

Voices of 50+ Connecticut Dreams & Challenges



Executive Summary

AARP has a strong commitment to help improve the lives of the 50+ population. As part of the Association's continuous communication with its members and all 50+ Americans, AARP commissioned an innovative set of surveys designed to better gather information on the needs, interests and concerns of 50+ Americans both at the national and state level.

These random digit dial telephone surveys of over 29,000 adults age 50+ across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were fielded between January 2nd and January 31st. These telephone interviews also included additional list-assisted samples of African-American and Hispanic 50+ adults.

The data presented here is based on a statewide sample of 403 50+ adults in Connecticut and has a sampling error of 5%.

Executive Summary

The survey finds that:

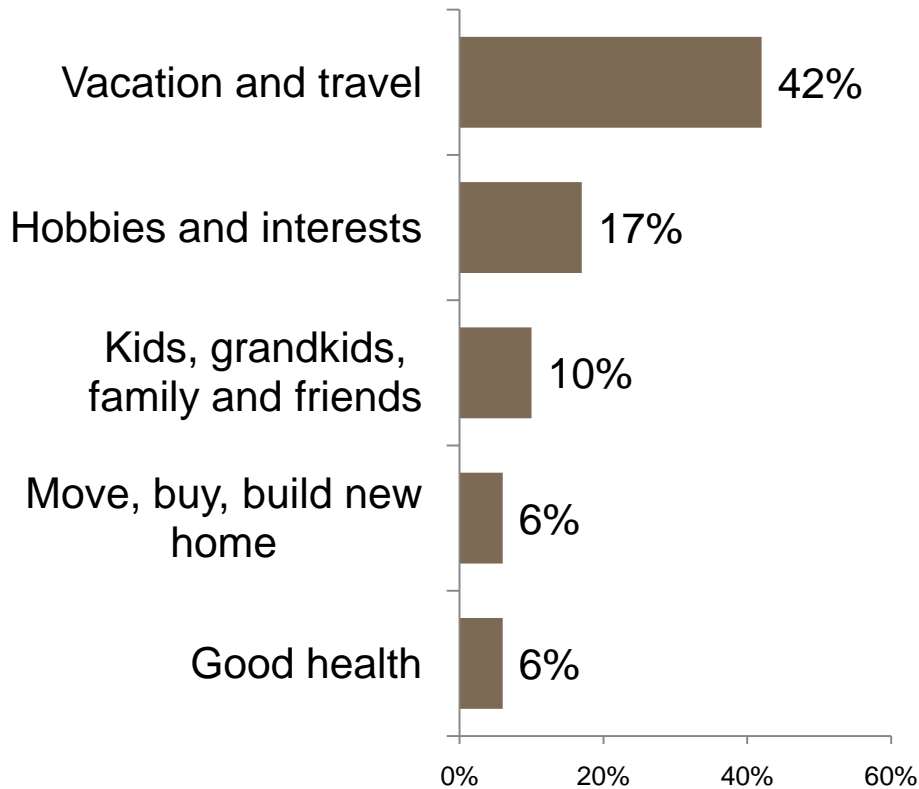
- **Over four in ten adults 50+ say that health care issues are the top problem or challenge facing mid-life and older adults in their state. An equal proportion cites economic issues as the largest challenge.**
- **At a more personal level, adults 50+ say vacation and travel and hobbies are what they personally dream about doing next in their lives. Many want to spend more time with children and grandchildren.**
- **Health and financial security are very important in the lives of adults 50+. More than nine in ten say staying healthy, staying mentally sharp, and having adequate health insurance are extremely or very important to them.**
- **Adults 50+ do not have everything they need in order to accomplish their most important goals: Only about four in ten have all they need to stay sharp, stay healthy, and have adequate health insurance coverage.**
- **About 80 percent of adults 50+ worry about one or more financial issues. Public assistance benefits and maintaining finances and lifestyle in retirement are worries for two-thirds. Financial planning and saving are concerns of 60 percent, and half worry about helping family members financially.**

Executive Summary

- **Almost one-third of 50+ adults in Connecticut have Medicare and a supplemental health insurance plan, while 8 percent have only Medicare. Almost half (47%) have insurance from employers. Seven percent have no coverage. Four in ten are extremely/very confident in their ability to maintain the current level of coverage, and one-fourth are not confident.**
- **More than four in five support shifting funds used for nursing home care to home and community-based care.**
- **Four in ten oppose any state budget plan that reduces public benefits in order to balance the budget.**
- **Two-in three 50+ adults do not believe elected officials in Connecticut are doing enough to lower electricity costs.**
- **The most helpful resources that would help 50+ adults searching for work include word of mouth (family/friends), one-stop career centers, and job placement agencies.**
- **Four in ten 50+ adults in Connecticut are extremely/very interested in volunteering in their communities.**

Dreams for the 50+

Top Dreams (n=403)

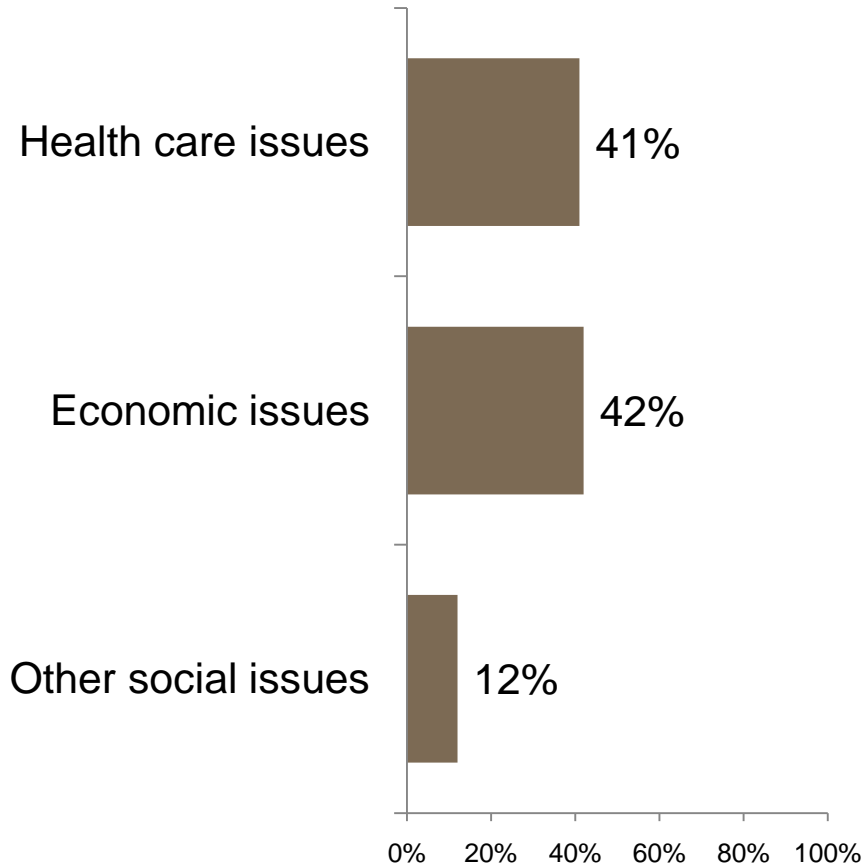


- **Adults 50+ say they want to spend time traveling (42%) and pursuing their hobbies and interests (17%).**
- **Being with family and friends are what many dream about. Adults 50+ want to see their children or grandchildren happy or be a part of their lives and they want to be close and do activities with family and friends.**
- **Other dreams mentioned by fewer than five percent are around career, marriage, reinventing yourself, having enough money, and faith/spirituality.**

