

A decorative graphic is present on the page, featuring a large, thin, light-brown arc that starts near the top right and curves down towards the bottom right. A horizontal line and a vertical line intersect at the end of this arc, with a small yellow square at the intersection point. Another horizontal line and a vertical line intersect at the end of the arc near the top left, with a small yellow square at the intersection point. A solid green rectangular area is located in the top left corner of the page.

Health Care Reform and Long-Term Care: A Survey of AARP Members in New Mexico

January 2008



Health Care Reform and Long-Term Care: A Survey of AARP Members in New Mexico

**Report Prepared by
Erica Dinger, J.D. and Joanne Binette**

**Copyright © 2008
AARP
Knowledge Management
601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049
<http://www.aarp.org/research/>
Reprinting with Permission**

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

Acknowledgements

AARP staff from the New Mexico State Office, State Affairs, and Knowledge Management contributed to the design and implementation of this study. Thanks also go to AARP staff including Michael Donnelly, New Mexico State Office; Brian Elms, State Affairs; Rachelle Cummins, Kate Bridges, Darlene Matthews, Sam Gager and Jennifer Leslie, Knowledge Management who assisted with survey design and report preparation. Additional thanks go to Jami Wyatt, Office of General Counsel, for her review of the report. Joanne Binette AARP Knowledge Management, managed all aspects of the project. Joanne Binette and Erica Dinger co-wrote the report. For more information, contact Joanne Binette at (202) 434-6303.

New Mexico Members: Health Care Issues are Top of Mind

Health care issues are of top importance to New Mexico members and to people across the country. Rising health care costs and reduced employee and retirement health care benefits make staying fully insured difficult for thousands of New Mexicans. One in five New Mexico residents are currently without health care coverage and one in ten of the state's seniors live in poverty.¹ Having access to and choice of quality long-term care services are also issues of concern to New Mexico members as well as many Americans. As people live longer lives and the baby boom generation ages there will be an increased need for a variety of long-term care services.

AARP's New Mexico State Office, in response to the needs of its membership, commissioned this survey to explore the attitudes and opinions of members in the state about health care reform and long-term care issues. This mail survey of 2,000 randomly selected AARP members in New Mexico was conducted in August 2007. Eight hundred sixty-seven surveys were returned yielding a response rate of 43.4 percent and a sampling error of plus or minus 3.3 percent.² The survey findings show:

- **Almost three in four members agree that all residents should have access to basic health care coverage.** Most respondents (85%) say it is important for New Mexico to make health care more affordable for all residents. Over half say government should treat health care as an entitlement. Fully 65 percent would support expanding access to affordable, quality health care even if it meant an increase in taxes. Finally, 60 percent say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who works to give people access to affordable and adequate health care.
- **Health care costs are a major concern.** About six in ten are extremely or very worried about having to pay more for their health care or not being able to afford the health care services they need. Additionally, over half are worried about not being able to pay for a major illness or injury.
- **Although members want to stay at home as they age, many are concerned that they cannot afford to do so.** About half of members say that they are worried about their ability to afford long-term care and 62 percent are not confident in their ability to afford these services once they are told the average cost in New Mexico.

¹ "HRSA White Paper on Uninsured in New Mexico & Options to Provide Coverage." 2004. United States Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

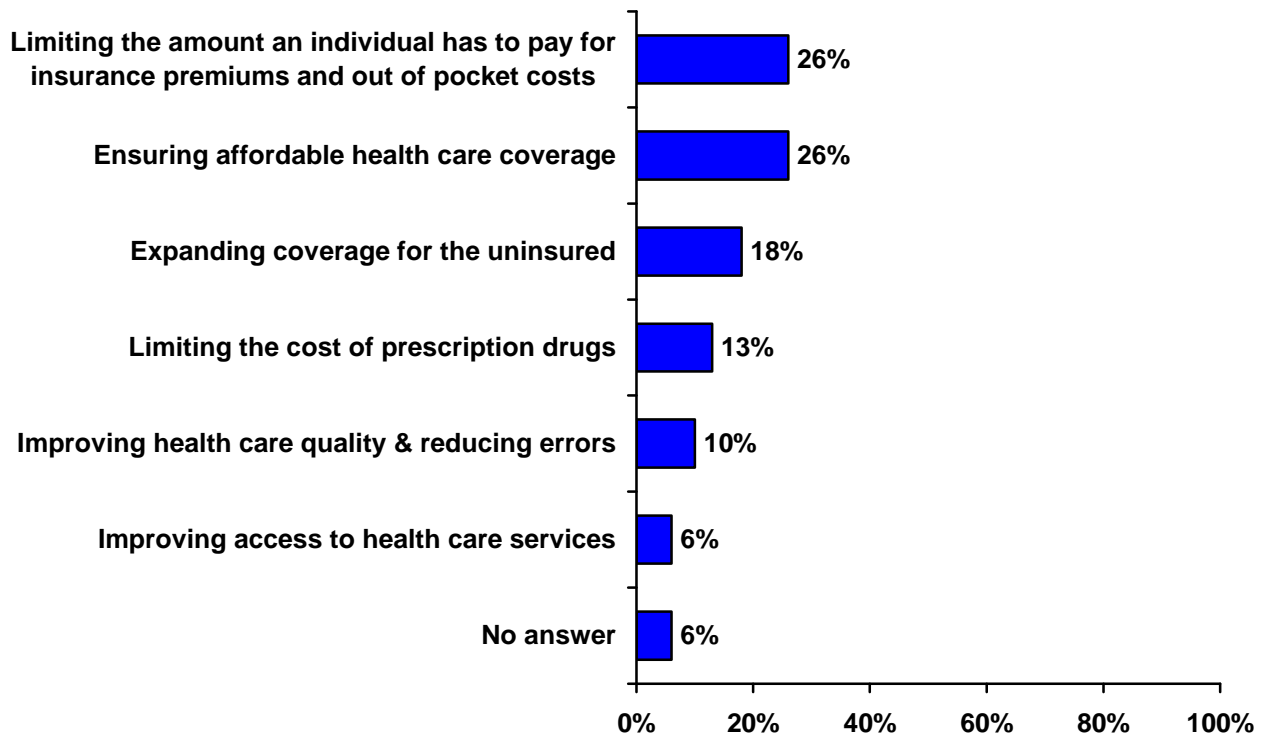
² See page 15 for a detailed methodology.

The findings from this study reveal strong support among AARP members in New Mexico for access to affordable health and long-term care options. More than half of those polled say that it is important for New Mexico to make health care affordable for all residents and think that health care should be an entitlement. Sixty-five percent, which translates into 170,738 members, support expanding access to affordable, quality health care for all even if it means an increase in taxes. It is important for policymakers in New Mexico to consider these survey findings and work on providing their citizens with affordable and quality health and long-term care options.

