

Growing Old in America: Expectations vs. Reality

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A Social & Demographic Trends Report

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Growing Old in America: Expectations vs. Reality

Overview and Executive Summary

Getting old isn't nearly as bad as people think it will be. Nor is it quite as good.

On aspects of everyday life ranging from mental acuity to physical dexterity to sexual activity to financial security, a new Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends survey on aging among a nationally representative sample of 2,969 adults finds a sizable gap between the expectations that young and middle-aged adults have about old age and the actual experiences reported by older Americans themselves.

These disparities come into sharpest focus when survey respondents are asked about a series of negative benchmarks often associated with aging, such as illness, memory loss, an inability to drive, an end to sexual activity, a struggle with loneliness and

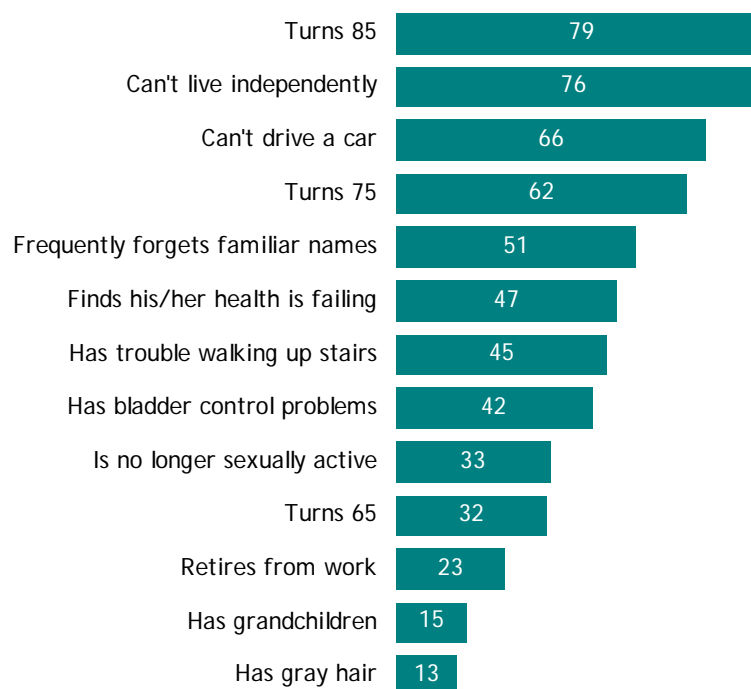
depression, and difficulty paying bills. In every instance, older adults report experiencing them at lower levels (often far lower) than younger adults report expecting to encounter them when they grow old.¹

At the same time, however, older adults report experiencing fewer of the benefits of aging that younger adults expect to enjoy when they grow old, such as spending more time with their family, traveling more for pleasure, having more time for hobbies, doing volunteer work or starting a second career.

These generation gaps in perception also extend to the most basic question of all about old age: When does it begin? Survey respondents ages 18 to 29 believe that the average person becomes old at age 60. Middle-aged

The Markers of Old Age

% saying that a person is old when he or she ...



Note: Asked of all 2,969 adults in the survey.

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¹ See Page 6 for a discussion of the challenges of reaching a representative sample of older adults with a telephone survey.

respondents put the threshold closer to 70, and respondents ages 65 and above say that the average person does not become old until turning 74.

Other potential markers of old age—such as forgetfulness, retirement, becoming sexually inactive, experiencing bladder control problems, getting gray hair, having grandchildren—are the subjects of similar perceptual gaps. For example, nearly two-thirds of adults ages 18 to 29 believe that when someone “frequently forgets familiar names,” that person is old. Less than half of all adults ages 30 and older agree.

However, a handful of potential markers—failing health, an inability to live independently, an inability to drive, difficulty with stairs—engender agreement across all generations about the degree to which they serve as an indicator of old age.

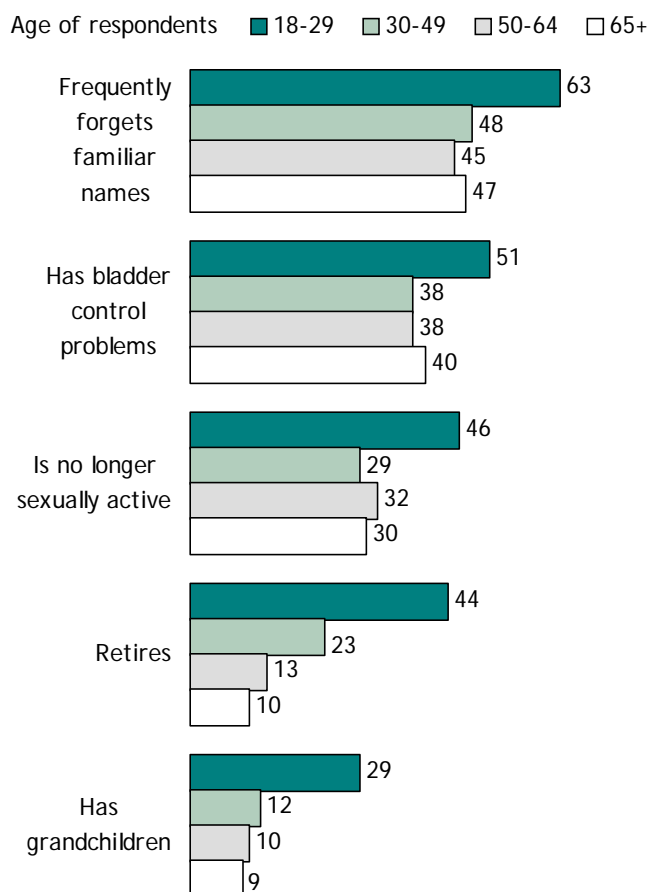
Grow Older, Feel Younger

The survey findings would seem to confirm the old saw that you’re never too old to feel young. In fact, it shows that *the older people get, the younger they feel*—relatively speaking. Among 18 to 29 year-olds, about half say they feel their age, while about quarter say they feel older than their age and another quarter say they feel younger. By contrast, among adults 65 and older, fully 60% say they feel younger than their age, compared with 32% who say they feel exactly their age and just 3% who say they feel older than their age.

Moreover, the gap in years between actual age and “felt age” widens as people grow older. Nearly half of all survey respondents ages 50 and older say they feel at least 10 years younger than their chronological age. Among respondents ages 65 to 74, a third say they feel 10 to 19 years younger than their age, and one-in-six say they feel at least 20 years younger than their actual age.

In sync with this upbeat way of counting their felt age, older adults also have a count-my-blessings attitude when asked to look back over the full arc of their lives. Nearly half (45%) of adults ages 75 and older say their life has turned out better than they expected, while just 5% say it has turned out worse (the remainder say things have

Most Markers of Old Age Differ for Young and Old % saying that a person is old when he or she ...



Note: Sample sizes for subgroups are as follows: 18-29, n=381; 30-49, n=625; 50-64, n=606; 65+ n=1,332.

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turned out the way they expected or have no opinion). All other age groups also tilt positive, but considerably less so, when asked to assess their lives so far against their own expectations.

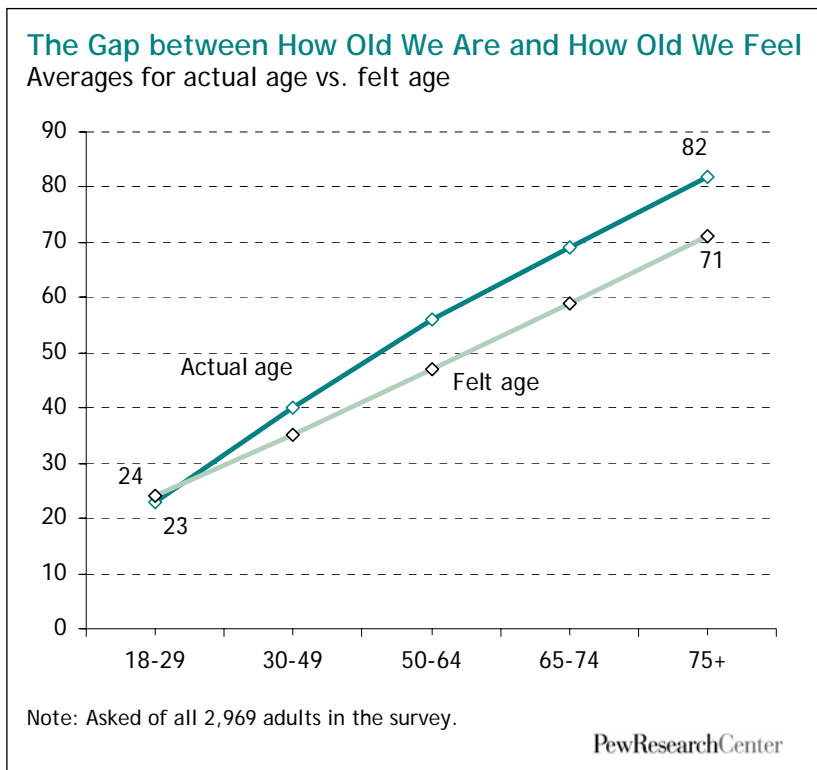
The Downside of Getting Old

To be sure, there *are* burdens that come with old age. About one-in-four adults ages 65 and older report experiencing memory loss. About one-in-five say they have a serious illness, are not sexually active, or often feel sad or depressed. About one-in-six report they are lonely or have trouble paying bills. One-in-seven cannot drive. One-in-ten say they feel they aren't needed or are a burden to others.