Source: Core Q1. Thinking about what's next in your life, I would like you to think about the kinds of things you dream about doing—these could be things you have always wanted to do, but never got around to, or things you have done in the past and want to continue doing. What would you consider to be the one thing that you would most like to do? (Open ended/Unaided response)

Top Challenge Facing the 50+

Top Challenge (n=403)

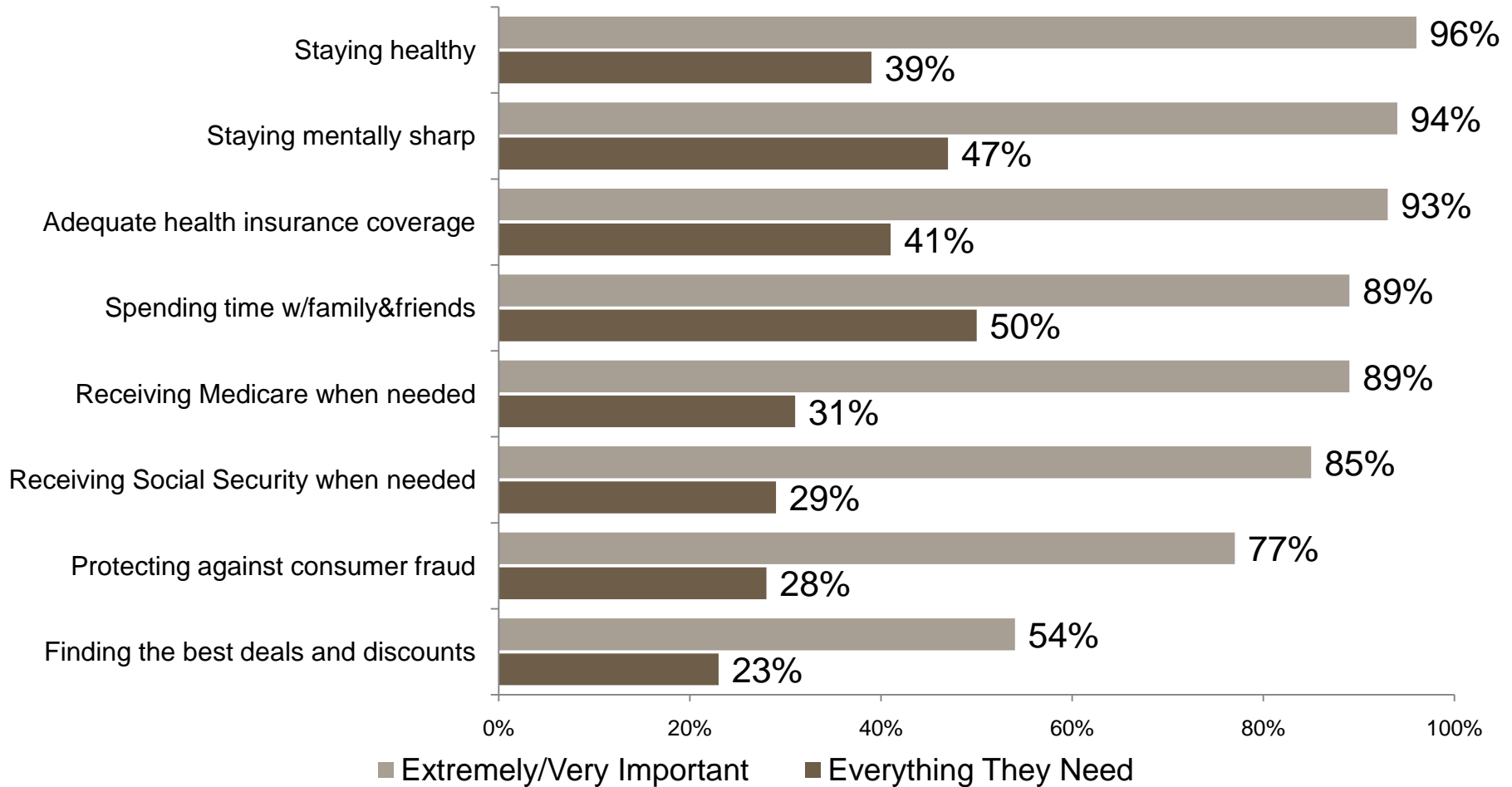


- **Health care issues include the cost of health care and staying healthy.**
- **Economic issues include unemployment and having enough money to retire.**
- **Other social issues vary widely. They include topics like how to spend time, transportation/getting around, family values, politics, government and senior issues.**

Source: Core Q2. What do you believe is the SINGLE most important problem or challenge facing mid life and older Americans as they get older?
(Open ended/Unaided response)