Top Health Care Issues for New Mexico AARP Members

New Mexico AARP members were given a list of health care issues and asked to choose the one issue that they believe the Governor and State Legislators should focus on in the 2007-2008 legislative session. The top health care issues for members focus on reducing health care costs, including limiting insurance premiums and out of pocket costs and ensuring affordable health care coverage.

Top Health Care Issue for the Governor and State Legislators to Work on in 2007-2008 (N=867)



✚ Members were also given a broader list of legislative priorities and asked how much of a priority each one should be for AARP's New Mexico State Office to work on. Members say that reducing health care costs should be a top priority for AARP's New Mexico State Office. Six in ten say making prescriptions drugs more affordable should be a top priority for AARP, while half say strengthening Medicare should be a top priority.³

✚ About four in ten members say that long-term care issues such as enforcing quality regulations (44%) and expanding access to home and community based long-term care (40%) should be a top priority.

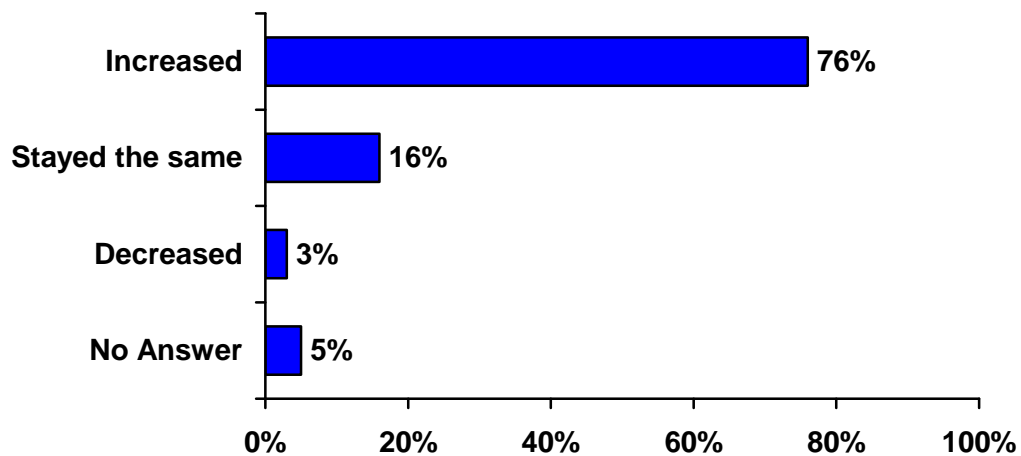
³ See page 14 for a full ranking of legislative priorities.

Health Care in New Mexico

Members say that their health care costs have increased.

For the majority of members, health care costs have increased over the last five years. Only three percent of members say their health care costs have decreased.

**Change in Health Care Cost in New Mexico in the Last Five Years
(N=867)**

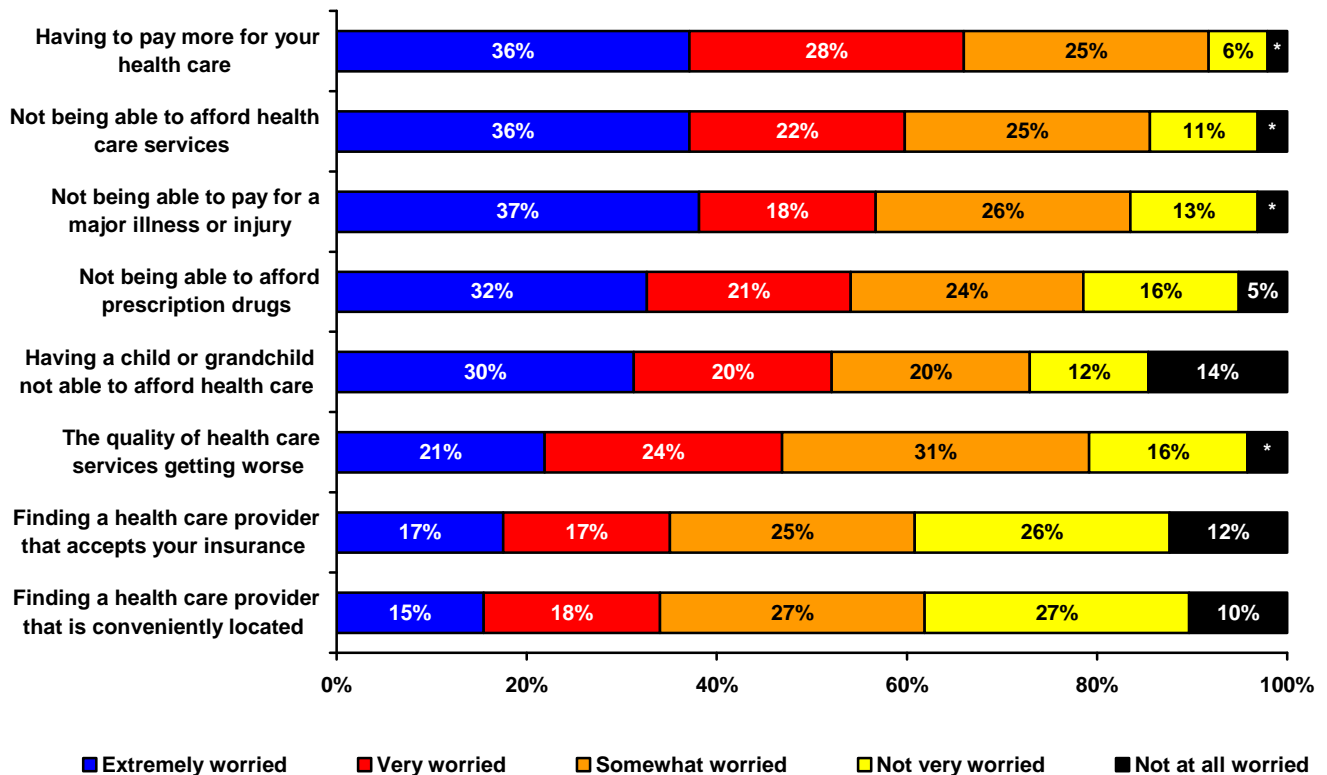


- ✚ Although the cost of health care has increased, 51 percent of members say the quality of their health care has stayed the same. Seventeen percent say the quality of their care has worsened, while 26 percent say it has gotten better.
- ✚ Over half of members say they are very (10%) or somewhat (42%) satisfied with the quality of their health care in New Mexico. About two in ten are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, while 27 percent are dissatisfied (19% somewhat, 8% very).

Members are concerned about the financial impacts of health care.

Concerns about health care affordability top the list of health care worries for New Mexico members. Paying more for health care, not being able to afford services, and not being able to pay for a major illness are the top health care worries.