But when it comes to these and other potential problems related to old age, the share of younger and middle-aged adults who report expecting to encounter them is much higher than the share of older adults who report actually experiencing them.

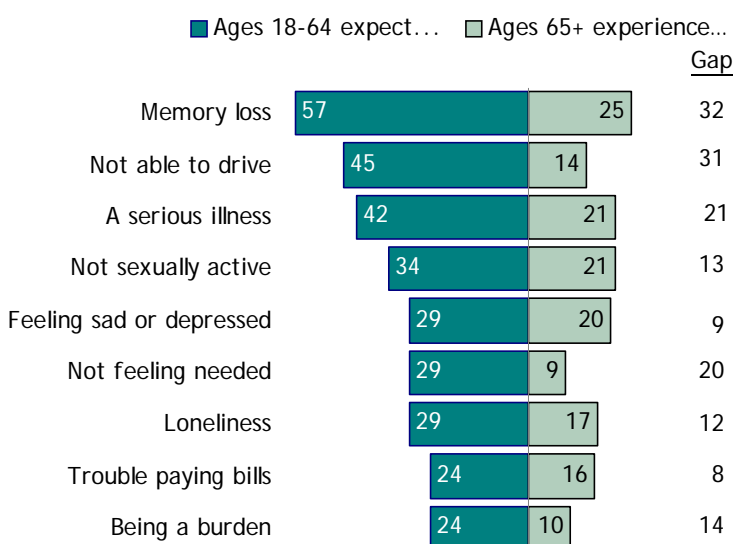
Moreover, these problems are not equally shared by all groups of older adults. Those with low incomes are more likely than those with high incomes to face these challenges. The only exception to this pattern has to do with sexual inactivity; the likelihood of older adults reporting a problem in this realm of life is not correlated with income.

Not surprisingly, troubles associated with aging accelerate as adults advance into their 80s and beyond. For example,



The Challenges of Aging

It's not as bad as younger adults think



Note: Asked of adults 18-64, n=1,631; and adults 65+, n=1,332.

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about four-in-ten respondents (41%) ages 85 and older say they are experiencing some memory loss, compared with 27% of those ages 75-84 and 20% of those ages 65-74. Similarly, 30% of those ages 85 and older say they often feel sad or depressed, compared with less than 20% of those who are 65-84. And a quarter of adults ages 85 and older say they no longer drive, compared with 17% of those ages 75-84 and 10% of those who are 65-74.

But even in the face of these challenges, the vast majority of the “old old” in our survey appear to have made peace with their circumstances. Only a miniscule share of adults ages 85 and older—1%—say their lives have turned out worse than they expected. It no doubt helps that adults in their late 80s are as likely as those in their 60s and 70s to say that they are experiencing many of the good things associated with aging—be it time with family, less stress, more respect or more financial security.

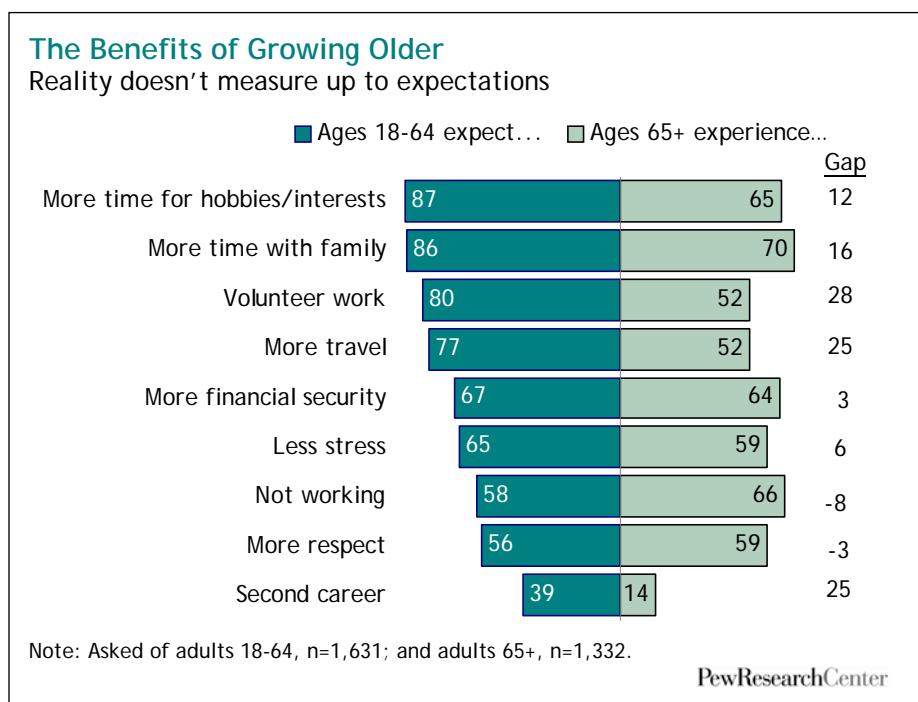
The Upside of Getting Old

When asked about a wide range of potential benefits of old age, seven-in-ten respondents ages 65 and older say they are enjoying more time with their family. About two-thirds cite more time for hobbies, more financial security and not having to work. About six-in-ten say they get more respect and feel less stress than when they were younger. Just over half cite more time to travel and to do volunteer work. As the nearby chart illustrates, older adults may not be

experiencing these “upsides” at quite the prevalence levels that most younger adults expect to enjoy them once they grow old, but their responses nonetheless indicate that the phrase “golden years” is something more than a syrupy greeting card sentiment.

Of all the good things about getting old, the best by far, according to older adults, is being able to spend more time with

family members. In response to an open-ended question, 28% of those ages 65 and older say that what they value most about being older is the chance to spend more time with family, and an additional 25% say that above all, they value time with their grandchildren. A distant third on this list is having more financial security, which was cited by 14% of older adults as what they value most about getting older.



People Are Living Longer

These survey findings come at a time when older adults account for record shares of the populations of the United States and most developed countries. Some 39 million Americans, or 13% of the U.S. population, are 65 and older—up from 4% in 1900. The century-long expansion in the share of the world’s population that is 65 and older is the product of dramatic advances in medical science and public health as well as steep declines in fertility rates. In this country, the increase has leveled off since 1990, but it will start rising again when the first wave of the nation’s 76 million baby boomers turn 65 in 2011. By 2050, according to [Pew Research projections](#), about one-in-five Americans will be over age 65, and about 5% will be ages 85 and older, up from 2% now. These ratios will put the U.S. at mid-century roughly where Japan, Italy and Germany—the three “oldest” large countries in the world—are today.

Contacting Older Adults

Any survey that focuses on older adults confronts one obvious methodological challenge: A small but not insignificant share of people 65 and older are either too ill or incapacitated to take part in a 20-minute telephone survey, or they live in an institutional setting such as a nursing home where they cannot be contacted.²

We assume that the older adults we were unable to reach for these reasons have a lower quality of life, on average, than those we did reach. To mitigate this problem, the survey included interviews with more than 800 adults whose parents are ages 65 or older. We asked these adult children many of the same questions about their parents’ lives that we asked of older adults about their own lives. These “surrogate” respondents provide a window on the experiences of the full population of older adults, including those we could not reach directly. Not surprisingly, the portrait of old age they draw is somewhat more negative than the one painted by older adult respondents themselves. We present a summary of these second-hand observations at the end of Section I in the belief that the two perspectives complement one another and add texture to our report.

Here is a summary of other key findings from the survey:

² According to U.S. Census Bureau figures, about 5% of all adults ages 65 and older are in a nursing home. For adults ages 85 and older, this figure rises to about 17%.

Perceptions about Aging

The Generation Gap, Circa

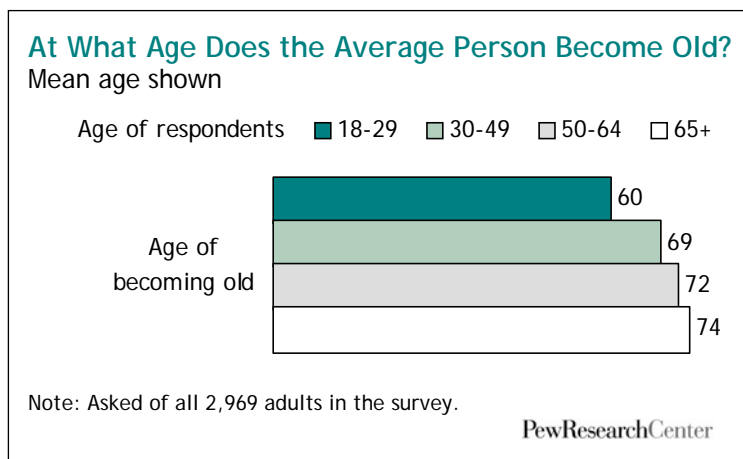
2009. In a 1969 Gallup Poll, 74% of respondents said there was a generation gap, with the phrase defined in the survey question as “a major difference in the point of view of younger people and older people today.” When the same question was asked a decade later, in 1979, by CBS and The New York Times, just 60% perceived a generation gap. But in perhaps the single most intriguing finding in this new Pew Research survey,

the share that say there is a generation gap has spiked to 79%—despite the fact that there have been few overt generational conflicts in recent times of the sort that roiled the 1960s. It could be that the phrase now means something different, and less confrontational, than it did at the height of the counterculture’s defiant challenges to the establishment 40 years ago. Whatever the current understanding of the term “generation gap,” roughly equal shares of young, middle-aged and older respondents in the new survey agree that such a gap exists. The most common explanation offered by respondents of all ages has to do with differences in morality, values and work ethic. Relatively few cite differences in political outlook or in uses of technology.