Issues of Importance to the 50+ Today

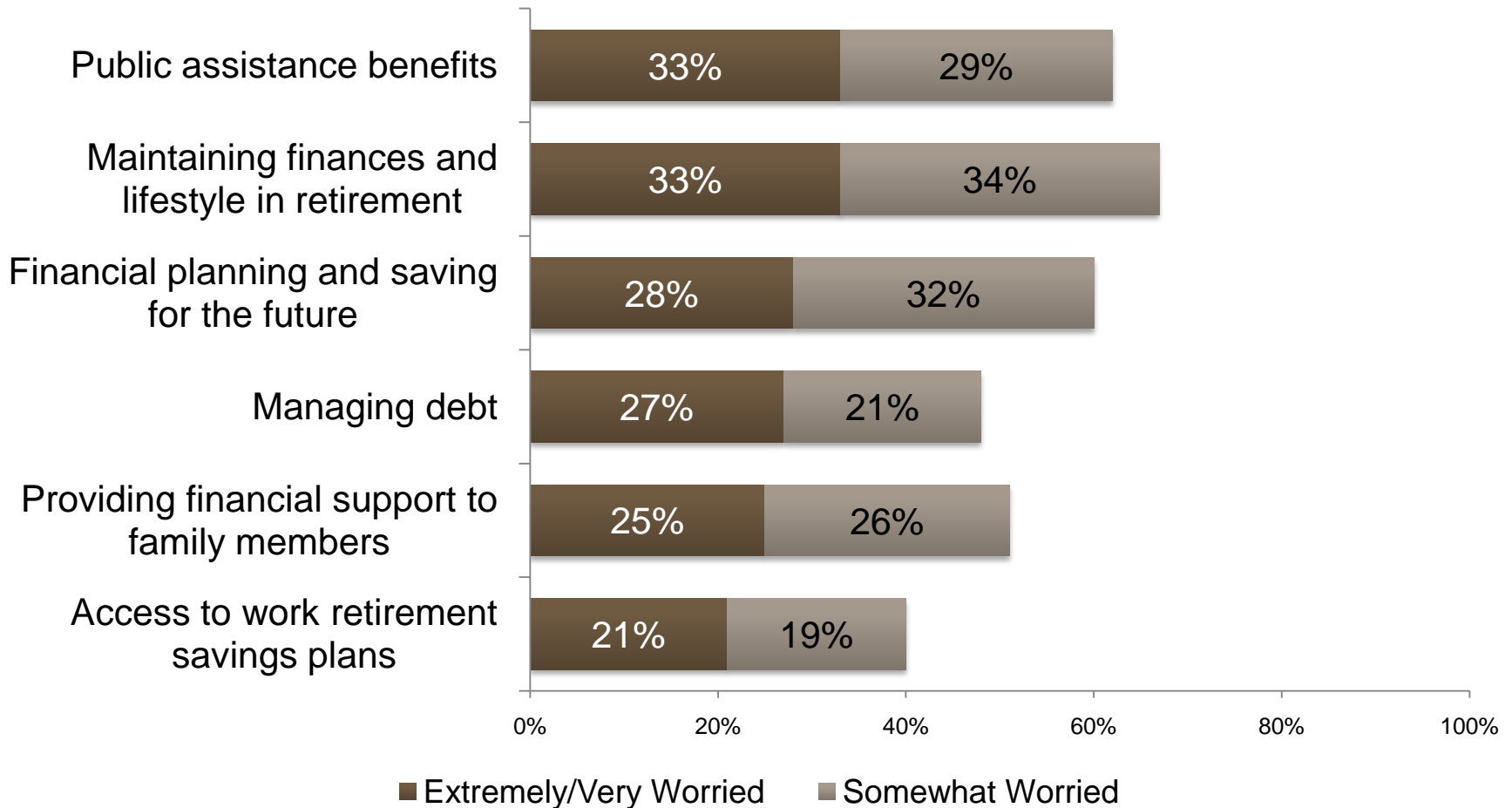
Issues of Importance and Extent to Which Needs Are Met for the 50+ Today (n=403)



Source: Core 3a-q. How important is each of the following in your life right now? Core 4a-h: Do you think you currently have everything you need in regards to [specific items of extreme/very importance]? See attached annotated survey for a list of items. Base for Everything They Need is those who said issue was extremely/very important.

50+ Financial Concerns

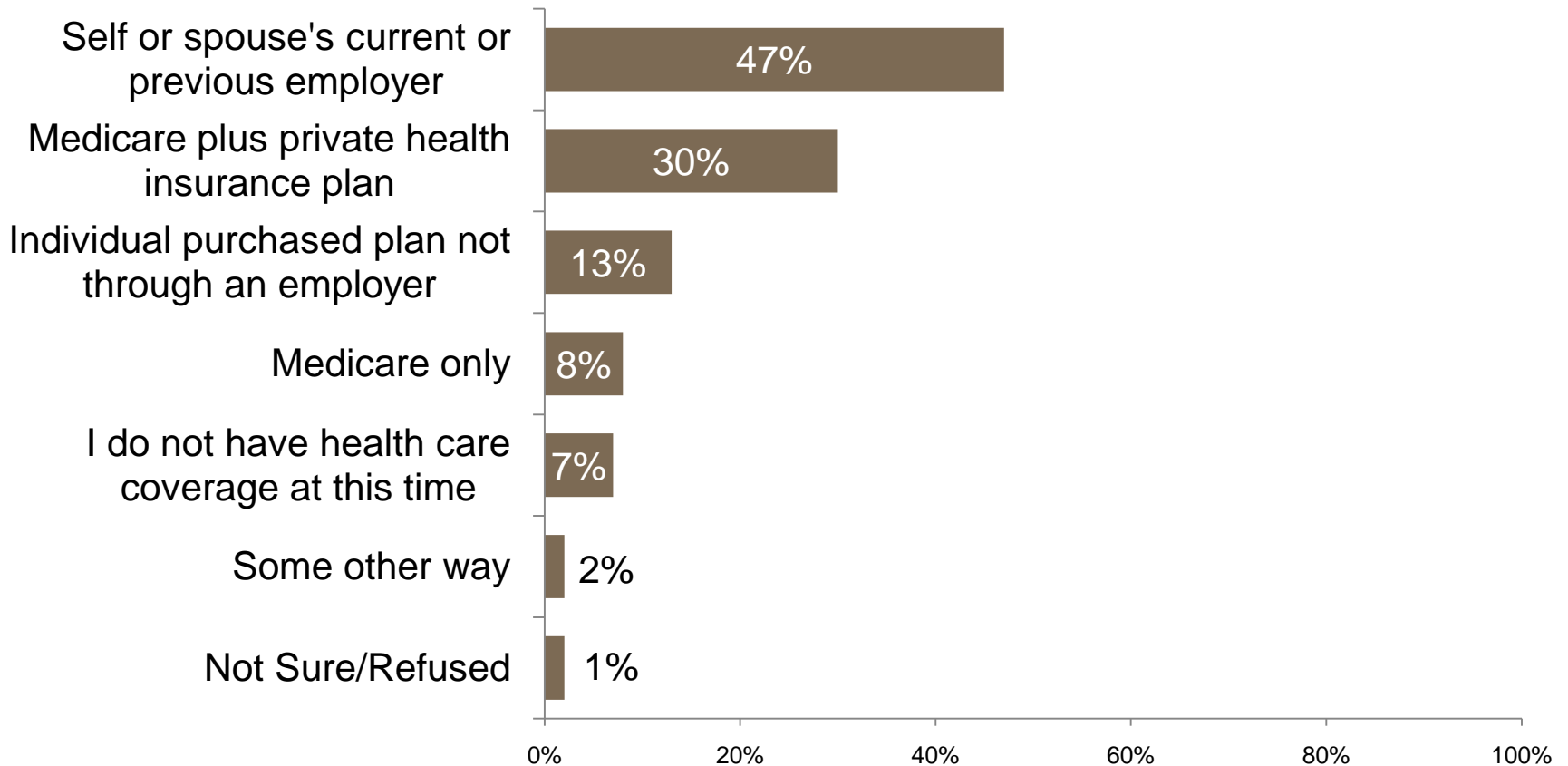
Worry about Financial Issues (n=403)



Source: ECON4. I'm going to read to you a list of financial issues that people sometimes worry about. Please tell me how worried you are about each of the following. How worried are you about [INSERT, READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS A THROUGH F BELOW]? Are you extremely worried, very worried, somewhat worried, not very worried, or not at all worried?