Top Health Care Worries of AARP Members in New Mexico*
(N=867)



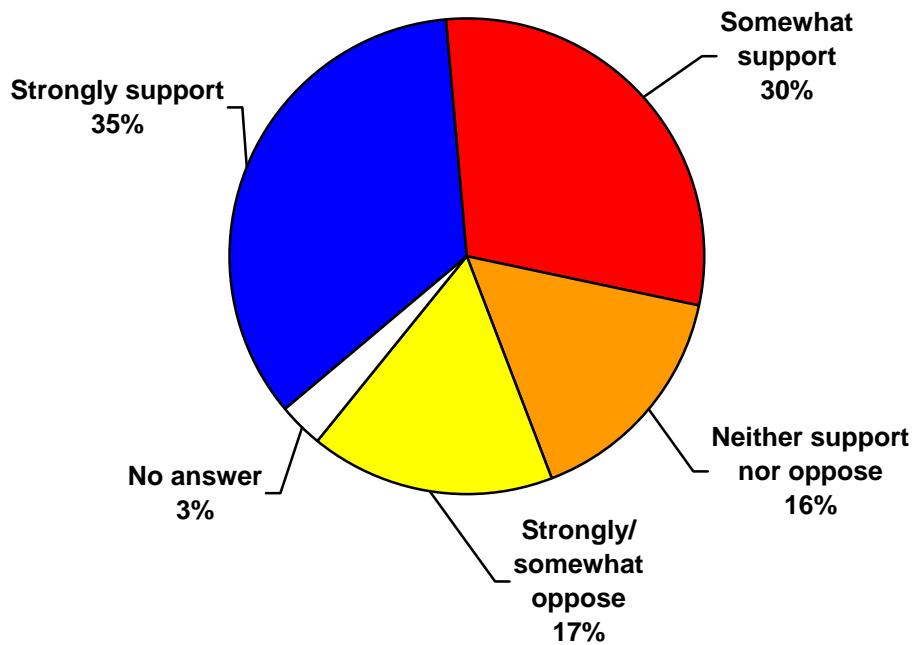
*Indicates a response of less than 5%

✚ Members age 50-59 are more likely to be worried about each of these health care issues than are members 60 and over, with the exception of finding a health care provider that is conveniently located.

New Mexico Members support expanding access to affordable health care for all residents.

Approximately two-thirds (65%) of New Mexico members support expanding access to affordable, quality health care for all New Mexicans, even if that means an increase in taxes.

**Support for Expanding Access to Affordable, Quality Health Care
(N=867)***



*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

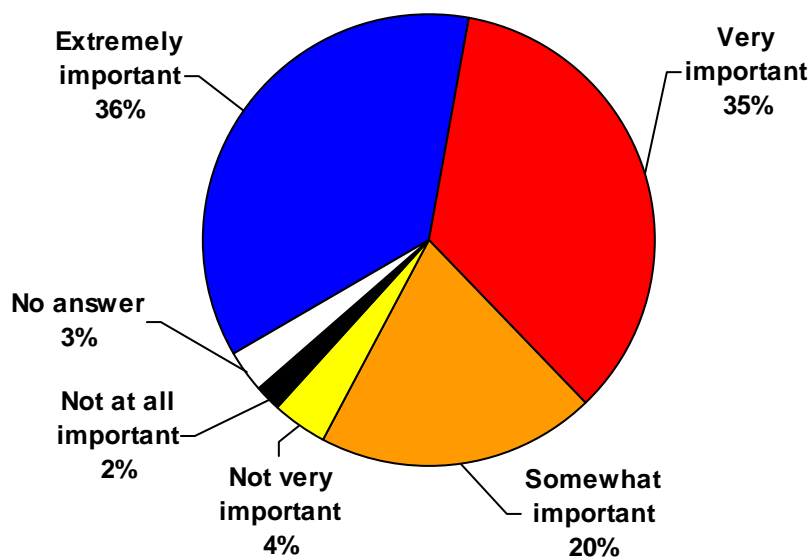
- ✚ More than eight in ten members say it is extremely (57%) or very (28%) important for New Mexico to make health care more affordable for all residents.
- ✚ More than half (54%) of members say that the government should treat health care as an entitlement, like education, police, and fire protection.

Health Care Coverage in New Mexico

Members want to reduce the numbers of uninsured residents in the state.

One in five New Mexicans are currently without some sort of health care coverage⁴ and with the perception that health care costs are on the rise it comes as no surprise that seven in ten members (71%) say it is extremely or very important for the State of New Mexico to reduce the number of residents without health care coverage.

**Importance of Reducing the Number of Residents Without Health Care
(N=867)**



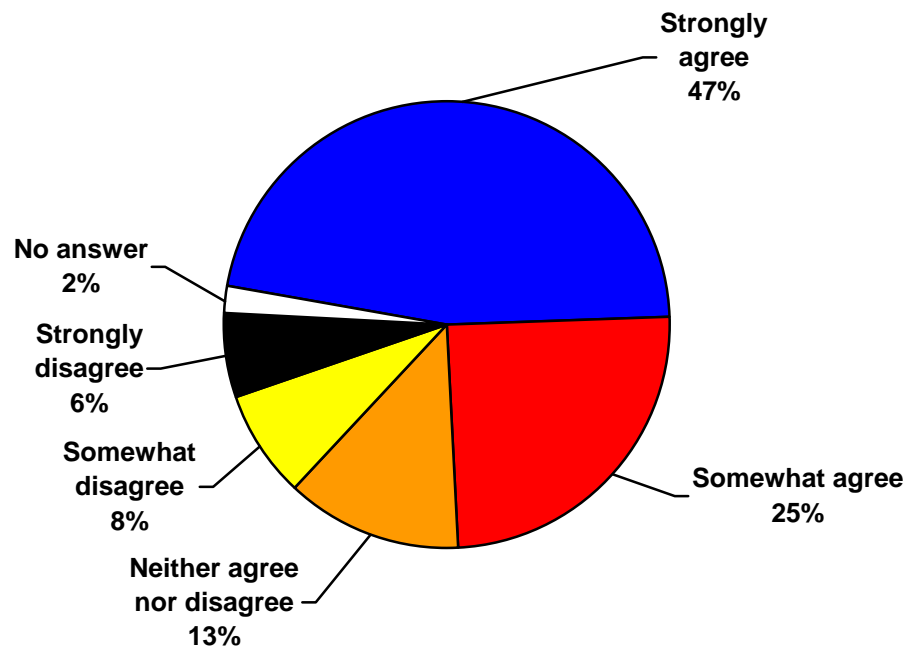
- ✚ About half of members say they are extremely (24%) or very (25%) concerned that their level of health care coverage could be reduced if the government reduces the number of uninsured residents. Three in ten are somewhat concerned, while about two in ten are not very (12%) or not at all (6%) concerned.

⁴ 2006 American Community Survey/Current Population Survey, US Census Bureau

Seven in ten members agree that all residents should have access to the same basic health care coverage.