When Does Old Age Begin? At 68. That’s the average of all answers from the 2,969 survey respondents. But as noted above, this average masks a wide, age-driven variance in responses. More than half of adults under 30 say the average person becomes old even before turning 60. Just 6% of adults who are 65 or older agree. Moreover, gender as well as age influences attitudes on this subject. Women, on average, say a person becomes old at age 70. Men, on average, put the number at 66. In addition, on all 10 of the non-chronological potential markers of old age tested in this survey, men are more inclined than women to say the marker is a proxy for old age.

Are You Old? Certainly not! Public opinion in the aggregate may decree that the average person becomes old at age 68, but you won’t get too far trying to convince people that age that the threshold applies to them. Among respondents ages 65-74, just 21% say they feel old. Even among those who are 75 and older, just 35% say they feel old.

What Age Would You Like to Live To? The average response from our survey respondents is 89. One-in-five would like to live into their 90s, and 8% say they’d like to surpass the century mark. The public’s verdict on the most desirable life span appears to have ratcheted down a bit in recent years. A 2002 AARP survey found that the average desired life span was 92.



Everyday Life

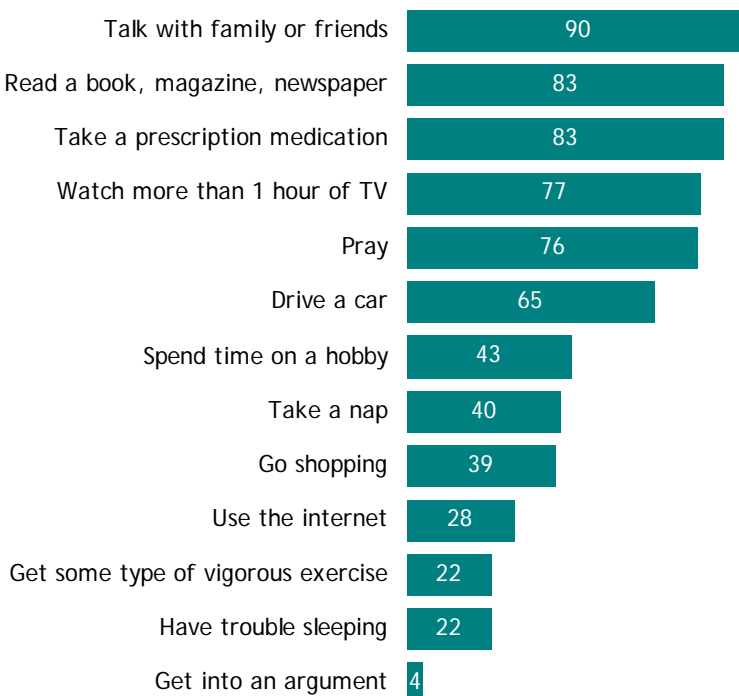
What Do Older People Do Every Day?

Among all adults ages 65 and older, nine-in-ten talk with family or friends every day. About eight-in-ten read a book, newspaper or magazine, and the same share takes a prescription drug daily. Three-quarters watch more than a hour of television; about the same share prays daily. Nearly two-thirds drive a car. Less than half spend time on a hobby. About four-in-ten take a nap; about the same share goes shopping. Roughly one-in-four use the internet, get vigorous exercise or have trouble sleeping. Just 4% get into an argument with someone. As adults move deeper into their 70s and 80s, daily activity levels diminish on most fronts—especially when it comes to exercising and driving. On the other hand, daily prayer and daily medication both increase with age.

Are Older Adults Happy? They're about as happy as everyone else. And perhaps more importantly, the same factors that predict happiness among younger adults—good health, good friends and financial security—by and large predict happiness among older adults. However, there are a few age-related differences in life's happiness sweepstakes. Most notably, once all other key demographic variables are held constant, being married is a predictor of happiness among younger adults but not among older adults (perhaps because a significant share of the latter group is made up of widows or widowers, many

The Daily Activities of Older Americans

In the past 24 hours did you ... ?



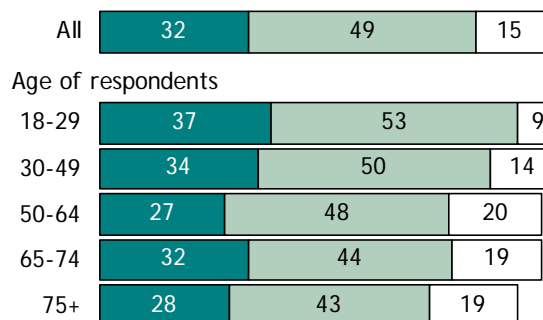
Note: Based on adults 65 and older, n=1,332.

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Happy at Any Age?

Would you say that you are ... ?

■ Very happy ■ Pretty happy □ Not too happy



Note: Asked of all 2,969 adults in the survey. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

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of whom presumably have “banked” some of the key marriage-related correlates of happiness, such as financial security and a strong family life). Among all older adults, happiness varies very little by age, gender or race.

Retirement and Old Age.

Retirement is a place without clear borders. Fully 83% of adults ages 65 and older describe themselves as retired, but the word means different things to different people. Just three-quarters of adults (76%) 65 and older fit the classic stereotype of the retiree who has completely left the working world behind. An additional 8% say they are retired but are working part time, while 2% say they are retired but working full time and 3% say they are retired but looking for work. The remaining 11% of the 65-and-older population describe themselves as still in the labor force, though not all of them have jobs.

Whatever the fuzziness around these definitions, one trend is crystal clear

from government data³: After falling steadily for decades, the labor force participate rate of older adults began to trend back upward about 10 years ago. In the Pew Research survey, the average retiree is 75 years old and retired at age 62.

Living Arrangements. More than nine-in-ten respondents ages 65 and older live in their own home or apartment, and the vast majority are either very satisfied (67%) or somewhat satisfied (21%) with their living arrangements. However, many living patterns change as adults advance into older age. For example, just 30% of adults ages 65-74 say they live alone, compared with 66% of adults ages 85 and above. Also, just 2% of adults ages 65-74 and 4% of adults ages 75-84 say they live in an assisted living facility, compared with 15% of those ages 85 and above.

Old-School Social Networking. The great majority of adults ages 65 and older (81%) say they have people around them, other than family, on whom they can rely for social activities and companionship. About three-quarters say they have someone they can talk to when they have a personal problem; six-in-ten say they have someone they can turn to for help with errands, appointments and other daily activities. On the flip side of the

Older Americans' Living Arrangements

	All	65-74	75-84	85+
<i>Currently living in:</i>				
Own home or apartment	92	95	90	80
Child's home	2	1	3	3
Other family member's home	1	1	1	2
Assisted living facility	4	2	4	15
Other	1	1	1	1
<i>Live in age-restricted community*</i>				
Yes	10	6	11	20
No	89	93	88	75
<i>Live alone?</i>				
Yes	41	30	47	66
No	58	70	52	34

Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

* Based on those living in their own home/apartment.

³ Changes in Social Security legislation, along with the transition from defined-benefit to defined-contribution pension plans, have in recent years increased incentives to work at older ages. For more detail, see Abraham Mosisa and Steven Hipple, "Trends in Labor Force Participation in the United States," *Monthly Labor Review* (October 2006): 35-57. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the labor force participation rate of adults 65 and over (that is, the share of this population that is either employed or actively looking for work) rose to 16.8% in 2008 from 12.9% in 2000.

coin, three-in-ten older adults say they “often” help out other older adults who are in need of assistance, and an additional 35% say they sometimes do this. Most of these social connections remain intact as older adults continue to age, but among those 85 and above, the share that say they often or sometimes provide assistance to others drops to 44%.

The Twitter Revolution Hasn’t Landed Here. If there’s one realm of modern life where old and young behave very differently, it’s in the adoption of newfangled information technologies. Just four-in-ten adults ages 65-74 use the internet on a daily basis, and that share drops to just one-in-six among adults 75 and above. By contrast, three-quarters of adults ages 18-30 go online daily. The generation gap is even wider when it comes to cell phones and text messages. Among adults 65 and older, just 5% get most or all of their calls on a cell phone, and just 11% sometimes use their cell phone to send or receive a text message. For adults under age 30, the comparable figures are 72% and 87%, respectively.