50+ Health Care Concerns

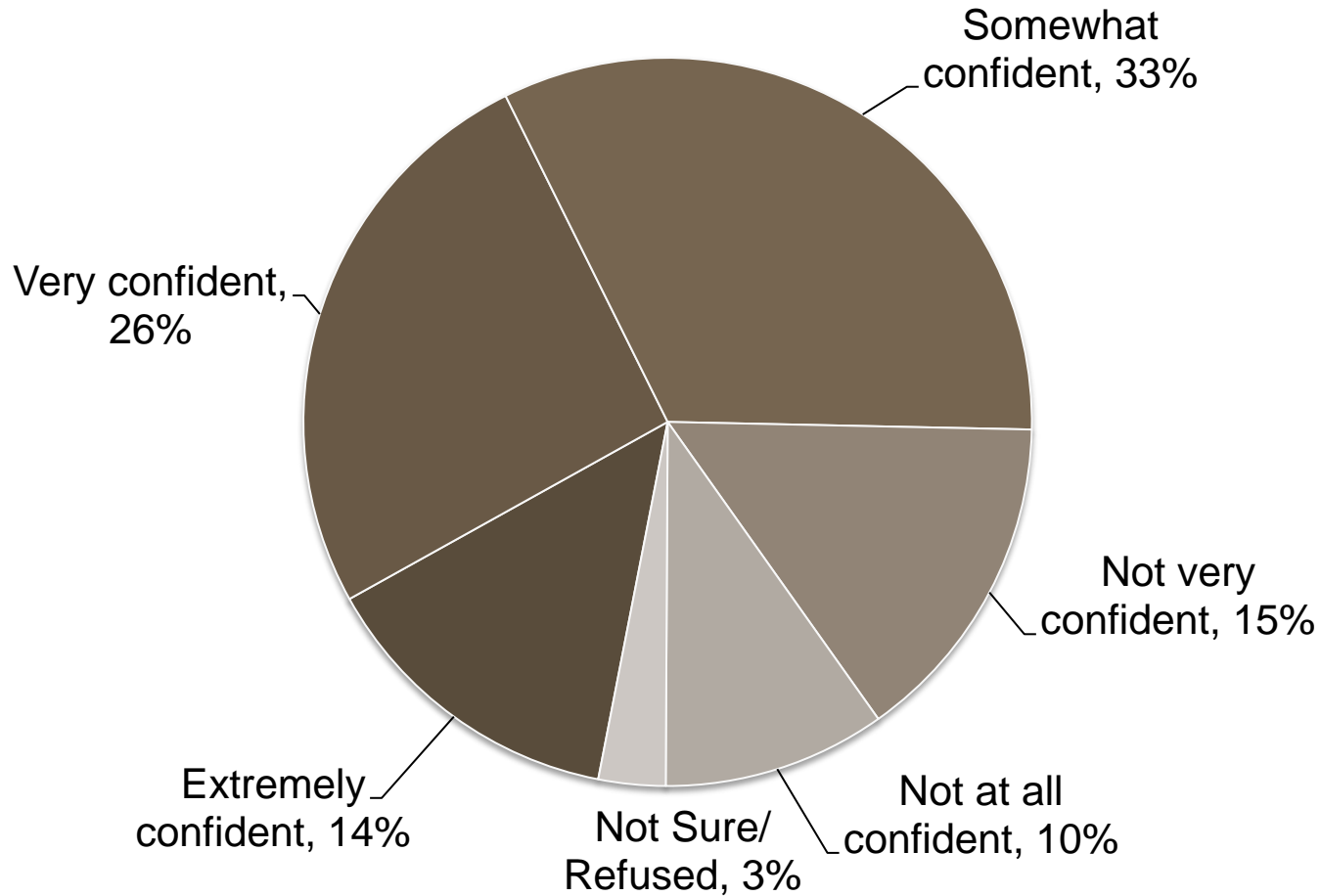
Current Health Care Coverage (n=403)



Source: HC1. Which of the following best describes your health care coverage situation?

50+ Health Care Concerns

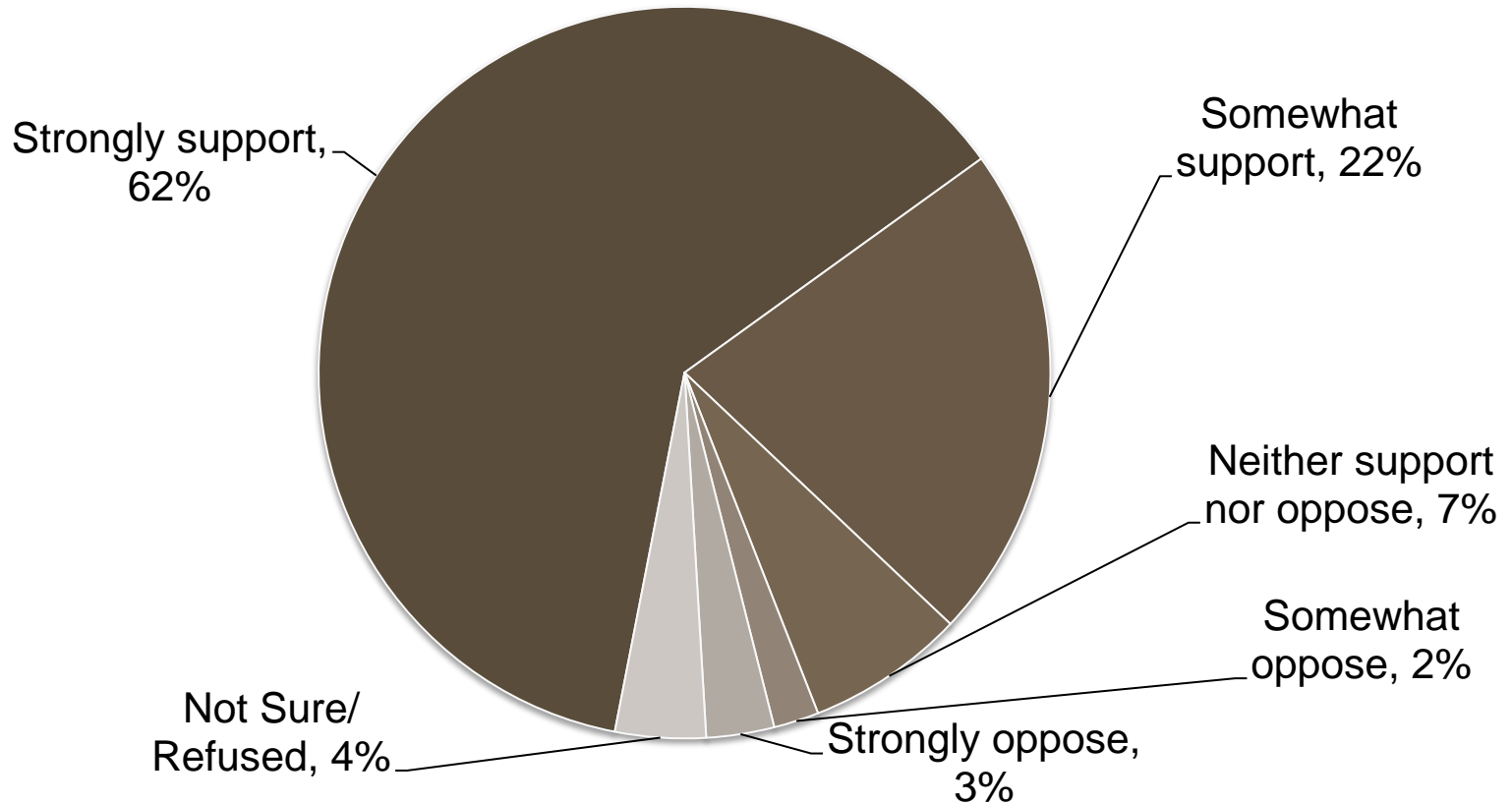
Confidence in Ability to Maintain Present Level of Health Care Coverage Over the Next Five Years (n=403)



Source: HC2. How confident are you that you will be able to maintain your present level of health care coverage at an acceptable cost to you over the next five years? Are you extremely confident, very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident or not at all confident?

