	24	28	39	44	35	-
	Within past 10 years	84%	82%	63%	92%	79%	87%	89%	86%	-
	Earlier	16%	18%	37%	8%	21%	13%	11%	14%	-
	Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-