Seven in ten (72%) of those surveyed agree that all New Mexico residents should be guaranteed the same basic health care coverage.

Agree that New Mexico Should Guarantee the Same Basic Health Care Coverage for all Residents* (N=867)



*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

- ✚ More than half of members (55%) say that it is the responsibility of individuals, government, and employers to guaranteed basic health care coverage. About one-quarter says that responsibility should rest with government (28%) or individuals (26%).
- ✚ Six in ten New Mexico members say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for public office if he or she supported a health care system that would make available the same basic health care coverage to all state residents.

Long-Term Care in New Mexico

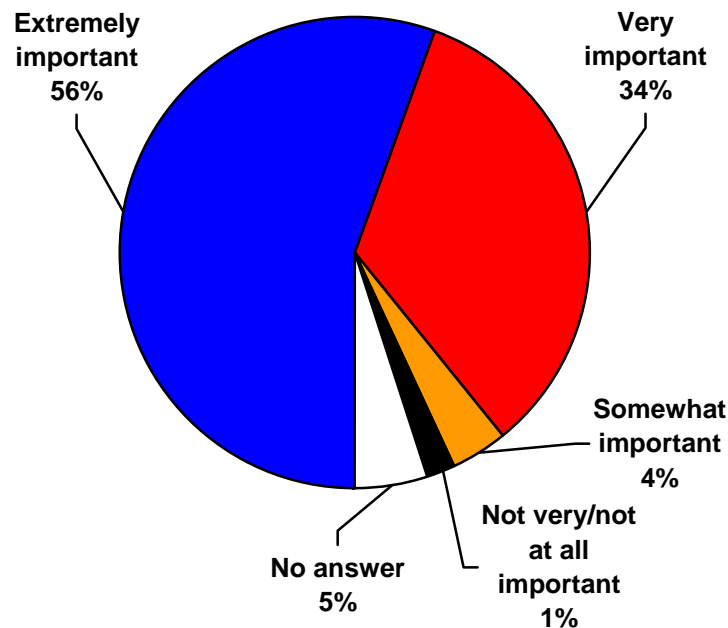
Members have experience with long-term care and believe they will need it in the future.

Almost three in ten (28%) members say that they or someone in their family have used long-term care services in the last five years. A third says that it is extremely (14%) or very (19%) likely that they will utilize such services in the next five years.

Members want to receive long-term care services in their own homes.

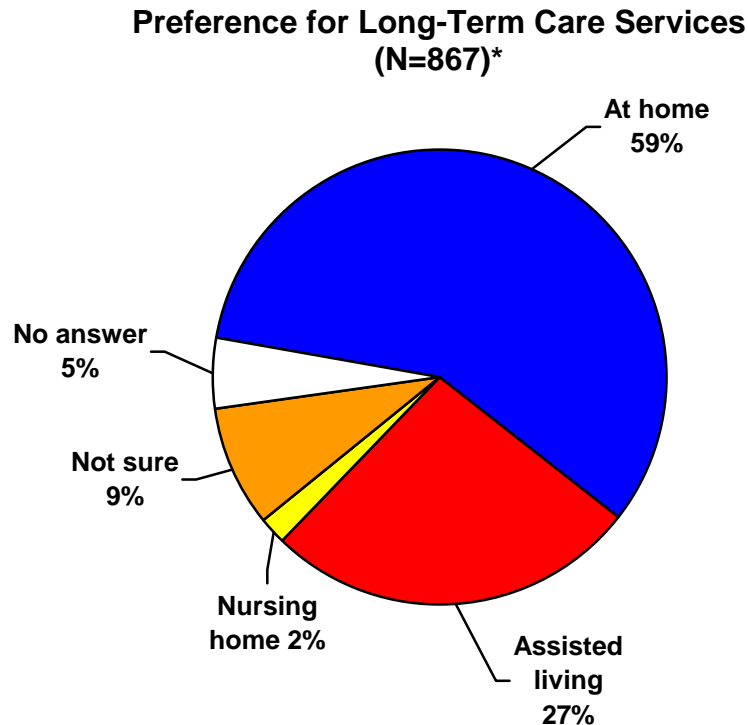
New Mexico members want to receive long-term care services at home. Nine in ten say that it is extremely or very important to have services that enable them or a family member to stay at home as long as possible.

**Importance of Having Long-Term Care that Enables you to Stay at Home
(N=867)**



Four in ten members would prefer to pay a nurse or care aide to provide care at home.

When asked how they would prefer to receive long-term care services, six in ten members say they want to receive these services at home either from a paid nurse or personal care aide (42%) or from family and friends (16%).



*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Members are not well informed about long-term care services provided in their communities.

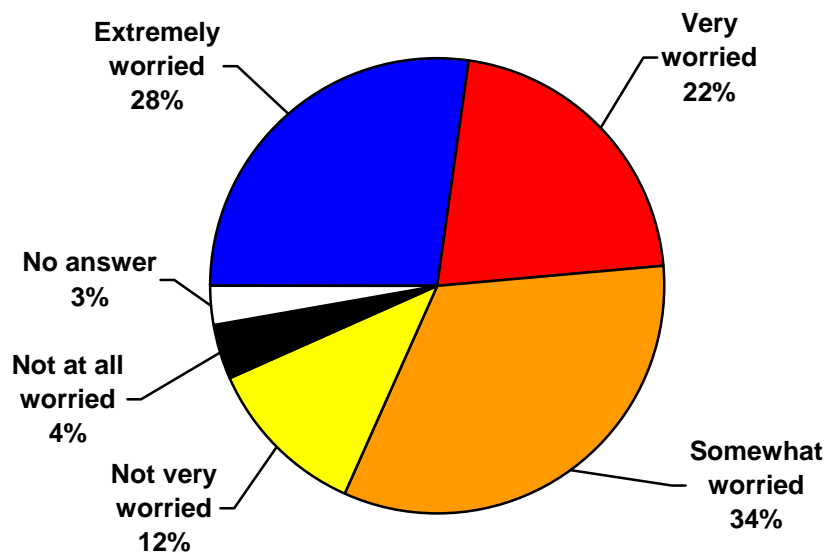
Only 16 percent of New Mexico members say they are extremely (4%) or very (12%) well informed about long-term care services provided at home and in their communities. Four in ten say they are somewhat informed while almost four in ten are not very (29%) or not at all (8%) informed.

Fully half of members say they get information about long-term care issues from AARP. Other sources of information are family, friends, and neighbors (40%), newspapers (32%), magazines (26%), television (26%), and doctors (24%).

Members are worried about their ability to afford long-term care services.

Half of members in New Mexico (51%) are extremely or very worried about their ability to afford long-term care for themselves or a family member.