50+ Long-Term Care Concerns

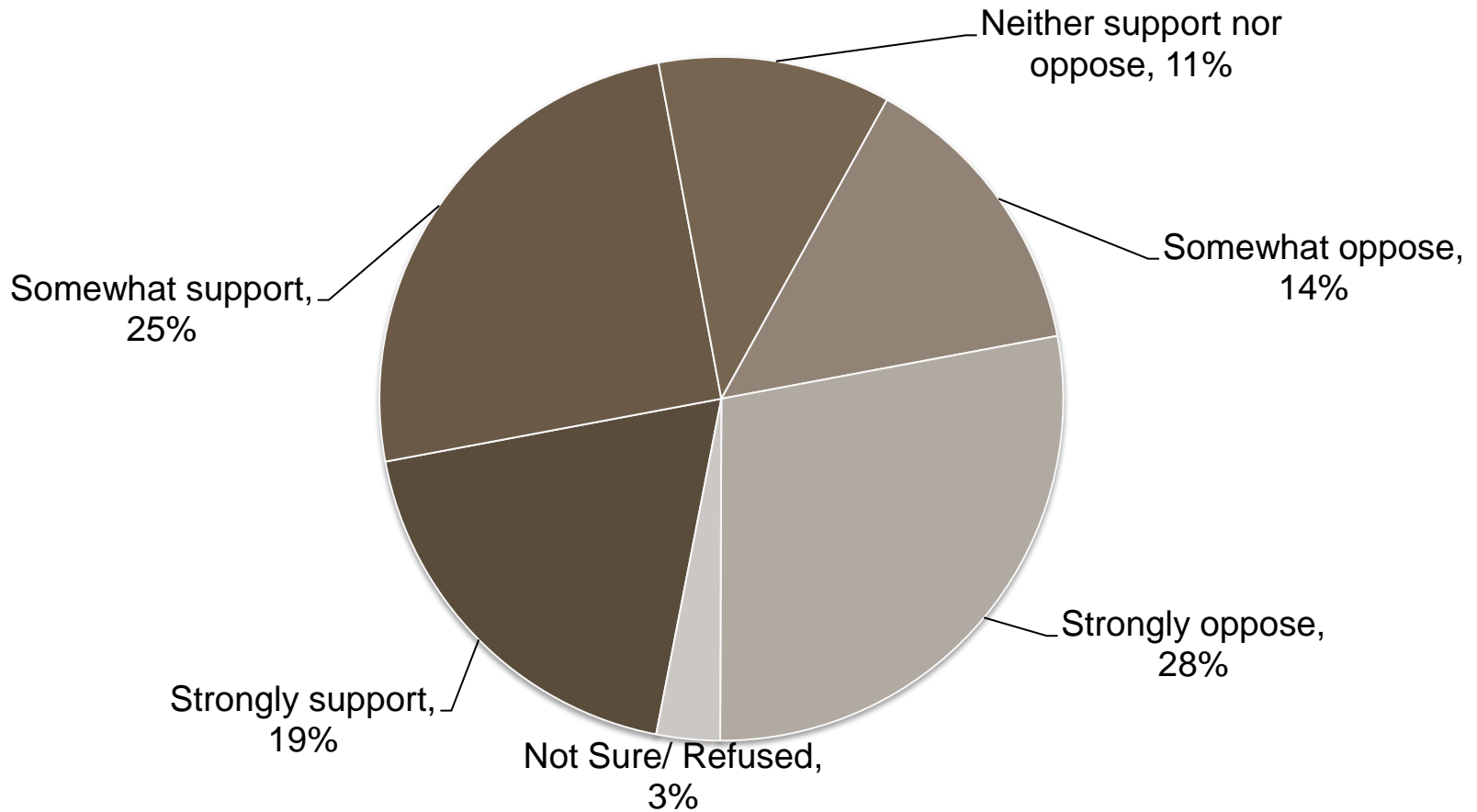
Support or Oppose Allowing Nursing Home Only Funds to also Be Used for Long-Term Care Services that Allow Aging in Place (n=403)



Source: HLTC6. How strongly do you support or oppose allowing funds now used only for nursing home care to also be used for long-term care services that help people stay in their own homes or communities? Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose?

50+ State Budget Concerns

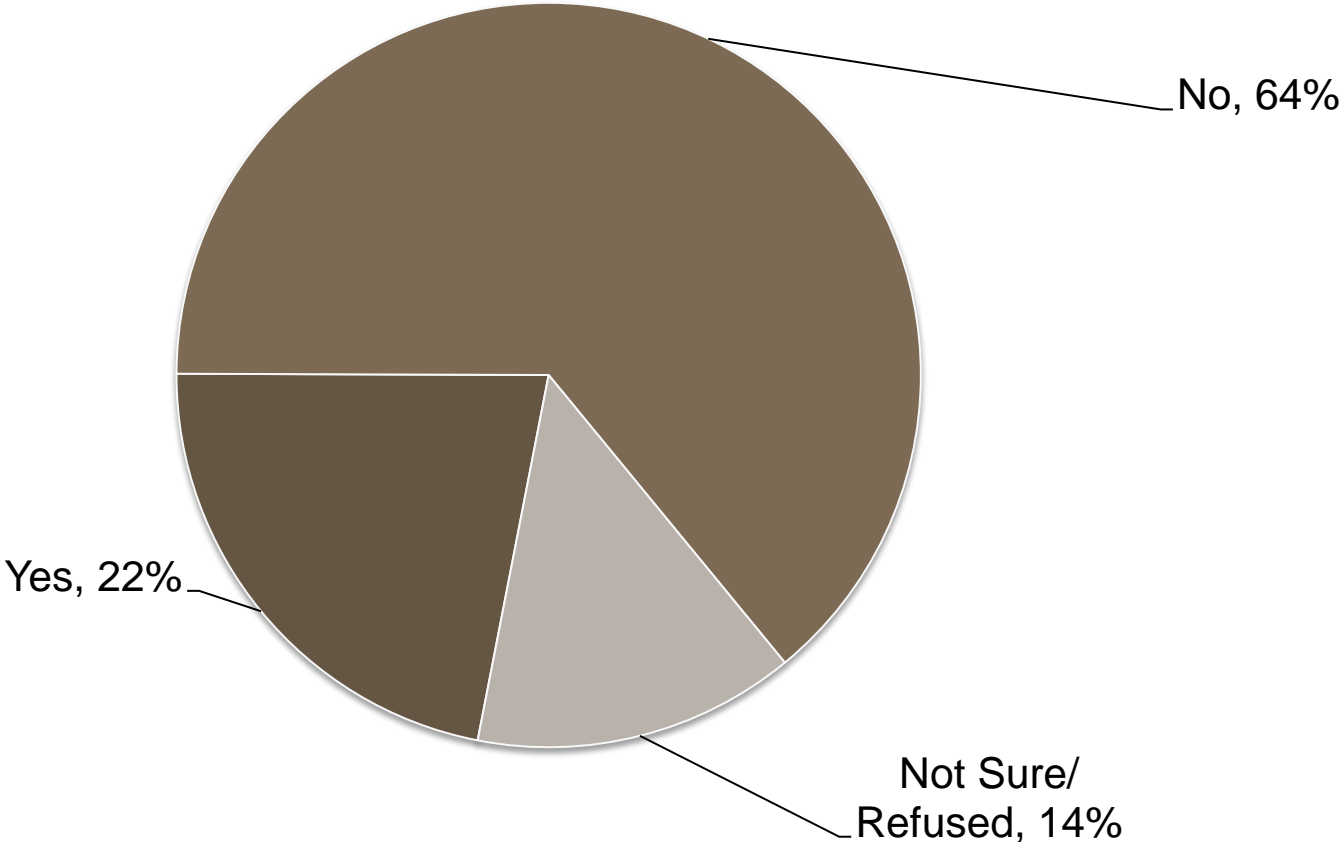
Support or Oppose a Plan to Reduce State Budget Deficit if the Plan Reduces Public Benefits (n=403)



