



## Long-Term Care: Homecare, Choice Are Important

2021 AARP Survey of New Jersey Adults Age 50 and Older

### ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Long-term care (LTC) consists of a broad range of day-to-day services and supports needed by people with long-term conditions, disabilities or frailty. This can include help with bathing, dressing, eating, housekeeping, transportation, paying bills, meals and other ongoing social services.

The number of people 65 and older in the U.S. is increasing at a faster rate than the total U.S. population. In New Jersey, it's estimated that the population of people 65 and older will grow by more than 60 percent between 2010 and 2030. AARP is fighting for older Americans to have high-quality, affordable options when it comes to long-term care—especially care at home.

This AARP survey of more than 1,000 New Jersey adults age 50 and older gauged their preference for long-term care, and support for a rebalancing of LTC funding so that more services can be provided to assist those living at home, and a tax credit for unpaid family care givers. Conducted by Fairleigh Dickenson University on behalf of AARP in October 2021, this survey has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.0$  percent.

### KEY FINDINGS

**A majority of older New Jersey voters would prefer to be supported in their own homes.** 87 percent of New Jersey voters age 50 and over would prefer to receive LTC services at home. Over half (54%) would prefer to be supported at home by home-care professionals and 32 percent want to be cared for at home by family members or other non-professional caregivers. Only 8 percent would prefer to be in a nursing home. These preferences hold true across gender, income, race, ethnicity, and political party.

**87% would prefer to be cared for in their own home. The desire to decide for themselves is universal.**

**Virtually all want choice.** Nearly all (98%) New Jersey voters age 50 and older believe it is very (84%) or somewhat important (14%) to have the ability to choose where their LTC services are provided. Having this choice is valued by voters 50 and older regardless of their demographics or political party.

**Older NJ voters support additional funding and tax credits for in-home LTC support.**

**There is strong support for rebalancing LTC funding.** Currently, most of the money spent on long-term care goes to nursing homes. Overall, 69 percent of voters age 50 and older support better balancing of funding for LTC so more goes to home care services. While 21 percent are unsure of their support, only 2 percent would oppose a rebalancing. Support for this proposal crosses political party lines, as well as age, gender, income, race and ethnic differences.

**Older New Jersey voters support a tax credit for unpaid caregiving support.** Overall, 90 percent of New Jersey voters age 50 and older would support a state tax credit being available to individuals who provide unpaid LTC to their family members. It should be noted across all measured demographics, more than 4 in 5 support a tax credit for unpaid individuals who provide LTC support to family members, including large majorities of both Democrats (93%) and Republicans (84%).

## IMPLICATIONS

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**The current funding structure doesn't match New Jersey voters' needs.** The current system puts most of the funding for LTC into nursing homes, but voters age 50 and older – the people who will actually be using these services – overwhelmingly want a more balanced approach, which includes both institutional and home-based LTC.

**Older New Jerseyans want to age at home.** A combination of professional care and help from family members or other non-professionals is much preferred to nursing home care by most older voters.

**This is not a partisan issue.** Support for tax credits for non-professionals helping with LTC are favored by overwhelming majorities of both Democrats and Republicans in the state, as is rebalancing of LTC funding formulas.



## SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

*n = 1,109 Registered New Jersey voters ages 50 and older*

Demographic Variable	Weighted	Unweighted
<b>Age</b>		
50 – 59	31%	36%
60 – 64	17%	22%
65 – 74	29%	24%
75 or older	23%	17%
<b>Gender</b>		
Men	45%	51%
Women	54%	48%
Some Other Way	1%	1%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Non-Hispanic Caucasian	74%	69%
Non-Hispanic African-American	7%	11%
Hispanic	11%	12%
Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander	5%	4%
Non-Hispanic others	4%	5%
<b>Education</b>		
Less than high school	2%	2%
High school or some college	44%	41%
Bachelor's degree	29%	32%
Graduate degree	24%	24%
<b>Household Income</b>		
Less than \$25,000	10%	10%
\$25,000 - \$74,999	40%	40%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	19%	21%
\$100,000 or more	31%	30%

## METHODOLOGY

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The Fairleigh Dickinson University Poll (FDU) conducted a survey of randomly selected registered voters in New Jersey age 50 and older. The study was conducted on behalf of AARP. FDU utilized a combination of Random Digit Dialing (RDD) telephone and Text to Web (TTW) methods based on registered voter sample lists to complete a total of 800 surveys with New Jersey registered voters aged 50 and older. In addition, FDU oversampled 100 individuals across each of three ethnic groups (African Americans, Hispanics, Asians) via web surveys. The sampling was employed to ensure a valid random sampling of registered voters across the state. To approximate the current make-up of cell phones in the state with this target audience, FDU completed about 40% of the telephone surveys with cell phone participants, and 60% via landline phones. Once all 1,100 surveys were completed, the data were mathematically weighted to match the known demographics of age, gender, education and race of New Jersey's registered voters age 50 and above. The ethnic data and their oversamples were then teased out of the weighted results and analyzed and reported throughout this report separately. With a randomly selected sample of 1,100, one can be 95 percent confident that the margin of error (MoE) is +/- 3.0 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies by the size of that subgroup. All surveys were completed between the end of September through the second week in October 2021 and averaged approximately 20 minutes in length.

For more information on the methodology or the survey, contact Dan Cassino at 973-443-8797 or [dcassino@fdu.edu](mailto:dcassino@fdu.edu); Rich Higginson at 908-763-0857 or [richard\\_higginson@fdu.edu](mailto:richard_higginson@fdu.edu); or Kate Bridges at 202-434-3183 or [kbridges@aarp.org](mailto:kbridges@aarp.org). For media inquiries, contact [rauerbach@aarp.org](mailto:rauerbach@aarp.org) or [media@aarp.org](mailto:media@aarp.org). You can find this summary and the full report at <http://aarp.org/research>