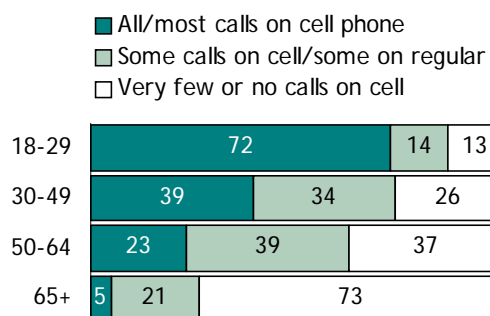
Religion and Old Age. Religion is a far bigger part of the lives of older adults than younger adults. Two-thirds of adults ages 65 and older say religion is very important to them, compared with just over half of those ages 30 to 49 and just 44% of those ages 18 to 29. Moreover, among adults ages 65 and above, a third (34%) say religion has grown more important to them over the course of their lives, while just 4% say it has become less important and the majority (60%) say it has stayed the same. Among those who are over 65 and report having an illness or feeling sad, the share who say that religion has become more important to them rises to 43%.

Family Relationships

Staying in Touch with the Kids. Nearly nine-in-ten adults (87%) ages 65 and older have children. Of this group, just over half are in contact with a son or daughter every day, and an additional 40% are in contact with at least one child—either in person, by phone or by email—at least once a week. Mothers and daughters are in the most frequent contact; fathers and daughters the least. Sons fall in the middle, and they keep in touch with older mothers and fathers at equal rates. Overall, three-quarters of adults who have a parent or parents ages 65 and older say they are very satisfied with their relationship with their parent(s), but that share falls to 62% if a parent needs help caring for his or her needs.

The Cell Phone Gap

Of all the telephone calls you receive, are ...?



Note: Sample sizes for subgroups are as follows: 18-29, n=381; 30-49, n=625; 50-64, n=606; 65+, n=1,332. “Don’t know/Refused” responses are not shown.

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Religion Matters More to Older Adults

% saying religion is very important in their life



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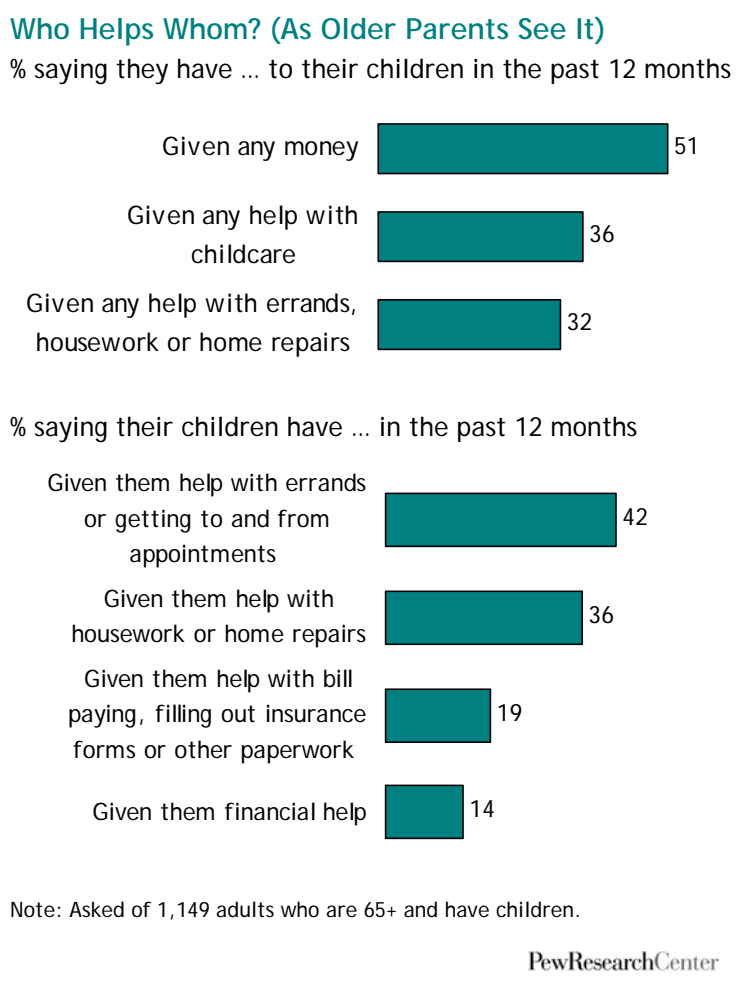
Was the Great Bard Mistaken? Shakespeare wrote that the last of the “seven ages of man” is a second childhood. Through the centuries, other poets and philosophers have observed that parents and children often reverse roles as parents grow older. Not so, says the Pew Research survey. Just 12% of parents ages 65 and older say they generally rely on their children more than their children rely on them. An additional 14% say their children rely more on them. The majority—58%—says neither relies on the other, and 13% say they rely on one another equally. Responses to this question from children of older parents are broadly similar.

Intergenerational Transfers

within Families. Despite these reported patterns of non-reliance, older parents and their adult children do help each other out in a variety of ways. However, the perspectives on these transfers of money and time differ by generation. For example, about half (51%) of parents ages 65 and older say they have given their children money in the past year, while just 14% say their children have given them money. The intra-family accounting comes out quite differently from the perspective of adult children. Among survey respondents who have a parent or parents ages 65 or older, a quarter say they received money from a parent in the past year, while an almost equal share (21%) say they gave money to their parent(s). There are similar difference in perception, by generation, about who helps whom with errands and other daily activities.

(To be clear, the survey did not

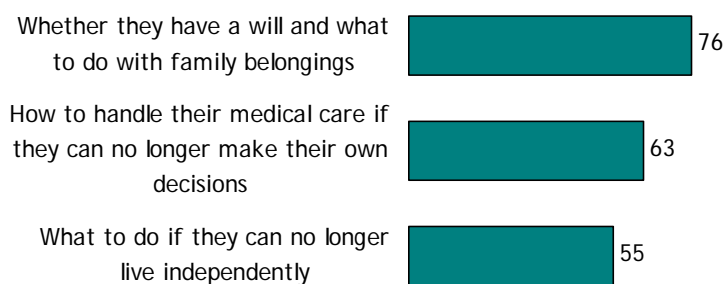
interview specific pairs of parents and children; rather, it contacted random samples who fell into these and other demographic categories.) Not surprisingly, as parents advance deeper into old age, both they and the adult children who have such parents report that the balance of assistance tilts more toward children helping parents.



Conversations about End-of-Life Matters. More than three-quarters of adults ages 65 and older say they've talked with their children about their wills; nearly two-thirds say they've talked about what to do if they can no longer make their own medical decisions, and more than half say they've talked with their children about what to do if they can no longer live independently. Similar shares of adult children of older parents report having had these conversations. Parents and adult children agree that it is the parents who generally initiate these conversations, though 70% of older adults report that this is the case, compared with just 52% of children of older parents who say the same.

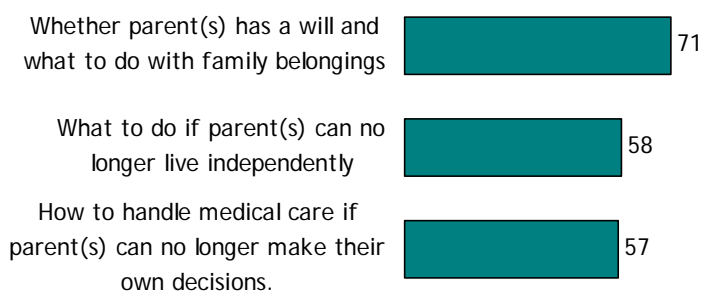
Conversations about Future Arrangements: According to Older Parents

% saying they have talked with their children regarding ...



According to Adult Children

% saying they have talked with their parents regarding ...



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About the Survey

Results for this report are from a telephone survey conducted with a nationally representative sample of 2,969 adults living in the continental United States. A combination of landline and cellular random digit dial (RDD) samples were used to cover all adults in the continental United States who have access to either a landline or cellular telephone. In addition, oversamples of adults 65 and older as well as blacks and Hispanics were obtained. The black and Hispanic oversamples were achieved by oversampling landline exchanges with more black and Hispanic residents as well as callbacks to blacks and Hispanics interviewed in previous surveys. A total of 2,417 interviews were completed with respondents contacted by landline telephone and 552 with those contacted on their cellular phone. The data are weighted to produce a final sample that is representative of the general population of adults in the continental United States. Survey interviews were conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates (PSRA).

- Interviews were conducted Feb. 23-March 23, 2009.
- There were 2,969 interviews, including 1,332 with respondents 65 or older. The older respondents included 799 whites, 293 blacks and 161 Hispanics.
- Margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.6 percentage points for results based on the total sample and 3.7 percentage points for adults who are 65 and older at the 95% confidence level
- For data reported by race or ethnicity, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for the sample of older whites, plus or minus 7.4 percentage points for older blacks and plus or minus 10.3 percentage points for older Hispanics.
- Note on terminology: Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks. Hispanics are of any race.

About the Focus Groups

With the assistance of PSRA, the Pew Research Center conducted four focus groups earlier this year in Baltimore, Md. Two groups were made up of adults ages 65 and older; two others were made up of adults with parents ages 65 and older. Our purpose was to listen to ordinary Americans talk about the challenges and pleasures of growing old, and the stories we heard during those focus groups helped us shape our survey questionnaire. Focus group participants were told that they might be quoted in this report, but we promised not to quote them by name. The quotations interspersed throughout these pages are drawn from these focus group conversations.