Source: SB2. How strongly do you support or oppose a plan to reduce the state budget deficit if that plan would also reduce public benefits, such as Medicaid-the government health insurance program that provides health and long-term care for low-income people? Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose?

50+ Financial Concerns

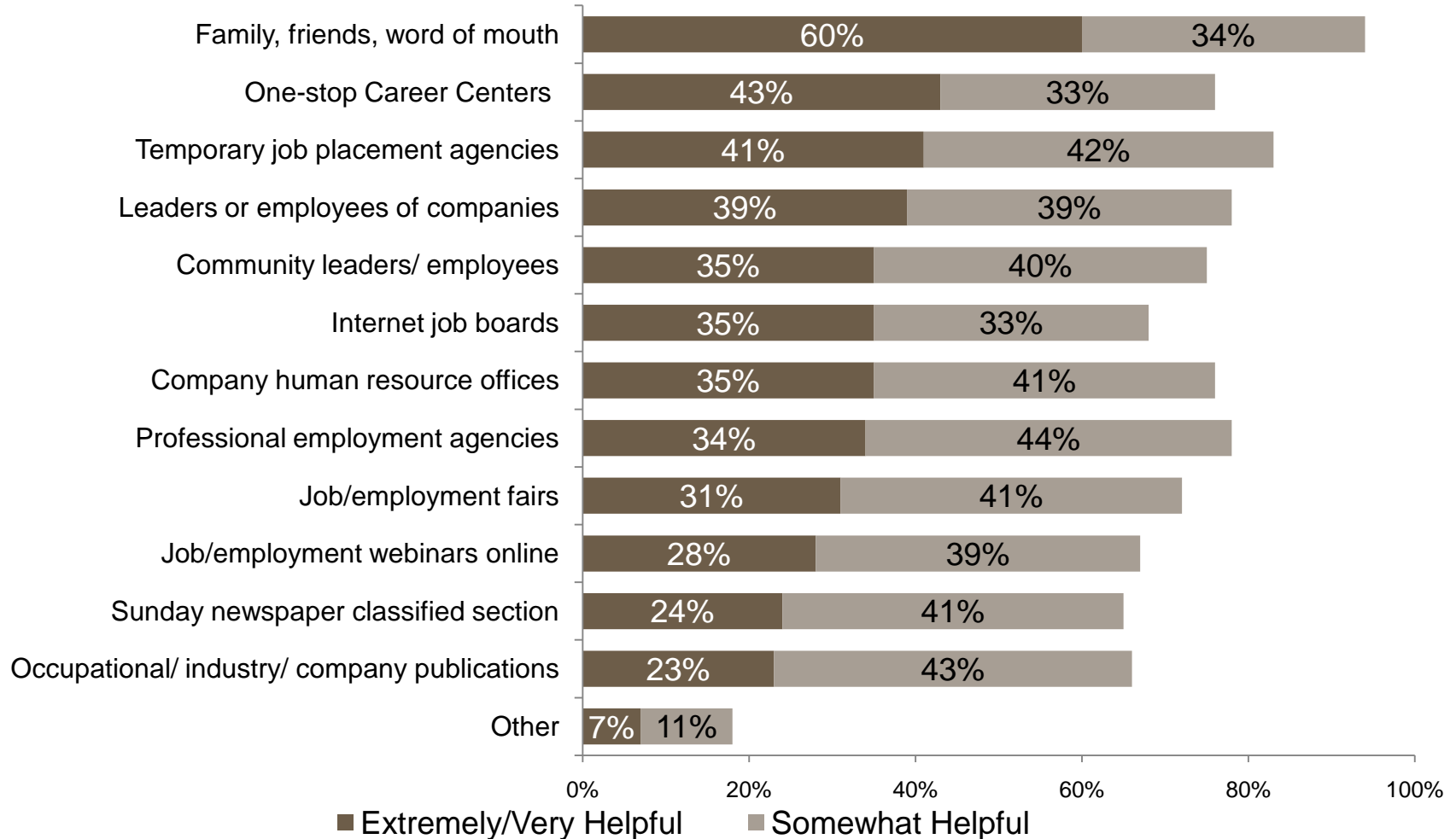
Belief that Elected Officials Are Doing Enough to Lower Electricity Costs (n=403)



Source:EUTIL9. Do you feel your state elected officials are doing enough to lower the cost of your electricity bill?