**Worry Among Members About their Ability to Afford Long-Term Care
(N=867)***



*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

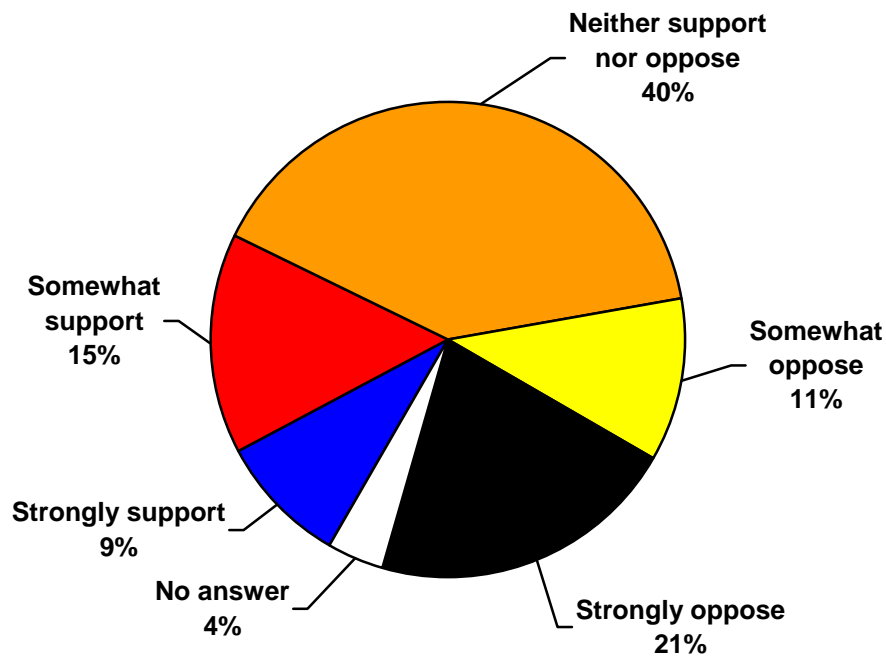
- ✚ More than six in ten members say they are not very (29%) or not at all (33%) confident of their ability to afford long-term care services for one year at state averages. Currently in New Mexico, the average cost for just two hours of in-home care for a year is \$19,000 and for one year of full-time nursing home care it is \$50,000.⁵
- ✚ Three in ten New Mexico members say there is not enough money in the state budget to meet the current need for long-term care services and ensure quality care. Almost half (47%) are not sure of the state's funding for health and long-term care.

⁵ What is the Cost of Long-Term Care. Genworth Financial. 2007.
http://longtermcare.genworth.com/overview/cost_of_care.jsp

New Mexico Members are unsure about requiring individuals to purchase long-term care insurance.

Four in ten members say they neither agree nor disagree with requiring individuals to buy long-term care insurance. About a third strongly or somewhat opposes this requirement while about one-quarter strongly or somewhat supports it.

**Support for Requiring Individuals to Purchase Long-Term Care Insurance
(N=867)**



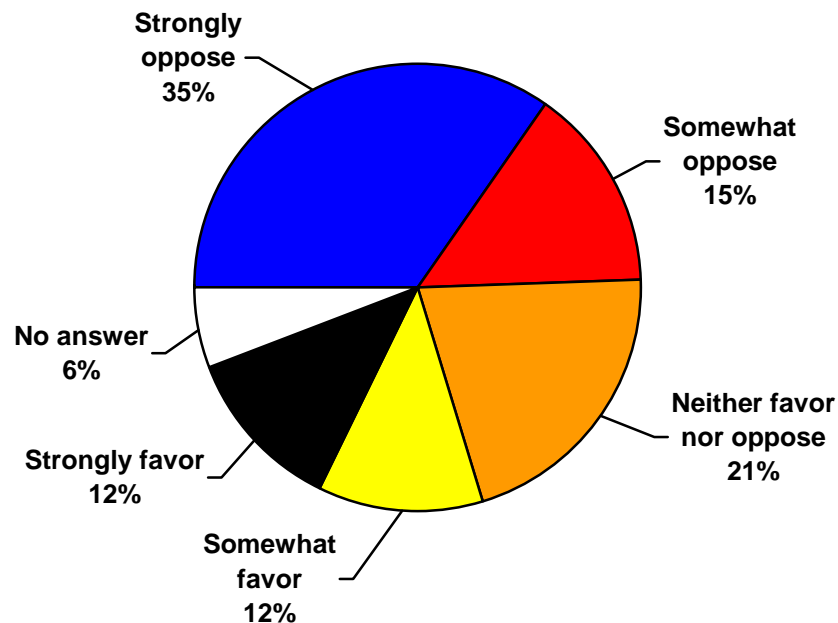
- Interestingly, New Mexico members with higher incomes are more likely to strongly oppose requiring people to buy long-term care insurance than members with lower incomes (\$50K or more: 26% versus less than \$50K: 16%).

Medicaid Policy in New Mexico

Members oppose expanding the look back provisions in Medicaid.

There is currently a proposal to extend the time period the government could “look back” at the finances of anyone applying for Medicaid from three to five years. Half of New Mexico members oppose a change in the look back provision that would allow the state government to deny Medicaid long-term care coverage to those who have given away some or all of their money within five years of applying for benefits.