About the Report

This report was edited and the overview written by Paul Taylor, executive vice president of the Pew Research Center and director of its Social & Demographic Trends project (www.pewsocialtrends.org). Sections I, II and III were written by Senior Researcher Kim Parker. Section IV was written by Research Associate Wendy Wang and Taylor. Section V was written by Senior Editor Richard Morin. The Demographics Section was written by Senior Writer D’Vera Cohn and the data was compiled by Wang. Led by Ms. Parker, the full Social &

Demographic Trends staff wrote the survey questionnaire and conducted the analysis of its findings. The regression analysis we used to examine the predictors of happiness among older and younger adults was done by a consultant, Cary L. Funk, associate professor in the Wilder School of Government at Virginia Commonwealth University. The report was copy-edited by Marcia Kramer of Kramer Editing Services. It was number checked by Pew Research Center staff members Ana Gonzalez-Barrera, Daniel Dockterman and Cristina Mercado. We wish to thank other PRC colleagues who offered research and editorial guidance, including Andrew Kohut, Scott Keeter, Gretchen Livingston, Jeffrey Passel, Rakesh Kochhar and Richard Fry.

About the Pew Research Center

The Pew Research Center (www.pewresearch.org) is a nonpartisan “fact tank” based in Washington DC that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. It does not take positions on policy issues. It is a subsidiary of – and receives the bulk of its funding from -- The Pew Charitable Trusts (www.pewtrusts.org), a public charity based in Philadelphia and Washington DC.



Demographics of Older Americans

This section of the report presents statistics and trends that illustrate the population growth and well-being of U.S. residents ages 65 and older. It also compares the elderly share of the U.S. population with the share in other selected countries.

The figures are drawn not from the Pew Research Center survey but from government and other sources, which are referenced in the charts that accompany this narrative.

Growing Population Share

The population share of U.S. residents ages 65 and older has more than tripled over the past century, rising to 13% in 2008 from 4% in 1900. In 2008, 38.9 million Americans were ages 65 and older.

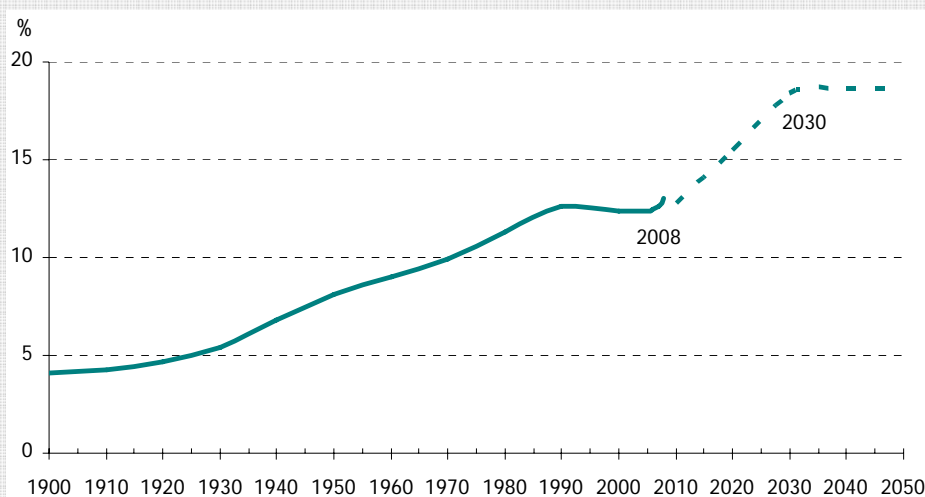
The rapid expansion of the elderly population has leveled off since 1990 (mainly as a result of the “birth

dearth” during Great Depression of the 1930s), but the aging of the post-World War II baby boom generation will fuel another growth spurt in coming decades. By 2050, according to Pew Research Center population projections, nearly one-in-five Americans will be in this age group, compared with one-in-eight today.

The sharpest growth in the elderly population is among the “oldest old”—Americans who are at least 85 years of age. Although they account for only 2% of the nation’s population today, that share represents a ninefold increase from a century ago. By 2050, according to Pew Research Center projections, 5% of Americans—one-in-twenty—will be among the oldest old.

The table below shows the share of the population of each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia that is age 65 and older.

Share of U.S. Population Ages 65 and Over, Selected Years 1900-2008 and Projected 2010-2050



Source: 1900-2008, U.S. Census Bureau. 2010-2050 Projections are based on a starting point of 2005, Pew Research Center.

Estimates of the Resident Population of Age 65 and Older, by State, July 1, 2008 (Ranked by percentage of population that is 65+)			
State	Total	65 years and older	% of population 65 and older
United States	304,059,724	38,869,716	12.8
Florida	18,328,340	3,187,797	17.4
West Virginia	1,814,468	285,067	15.7
Pennsylvania	12,448,279	1,910,571	15.3
Maine	1,316,456	199,187	15.1
Iowa	3,002,555	444,554	14.8
Hawaii	1,288,198	190,067	14.8
North Dakota	641,481	94,276	14.7
South Dakota	804,194	116,100	14.4
Arkansas	2,855,390	407,205	14.3
Montana	967,440	137,312	14.2
Rhode Island	1,050,788	147,646	14.1
Vermont	621,270	86,649	13.9
Delaware	873,092	121,688	13.9
Alabama	4,661,900	641,667	13.8
Ohio	11,485,910	1,570,837	13.7
Connecticut	3,501,252	478,007	13.7
Missouri	5,911,605	805,235	13.6
Nebraska	1,783,432	240,847	13.5
Oklahoma	3,642,361	490,637	13.5
Massachusetts	6,497,967	871,098	13.4
New York	19,490,297	2,607,672	13.4
Wisconsin	5,627,967	750,146	13.3
South Carolina	4,479,800	596,295	13.3
Oregon	3,790,060	503,998	13.3
Arizona	6,500,180	862,573	13.3
New Jersey	8,682,661	1,150,941	13.3
Kentucky	4,269,245	565,867	13.3
Tennessee	6,214,888	819,626	13.2
New Mexico	1,984,356	260,051	13.1
Kansas	2,802,134	366,706	13.1
Michigan	10,003,422	1,304,322	13.0
New Hampshire	1,315,809	169,978	12.9
Indiana	6,376,792	813,839	12.8
Mississippi	2,938,618	371,598	12.6

Minnesota	5,220,393	650,519	12.5
North Carolina	9,222,414	1,139,052	12.4
Wyoming	532,668	65,614	12.3
Louisiana	4,410,796	540,314	12.2
Illinois	12,901,563	1,575,308	12.2
Virginia	7,769,089	940,577	12.1
Maryland	5,633,597	679,565	12.1
Washington	6,549,224	783,877	12.0
Idaho	1,523,816	182,150	12.0
District of Columbia	591,833	70,648	11.9
Nevada	2,600,167	296,717	11.4
California	36,756,666	4,114,496	11.2
Colorado	4,939,456	511,094	10.3
Texas	24,326,974	2,472,223	10.2
Georgia	9,685,744	981,024	10.1
Utah	2,736,424	246,202	9.0
Alaska	686,293	50,277	7.3

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Resident Population by Selected Age Groups for the United States, States, and Puerto Rico: July 1, 2008 (SC-EST2008-01). Release Date: May 14, 2009

Life Expectancy Gains

The growing elderly share of the U.S. population reflects dramatic gains in life expectancy as well as sharp drops in fertility rates over the past century. Americans born in 2006 could expect to live at least into their mid-70s, compared with their mid-40s for those born in 1900.

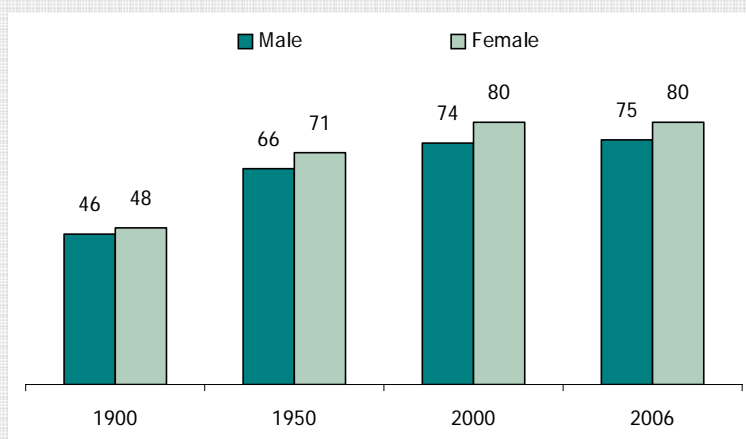
The elderly population is majority female, because women on average live longer than men, although the gap has shrunk slightly in recent years. A female baby born in 2006 could expect to live to 80, and a male baby to 75.

Although most of the increase in life expectancy at birth is due to reductions in infant and child deaths early in the last century,⁴ gains also have been made at the other end of the age spectrum. Looking at remaining life expectancy, a 65-year-old American today can expect to live about another 19 years. In 1900, the remaining life expectancy for a 65-year-old was about 12 years.