50+ Work Concerns

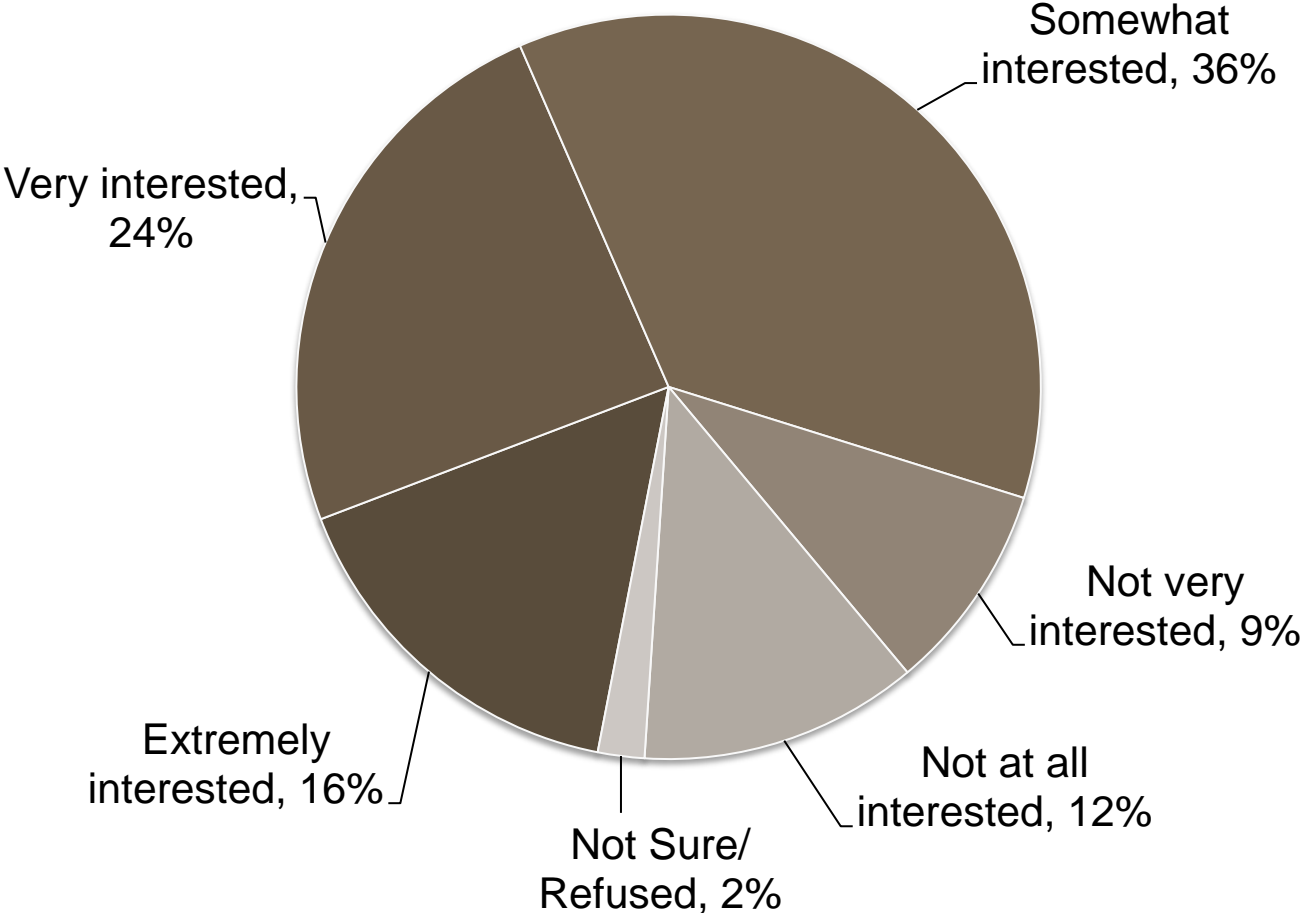
Helpful Resources for Older Adults Searching for Work (n=175)



Source: WORK7. I'm now going to read you a list of things that could help people ages 50 and older who are searching for a job. How helpful would [ITEMS A THROUGH L BELOW] be? Would it be extremely helpful, very helpful, somewhat helpful, not very helpful or not at all helpful? Base is those employed.

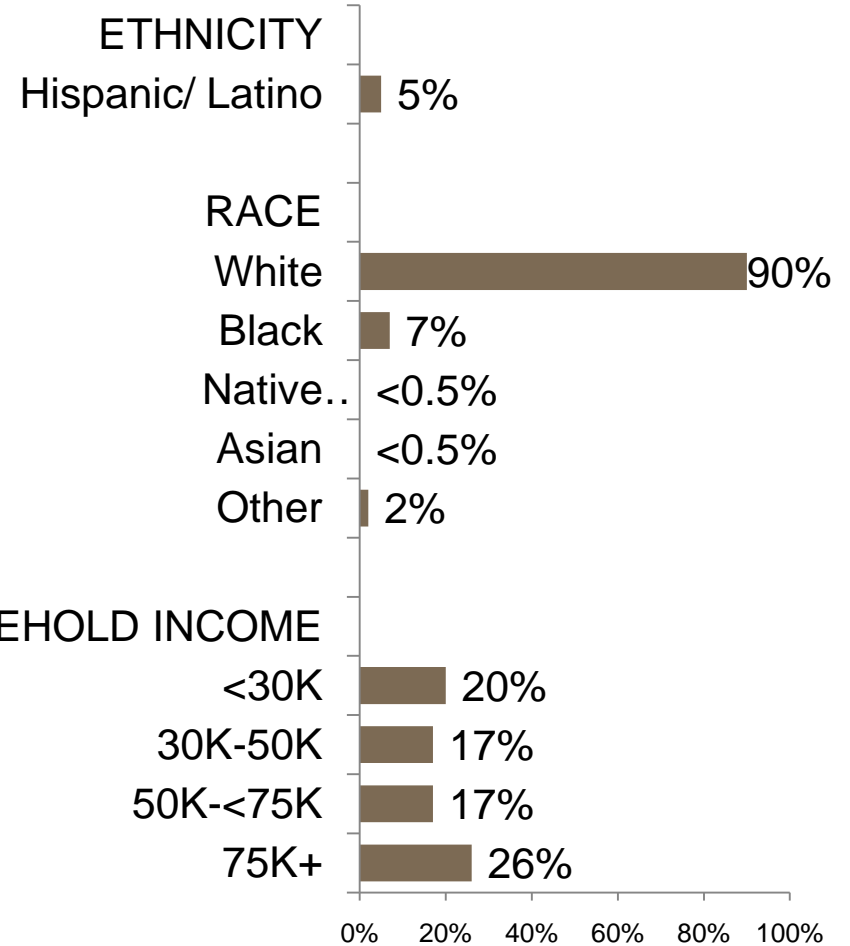
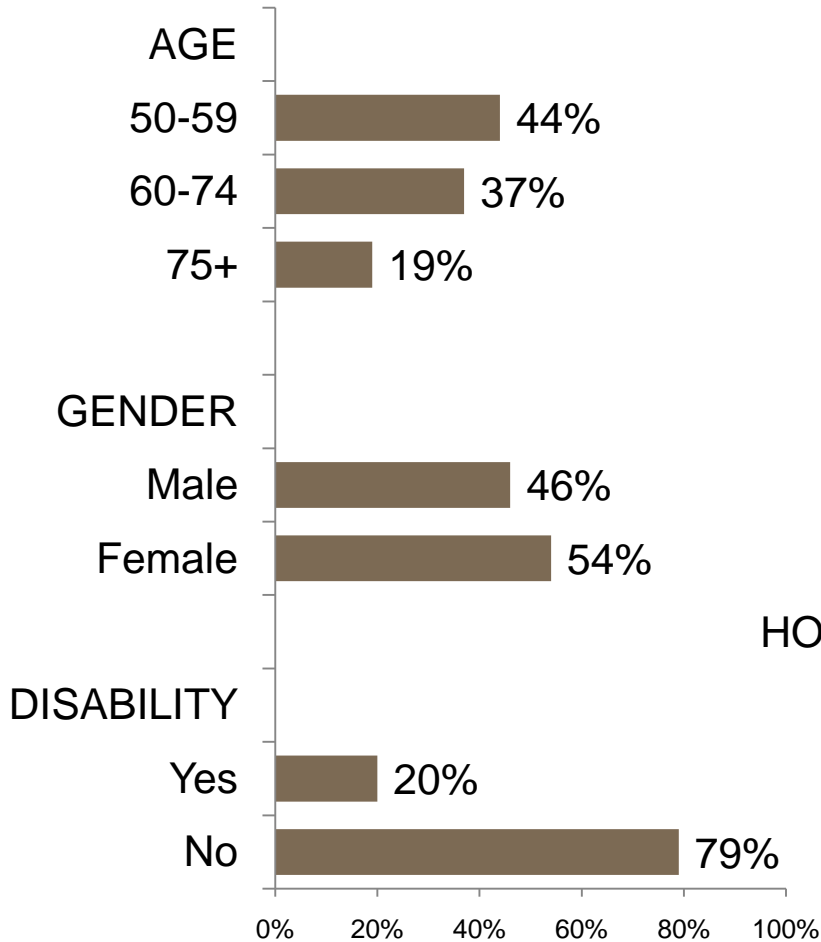
50+ Volunteering