Support Among Members for Changing the Look Back Law for Medicaid (N=867)*

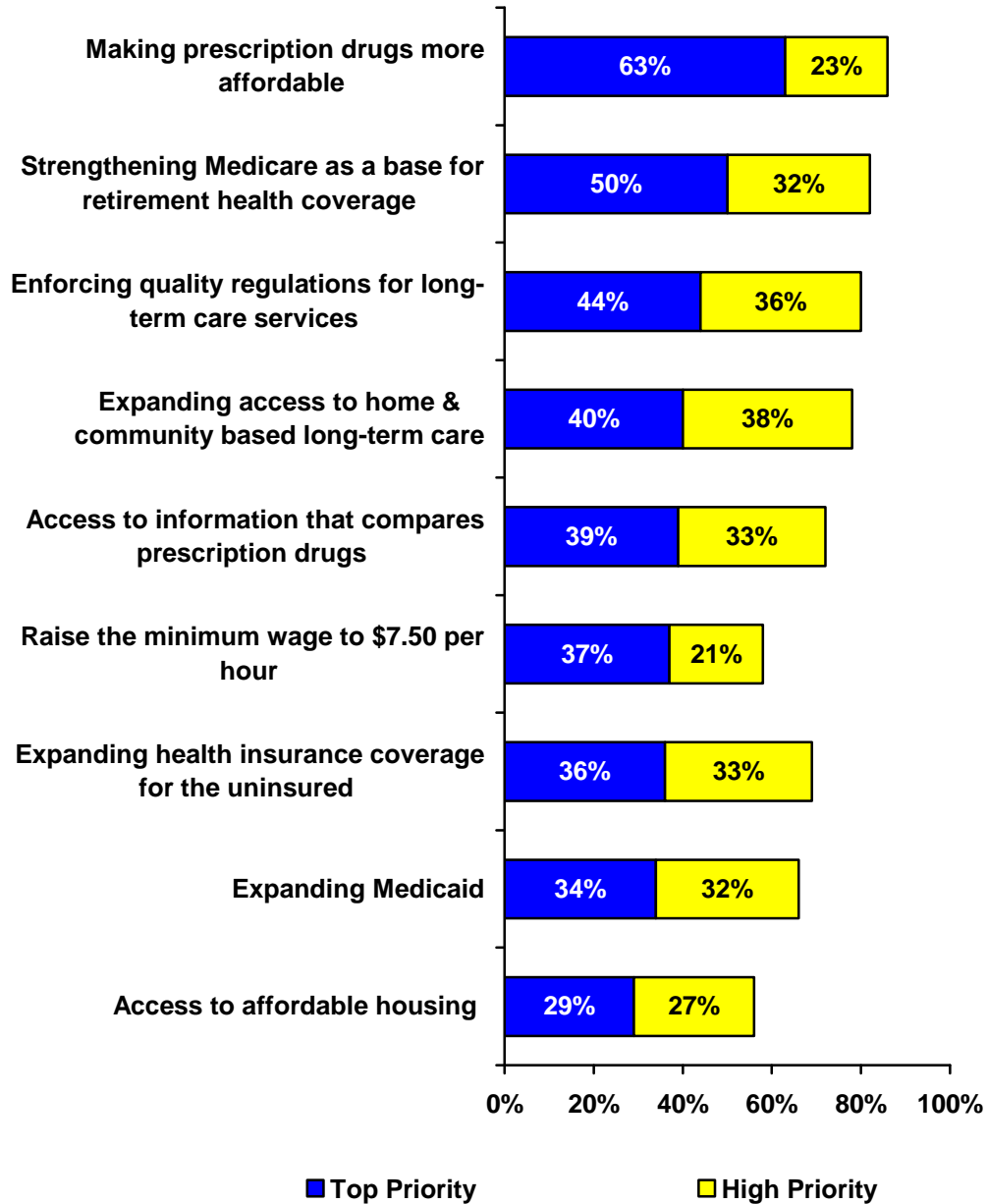


*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

- ✚ Eight in ten members say that homeowners should not be required to tap their home equity before getting Medicaid coverage for long-term care expenses.
- ✚ Two thirds of members say that expanding Medicaid should be a top (34%) or high (32%) priority for AARP’s New Mexico State Office.

Profile of Legislative Issues in New Mexico

Top State Legislative Issues in New Mexico
(N=867)



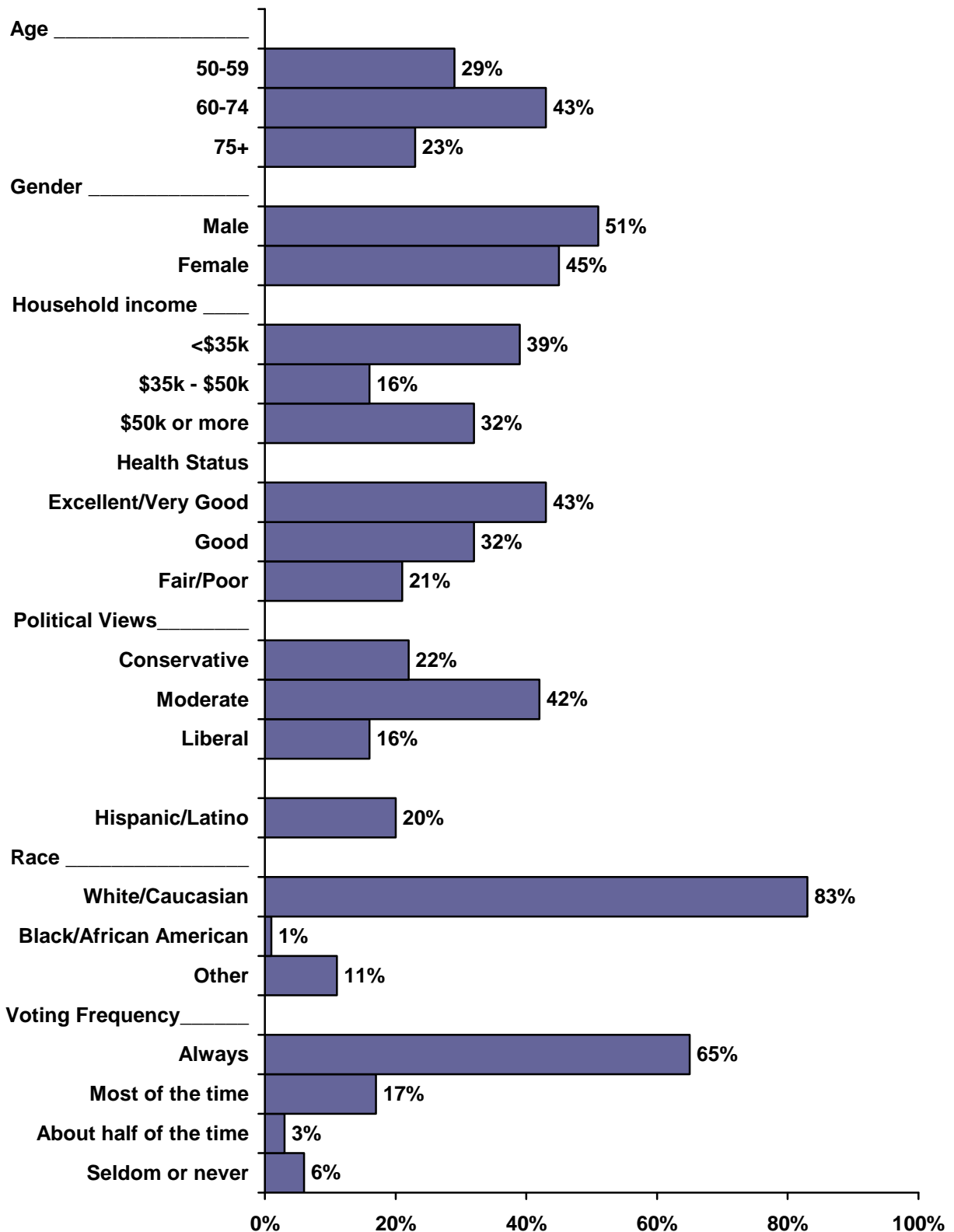
Methodology

AARP conducted the New Mexico Health and Long-Term Care Survey between August 14 and September 11, 2007. Mail surveys were sent to a randomly selected sample of 2,000 members, stratified by age, so as to select members proportionate to each of three age groups: 50-59, 60-74, and 75+. Each sampled member was contacted about the survey in four ways: a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey.