Income and Poverty

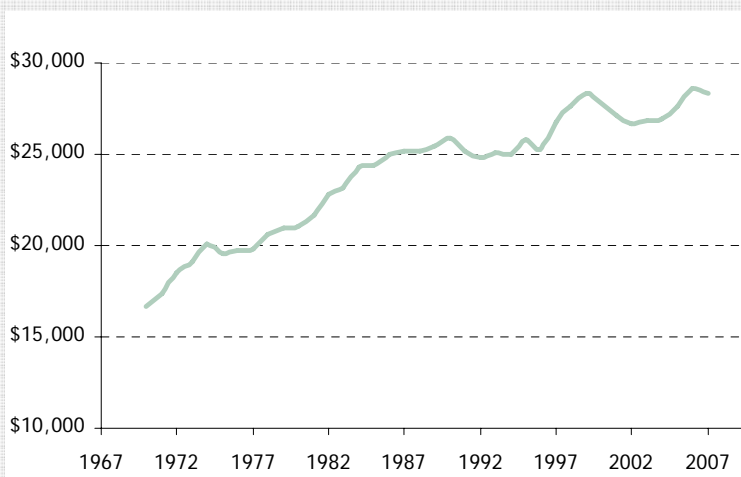
As a group, older Americans are significantly better off now than they were in most recent decades, although their incomes have dipped since the late 1990s economic boom. In 2007, median household income for people ages 65 and older was \$28,305. Adjusted for inflation, this is 70% higher than it was in 1970.

Life Expectancy at Birth, United States, Selected Years 1900-2006



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.

Median Household Income of Population Ages 65 and Older, 1970-2007 (Inflation-adjusted in 2007 dollars)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1970-2007. Income in 2007 CPI-U-RS adjusted dollars.

⁴ Himes, Christine L. "Elderly Americans," Population Bulletin 56, No. 4 (Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau, December 2001).

The poverty rate for older Americans has dropped by about two-thirds since the mid-1960s. In 1966, 28.5% of Americans ages 65 and older lived below the poverty line; in 2007, 9.7% did.

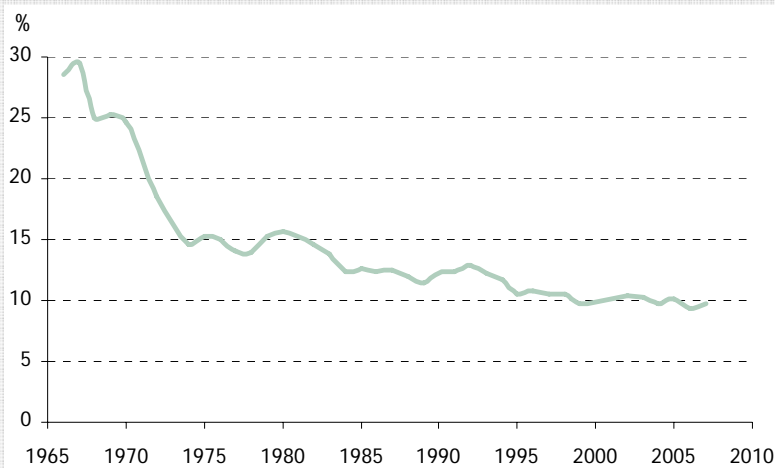
By contrast, current poverty rates for children and for adults ages 18-64 are little changed from the mid-1960s. As a result, the poverty rate for older Americans is now lower than that for children or for other adults, a reversal from four decades ago.

Global Aging

The one-in-eight share of the U.S. population that is ages 65 and older is lower than that of countries in Europe and of other developed nations, such as Japan and Australia. Older people account for about one-in-five residents of Japan, Italy and Germany, which have among the largest shares in that age group globally.

The proportion of older residents is considerably lower in developing nations. It is one-in-twelve in China, for example, and one-in-twenty in India.

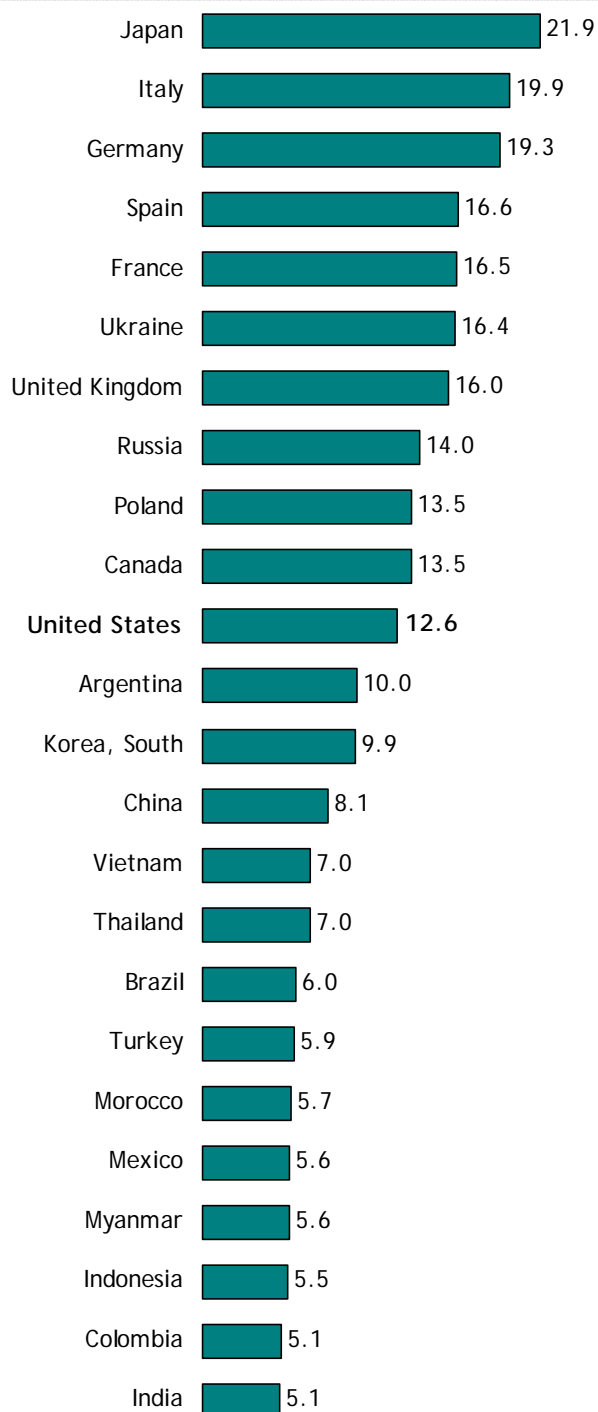
Share of Population Ages 65 and Older Living in Poverty: 1966-2007



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1966-2007.

Global Aging, Selected Nations

Share of population (%) ages 65 and older, 2008

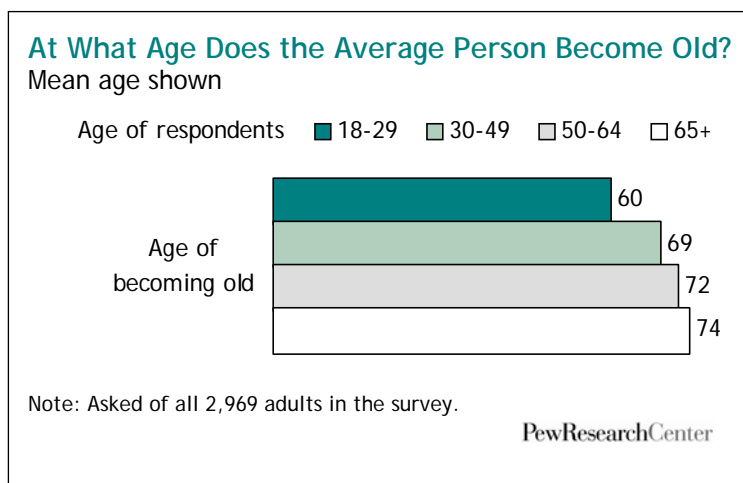


Note: Only nations with populations of at least 30 million and with at least 5 percent of their populations ages 65 and older are included in this table.

Source: Data extracted from PRB 2008 World Population Data Sheet

Section I. Perceptions of Old Age

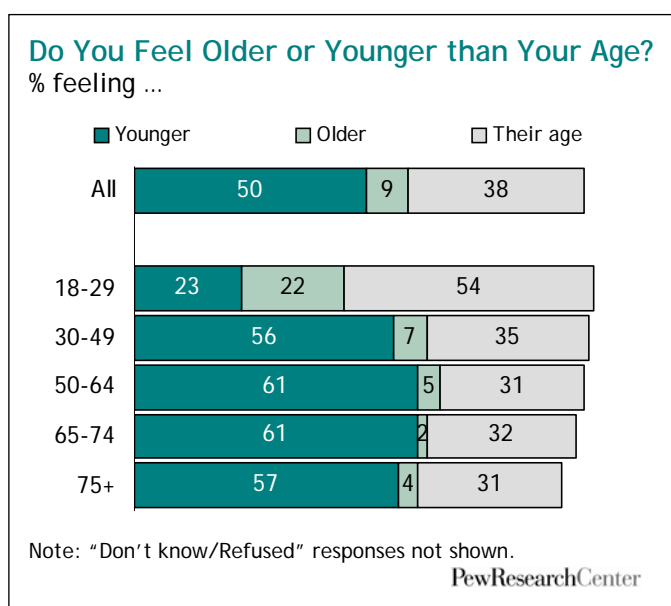
Most Americans believe that old age is a rich amalgam of new opportunities and new challenges, but they have very different views about when it actually begins. According to the sum of all responses from 2,969 survey takers, the average person becomes old at age 68. However, this single number masks big aged-related differences in judgments about when old age begins. Those under age 30 say the average person becomes old at 60, while those 65 and older push that threshold to 74 years. More than half of those under 30 say a person becomes old even before reaching 60. Only 6% of those 65 and older share that view.