Interest in Volunteering in Local Community (n=403)

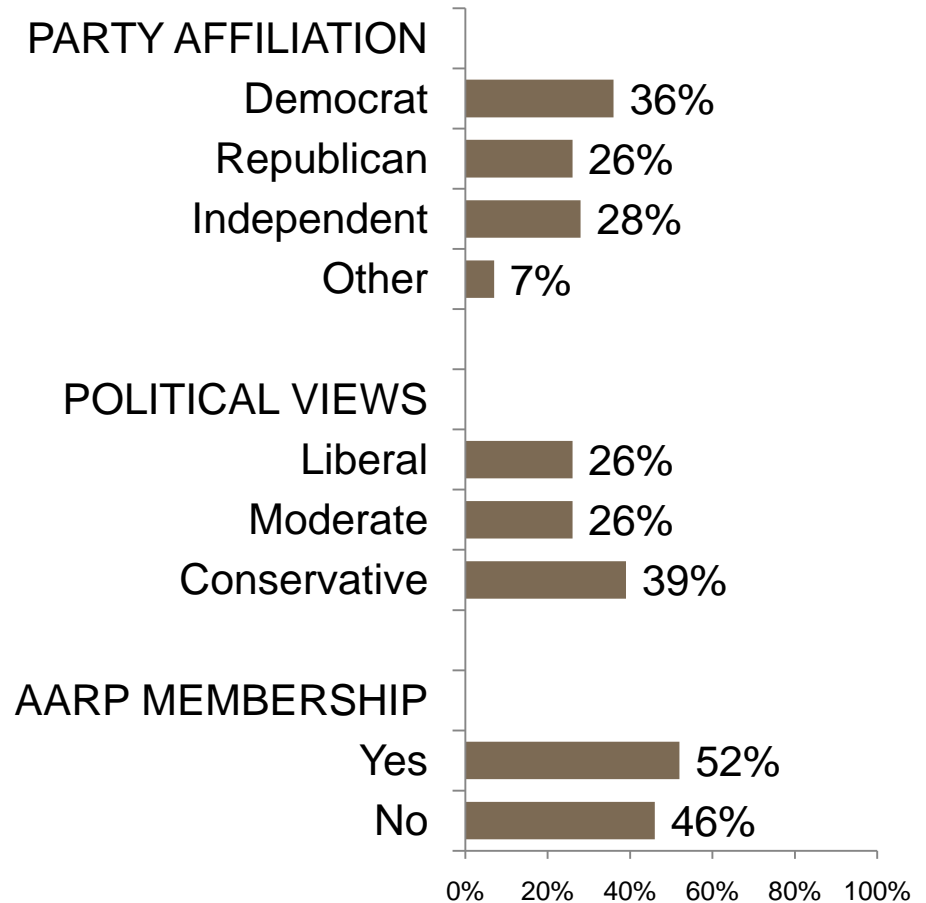
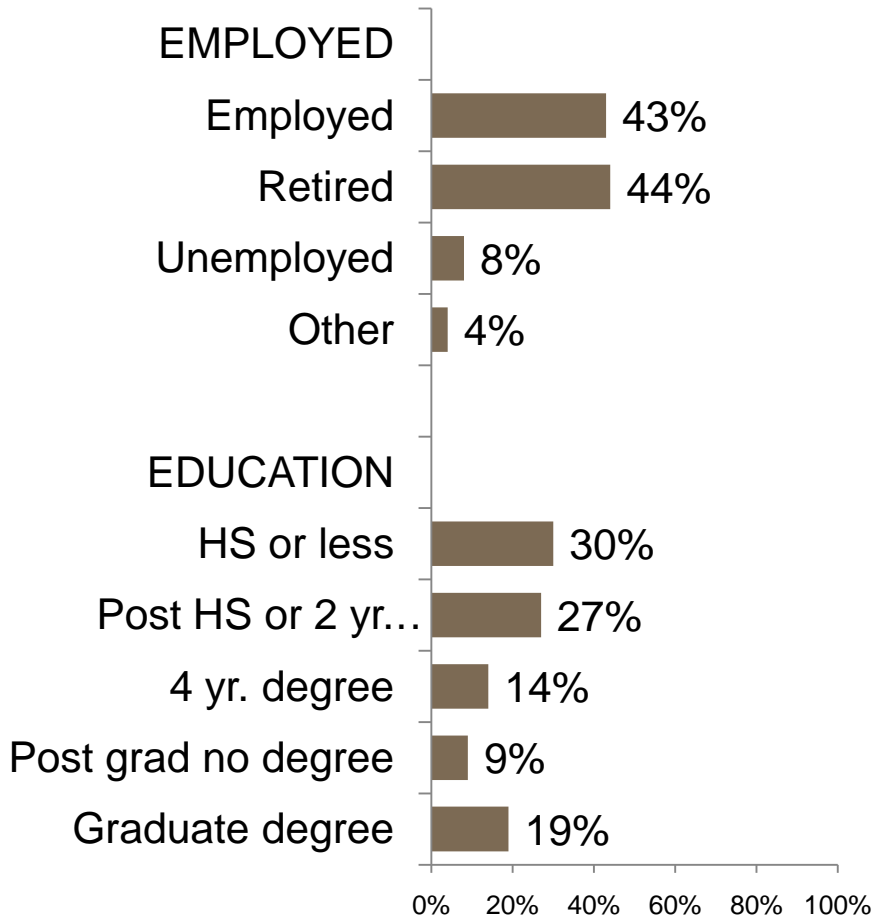


Source: VOL1. How interested are you in volunteering in your community? Are you extremely interested, very interested, somewhat interested, not very interested or not at all interested?

50+ Survey Sample Demographics (n=403)



50+ Survey Sample Demographics (n=403)



CONTACT

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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a membership that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 35.1 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's millions of members and Americans 50+; AARP VIVA, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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