Of those surveyed, 867 returned completed questionnaires by the survey end date, yielding a response rate of 43.4 percent. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.3 percent. Survey responses were weighted to reflect the actual distribution of members by age. Throughout the report, statistics representing member responses are reported in percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. As of December 2007, the number of AARP members in New Mexico was 262,906.

Demographics

(N=867 AARP Members in New Mexico Age 50+)



APPENDIX

ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

2007 AARP's New Mexico State Office Health and Long-Term Care Survey

(Weighted N=867)

For each survey item below, check the box that best represents your opinion or experience.

State Legislative Issues

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

	Top Priority %	High Priority %	Medium Priority %	Low Priority %	Not a Priority %	Not Sure %	No Answer
a. Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured.....	36	33	16	6	6	2	2
b. Expanding Medicaid, the government program that provides health and long-term care for low income people and many nursing home residents.....	34	32	20	6	4	2	2
c. Strengthening Medicare as a base for retirement health coverage	50	32	10	2	2	2	3
d. Expanding access to home and community based long-term care services.....	40	38	16	3	1	1	1
e. Enforcing quality regulations for long-term care services	44	36	15	1	1	1	3
f. Making prescription drugs more affordable	63	23	8	2	2	*	2
g. Access to information that compares the safety, effectiveness, and costs of prescription drugs	39	33	18	5	2	*	2
h. Access to affordable housing.....	29	27	25	10	6	1	3
i. Raise the minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour	37	21	21	9	9	2	2

2. If you had to pick ONE of the following health care issues for the Governor and State Legislature to work on in 2007-2008, which of the following would it be? (PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER.)

%

- 18 Expanding coverage for the uninsured
- 10 Improving health care quality and reducing errors
- 6 Improving access to health care services
- 13 Limiting the cost of prescription drugs
- 26 Ensuring affordable health care coverage
- 26 Limiting the amount an individual has to pay for insurance premiums and out of pocket costs
- 6 No answer

Long-Term Care

Long-term care refers to care provided over an extended period of time in a nursing home, at home, or in a community setting. People of all ages who are frail, ill, or have a disability who need assistance with regular daily activities, such as getting dressed, bathing, preparing meals or eating may receive long-term care services. Long-term care can be provided in a nursing home, or in a home and community-based setting, such as a person's home by a nurse, a nurse's aide, family, or in an assisted-living facility.

3. Which of the following statements best describes New Mexico's current funding for health and long-term care services? (PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER.)

%

- 5 There is *more than enough money* in the state budget to meet the need for services and ensure quality.
- 13 There is *enough money* in the state budget to meet the need for services and ensure quality.
- 30 There is *not enough money* in the state budget to meet the need for services and ensure quality.
- 47 Not sure
- 6 No answer

4. Have you or anyone in your family -- such as grandparents, parents, children, or a sister or brother -- used long-term care services within the last five years?

%

- 28 Yes
- 65 No
- 2 Not sure
- 5 No answer

5. How likely is it that you or a family member will need long-term care in the next five years?

- %
14 Extremely likely
19 Very likely
31 Somewhat likely
26 Not very likely
5 Not at all likely
5 No answer

6. If you or a family member needed long-term care services, how important would it be to you to have services that would enable you or your family member to stay at home as long as possible?

- %
56 Extremely important
34 Very important
4 Somewhat important
1 Not very important
1 Not at all important
5 No answer

7. If you needed long-term care services, how would you prefer to receive those services? (PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER.)

- %
16 Have family and friends provide all the care at home
42 Pay a nurse or a personal care aide to provide care at home
27 Have care provided in a home-like setting such as an assisted living or a care home where housing, food, and personal help with bathing, dressing, and other activities are provided to those who need them
2 Have care provided in a nursing home
9 Not sure
5 No answer

8. How well informed would you say you are about long-term care services provided at home and in community settings in your community?

- %
4 Extremely informed
12 Very informed
42 Somewhat informed
29 Not very informed
8 Not at all informed
5 No answer

9. When it comes to long-term care issues, where do you get most of your information from? (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

<u>%</u>	
12	Health and Human Services
12	Senior Center
4	Community Health Clinic
18	Internet
40	Friends, family, neighbor
24	Doctor or Physician
10	Nurse or Nurse Practitioner
32	Newspaper
26	Magazines
26	Television
8	Radio
50	AARP
5	Other: (Specify)_____
5	No answer

10. How worried are you about being able to afford long-term care services for you or your family?

<u>%</u>	
28	Extremely worried
22	Very worried
34	Somewhat worried
12	Not very worried
4	Not at all worried
3	No answer

11. Currently, in New Mexico the cost of long-term care services can vary greatly depending on your needs. For example, two hours of care in the home every day costs about \$19,000 a year. Care in a nursing home costs about \$50,000 a year. How confident are you about being able to afford long-term care services for you or your family for one year?

<u>%</u>	
4	Extremely confident
7	Very confident
23	Somewhat confident
29	Not very confident
33	Not at all confident
4	No answer

12. Do you support or oppose requiring individuals to purchase long-term care insurance?

<u>%</u>	
9	Strongly support
15	Somewhat support
40	Neither support nor oppose
11	Somewhat oppose
21	Strongly oppose
4	No answer

Health Care

13. How satisfied are you with the quality of health care in New Mexico?

<u>%</u>	
10	Very satisfied
42	Somewhat satisfied
19	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
19	Somewhat dissatisfied
8	Very dissatisfied
3	No answer

14. Do you think the quality of health care in New Mexico is better than it was five years ago, worse than it was five years ago, or has it stayed about the same?

<u>%</u>	
26	Better
51	Stayed the same
17	Worse
7	No answer

15. Over the past five years, has the amount you pay for health care increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

<u>%</u>	
76	Increased
16	Stayed the same
3	Decreased
5	No answer

16. How worried are you about each of the following?

	Extremely worried	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Not very worried	Not at all worried	No answer
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
a. Having to pay more for your health care.....	36	28	25	6	2	3
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need.....	36	22	25	11	3	3
c. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need.....	32	21	24	16	5	3
d. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse	21	24	31	16	4	4
e. Finding a health care provider that is conveniently located	15	18	27	27	10	3
f. Finding a health care provider that accepts your insurance	17	17	25	26	12	4
g. Not being able to pay for the costs associated with a major illness or injury	37	18	26	13	3	3
h. Having a child or grandchild not able to afford health care services	30	20	20	12	14	5

17. How important do you think it is for the State of New Mexico to make health care more affordable to all residents?

<u>%</u>	
57	Extremely important
28	Very important
10	Somewhat important
2	Not very important
1	Not at all important
2	No answer

18. Please indicate which of the following statements best reflects your opinion on health care.

<u>%</u>	
54	The government should treat health care as an entitlement, like education, police and fire protection
17	The government should treat health care as a product or service, like cars, houses, food, clothes, or homeowners insurance, where you get what you can afford or want to pay for
27	Neither of these
3	No answer