Despite this wide range of views about where the entrance ramp to old age is located, there's one predominant theme that emerges from older survey respondents on the subject of old age: I myself haven't arrived there yet. When asked whether they feel old, 69% of all adults 65 and older say they do not; just 28% say they do. Among those ages 65-74, only 21% say they feel old. Feeling old is somewhat more common for those 75 and older: 35% say they feel old. But even so, a solid majority (61%) in this age group says that they don't feel old.

Men ages 65 and above are more likely than women in that age group to say they feel old: 32% of men over 64 say they feel old, compared with 25% of women. And, of course, life circumstances affect feelings about age. Those who are dealing with many of the challenges and problems of old age are among the most likely to say they feel old.

When asked more specifically whether they feel older or younger than their age, half of all American adults (50%) say they feel younger than their actual age. Very few (9%) say they feel older than their age, and 38% say they feel about their age. These feelings about age are consistent across age groups, with one important exception. Young adults under age 30 are more likely than any other age group to



say they feel *older* than their age: some 22% say they feel older, while 23% say they feel younger and 54% say they feel about their age. Among older age groups, solid majorities say they feel younger than their age.

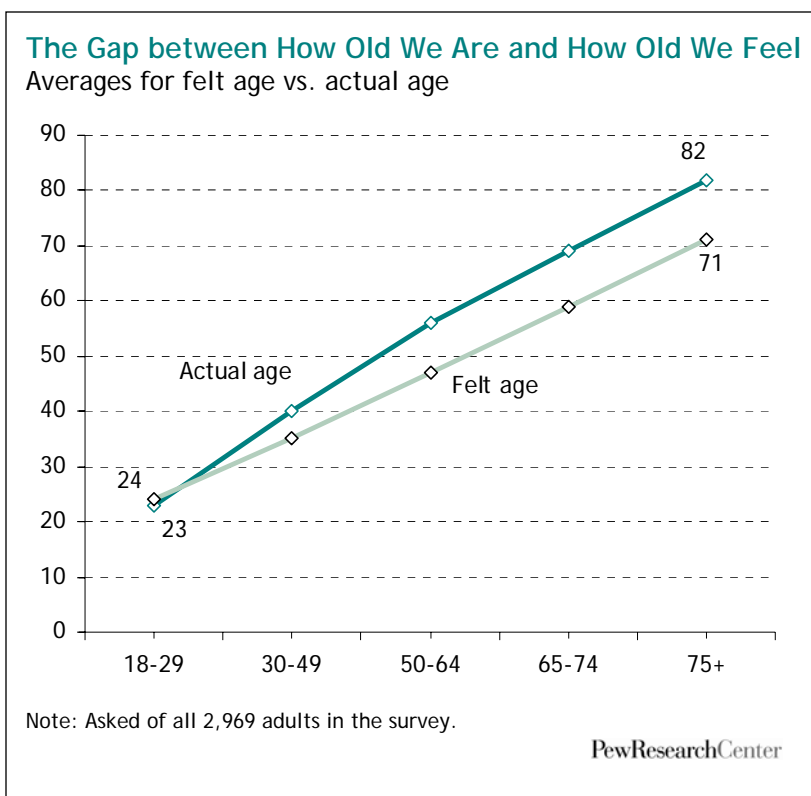
The survey also asked people to say how old they feel, in years, and here again the responses vary by age group. For young adults, most of whom feel about their age, the gap between actual age and “felt age” is very small. On average, respondents ages 18-29 say they feel 24 years old. In reality, the average age of this group is 23.

The gap between actual age and how old respondents feel grows wider with age. On average, those ages 30-49 say they feel 35 years old. The

average age for this group is actually 40. The gap widens even more for respondents ages 50 and older. Those ages 50-64 say they feel 47 (vs. an actual average age of 56). For those 65 and older, the gap is roughly 10 years. In other words, the average 70-year-old feels 60, and the average 80-year-old feels only 70.

Nearly half of all respondents ages 50 and older say they feel at least 10 years younger than they actually are. Among those ages 65-74, fully 16% say they feel at least 20 years younger than their actual age and 34% say they feel 10 to 19 years younger.

Most Americans would like to live well into their 80s. On average, they say they would like to live to age 89. Fully three-in-ten say they would like to live even longer. One-in-five would like to live into their 90s, and 8% say they’d like to pass the century mark. The average desired life span has changed a bit over the past 10 years. In a 1999 survey conducted for AARP, respondents said, on average, they would like to live to be 91. In a 2002 AARP survey, the average desired life span was 92.



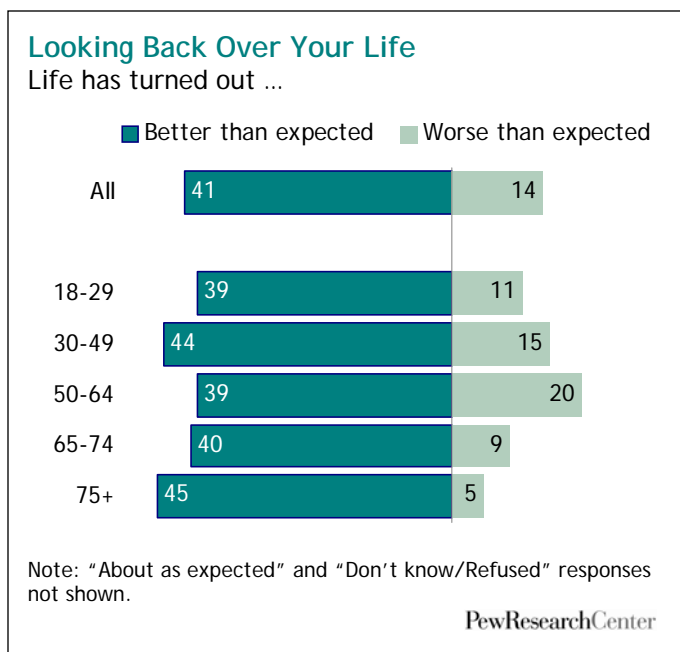
What Age Would You Like to Live To?

% who say ...

70 and under	7
71-80	19
81-90	28
91-100	21
Over 100	8
<i>Mean age</i>	<i>89</i>

Beating Expectations

When asked to take stock of their lives, older Americans are largely upbeat. Among those ages 65-74, four-in-ten say their life has turned out better than they expected. Only 9% say their life has turned out worse than they expected, and 43% say their life has turned out about as they expected. As they move into their 70s and 80s, older adults give even more positive assessments of their lives. Among those ages 75 and older, nearly half (45%) say their life has turned out better than they expected, while only 5% say their life has turned out worse than expected. Those ages 85 and above are among the most sanguine: 41% say life has turned out better than they expected, and 44% say things have turned out mostly as they had anticipated. Only 1% of those 85 and older say their life has been worse than they thought it would be.



Younger and middle-aged Americans are somewhat less positive when they engage in this same retrospective evaluation of their lives. For adults under age 30, a plurality (47%) say that so far things have turned out about as they expected, while four-in-ten (39%) say things have turned out better than they expected and 11% say worse. For those ages 30-49, a plurality (44%) say life has turned out better than they expected, 15% say worse and 36% say things have turned out about as they expected.

For those ages 50-64, the glass is a little less full. While 39% say life has turned out better than they expected, 20% say it has turned out worse than they thought it would. Some 36% say life has turned out about as they expected.⁵

⁵ For more information on this age group, see ["Baby Boomers: The Gloomiest Generation."](#) Pew Research Center's Social & Demographics Trends project, June 25, 2008.

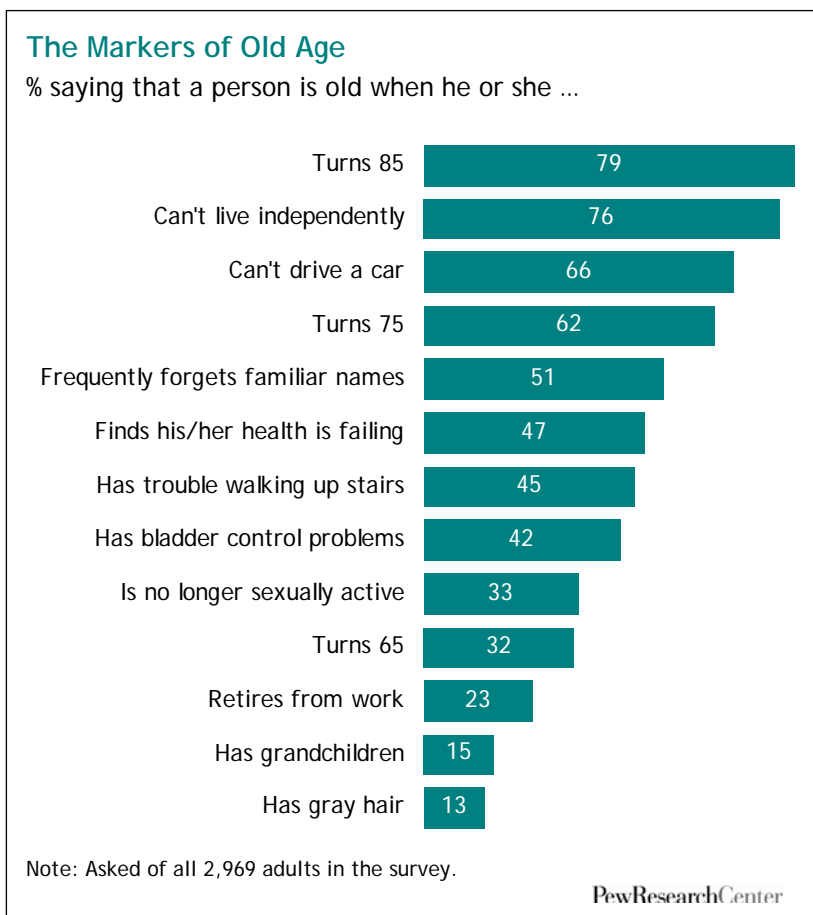
The Markers of Old Age

The survey presented respondents with a battery of 13 potential benchmarks that might signify that a person is old. Three are age milestones. The vast majority of respondents (79%) agree that someone who turns 85 is old. Fewer, though still a majority (62%), say a person is old upon reaching age 75. Only a third (32%) consider someone who has turned 65 to be old.