19. **How strongly would you support or oppose expanding access to affordable, quality health care for all New Mexicans, even if it means an increase in taxes?**

%

- 35 Strongly support
- 30 Somewhat support
- 16 Neither support nor oppose
- 9 Somewhat oppose
- 8 Strongly oppose
- 3 No answer

Health Coverage

20. **How important do you think it is for the State of New Mexico to reduce the number of residents without health care coverage?**

%

- 36 Extremely important
- 35 Very important
- 20 Somewhat important
- 4 Not very important
- 2 Not at all important
- 3 No answer

21. **How strongly do you agree or disagree that all New Mexico residents should be guaranteed the same basic health care coverage?**

%

- 47 Strongly agree
- 25 Somewhat agree
- 13 Neither agree nor disagree
- 8 Somewhat disagree
- 6 Strongly disagree
- 2 No answer

22. **Whose responsibility do you think it is to guarantee basic health care coverage?**
(PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

%

- 26 Individuals
- 28 Government
- 18 Employers
- 55 All of the above
- 2 No answer

23. **Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for public office if he or she supported the development of a health care system that made available the same basic coverage to all New Mexico residents, or would it not make a difference in how you vote?**

%

- 60 More likely to vote for candidate
- 25 Would not make a difference in voting choice
- 10 Less likely to vote for candidate
- 5 No answer

24. **How concerned are you that your level of health care coverage could be reduced or affected if the government begins to provide health care coverage for the uninsured?**

%

- 24 Extremely concerned
- 25 Very concerned
- 29 Somewhat concerned
- 12 Not very concerned
- 6 Not at all concerned
- 5 No answer

Medicaid

To qualify for Medicaid coverage of long-term care, an individual has to have very low income and few assets (like a savings account). When a person applies for Medicaid, the state looks back at all of that person's finances for the last three years. If the state decides that the person has "transferred assets," that is, given away some or all of their money to anyone, including a child, grandchild, church or other religious organization, or charity during those three years the state can deny Medicaid long-term care coverage for a period of time equal to the amount of money the person gave away.

There is currently a proposal to extend the time period the government could "look back" at the finances of anyone applying for Medicaid to five years. If the government decides a person has given away some or all of their money, the government would also deny long-term care from the date the person applies for Medicaid.

25. **Do you support or oppose changing the law so that the government can deny care to someone that gives money in the 5 years before applying for Medicaid?**

%

- 12 Strongly favor
- 12 Somewhat favor
- 21 Neither favor nor oppose
- 15 Somewhat oppose
- 35 Strongly oppose
- 6 No answer

26. Should homeowners be required to tap their home equity before getting Medicaid coverage for long-term care expenses?

%
14 Yes
81 No
5 No answer

About You?

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

27. Are you male or female?

%
45 Male
51 Female
3 No answer

28. How would you rate your overall health today?

%
14 Excellent
30 Very good
32 Good
15 Fair
6 Poor
4 No answer

29. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

%
29 Yes
67 No
4 No answer

30. What is your age as of your last birthday? _____ (in years)

%
29 50-59
43 60-74
23 75+
6 No answer

31. What is your 5-digit Zip Code? (WRITE IN YOUR ZIP CODE.) _ _ _ _ _

32. What is your current marital status?

<u>%</u>	
55	Married
4	Not married, living with partner
1	Separated
16	Divorced
15	Widowed
5	Never married
4	No answer

33. Do you own or rent your residence?

<u>%</u>	
84	Own
9	Rent
2	Not sure
5	No answer

34. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

<u>%</u>	
27	1
50	2
9	3
4	4
2	5
1	6
*	7 or more
9	No answer

35. Do you have any of the following types of health care coverage?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
a. Medicare, the program that provides health insurance primarily to people age 65 and older.....	48	37	1	14
b. Medicare supplemental insurance, such as one that pays the co-payments and deductibles of Medicare.....	30	48	3	19
c. Medicaid, the program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain low-income individuals.....	5	64	4	27
d. Veterans Administration or military benefits.....	17	58	2	23
e. Medicare Part D plan that covers prescription drugs.....	23	53	3	22
f. Health care plan sponsored by a current employer.....	24	50	1	25
g. Health care plan sponsored by a previous employer (retirement benefits)....	26	51	1	23

36. How interested are you in New Mexico state government activities that affect residents age 50 and older?

<u>%</u>	
35	Extremely interested
35	Very interested
17	Somewhat interested
4	Not very interested
1	Not at all interested
8	No answer

37. Thinking about your state elections for New Mexico Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, how often would you say you vote?

<u>%</u>	
65	Always
17	Most of the time
3	About half of the time
3	Seldom
4	Never
8	No answer

38. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

<u>%</u>	
43	Democrat
18	Republican
24	Independent
3	Other
4	Not sure
9	No answer

39. How would you characterize your political views?

<u>%</u>	
22	Conservative
42	Moderate
16	Liberal
10	Not sure
10	No answer

40. In the last 12 months, have you accessed the Internet from your home, work, or from some other source such as your local library? (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

%

- 58 Yes, from home
- 21 Yes, from work
- 13 Yes, from some other source
- 29 No
- 8 No answer

41. In the last 12 months, have you visited any of AARP's Internet/Web sites (aarp.org, AARPmagazine.org, etc.)?

%

- 26 Yes
- 66 No
- 7 No answer

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

%

- 7 0-12th grade (no diploma)
- 21 High school graduate (or equivalent)
- 17 Post-high school education (no degree)
- 10 2-year college degree
- 9 4-year college degree
- 7 Post-graduate study (no degree)
- 18 Graduate or professional degree (s)
- 11 No answer

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

%

- 6 Self-employed, part-time
- 6 Self-employed, full-time
- 8 Employed, part-time
- 21 Employed, full-time
- 52 Retired, not working at all
- 6 Not in labor force for other reasons
- 1 Unemployed but looking for work
- 2 No answer

44. What is your race and/or ethnicity?

- %
83 White or Caucasian
1 Black or African American
2 American Indian or Alaska Native
1 Asian
* Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
8 Other: (Specify) _____
6 No answer

45. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

- %
20 Yes
73 No
1 Not sure
6 No answer

46. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2006?

- %
7 Less than \$10,000
14 \$10,000 to less than \$20,000
18 \$20,000 to less than \$35,000
16 \$35,000 to less than \$50,000
6 \$50,000 to less than \$60,000
8 \$60,000 to less than \$75,000
18 \$75,000 or more
6 Not sure
8 No answer

Thank you for completing this survey. Please use the postage-paid envelope and return it to State Member Research, AARP, 601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049, by September 11, 2007.



AARP
Knowledge Management
For more information, contact Joanne Binette:
202.434.6303 or email jbinette@aarp.org