Aside from turning 85, the most widely accepted marker of old age is the loss of independence. Fully 76% of respondents say people are old when they can no longer live independently. Not being able to drive a car is another significant marker of old age—two-thirds of the public say a person is old when he or she can no longer drive.

Roughly half of the public (51%) says a person who frequently forgets familiar names is old. The public is similarly divided over whether failing health is a sign of old age: 47% say it is; 46% disagree. Roughly the same proportion (45%) say difficulty walking up stairs signals that someone is old. Trouble with bladder control is a marker of old age for 42% of the public.

Relatively few Americans (33%) agree that when a person is no longer sexually active, it is a sign of old age; 59% reject that idea. Only one-in-four (23%) associate retirement with being old, and even fewer (15%) consider a person old if they have grandchildren. Finally, having gray hair is a marker of old age for only 13% of the public.



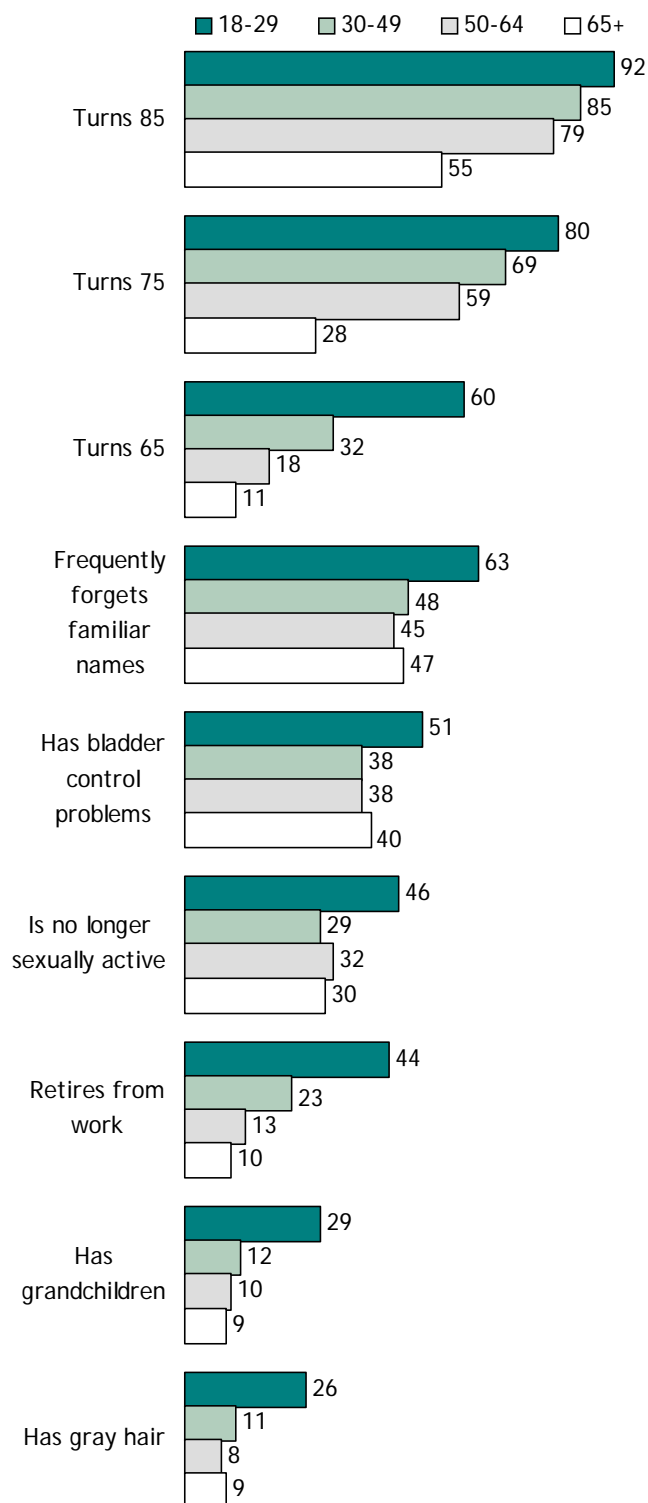
Young adults are more inclined than older people to see many of these milestones as markers of old age. In particular, those ages 18-29 are more than twice as likely as those 30 and older to view turning 65, retiring from work and having gray hair as signs of old age. Fully 44% of those ages 18-29 say that when someone retires, that means he or she is old. This compares with only 23% of those ages 30-49 and less than 15% of those over age 50 who believe that. In addition, young adults are nearly three times as likely as those over 30 to say someone is old when that person has grandchildren. Young adults are also much more likely than older adults to view frequently forgetting familiar names and no longer being sexually active as markers of old age.

Older Americans are among the most reluctant to designate specific age thresholds as markers of old age. While more than 80% of those under age 65 say people are old when they reach age 85, only 55% of those 65 and older agree. Similarly, while roughly seven-in-ten of those under age 65 see turning 75 as a marker of old age, only 28% of those 65 and older consider 75 to be old.

The loss of independence is a clear marker of old age for young and old alike. Roughly three-quarters (74%) of those under age 30 say that someone is old when that person can no longer live independently, and

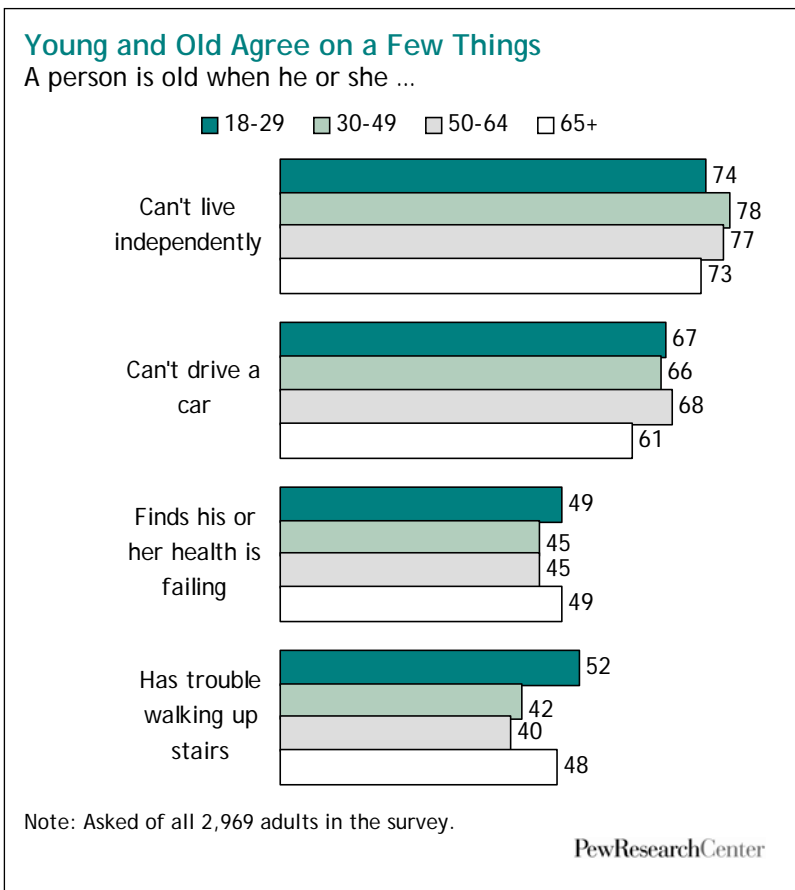
Most Markers of Old Age Differ for Young and Old

A person is old when he or she ...



Note: Sample sizes for subgroups are as follows: 18-29, n=381; 30-49, n=625; 50-64, n=606; 65+, n=1,332.

73% of those ages 65 and older agree with this assessment. Other areas of agreement include no longer being able to drive, failing health and difficulty walking up stairs.



"Old is a function of the calendar, but how you react to it is a function of you."

RETIRED WHITE MALE, AGE 68

"I feel young at heart, but sometimes my body doesn't agree with me."

SEMI-RETIRED WHITE FEMALE, AGE 63

Men and Women Differ on What It Means to Be Old

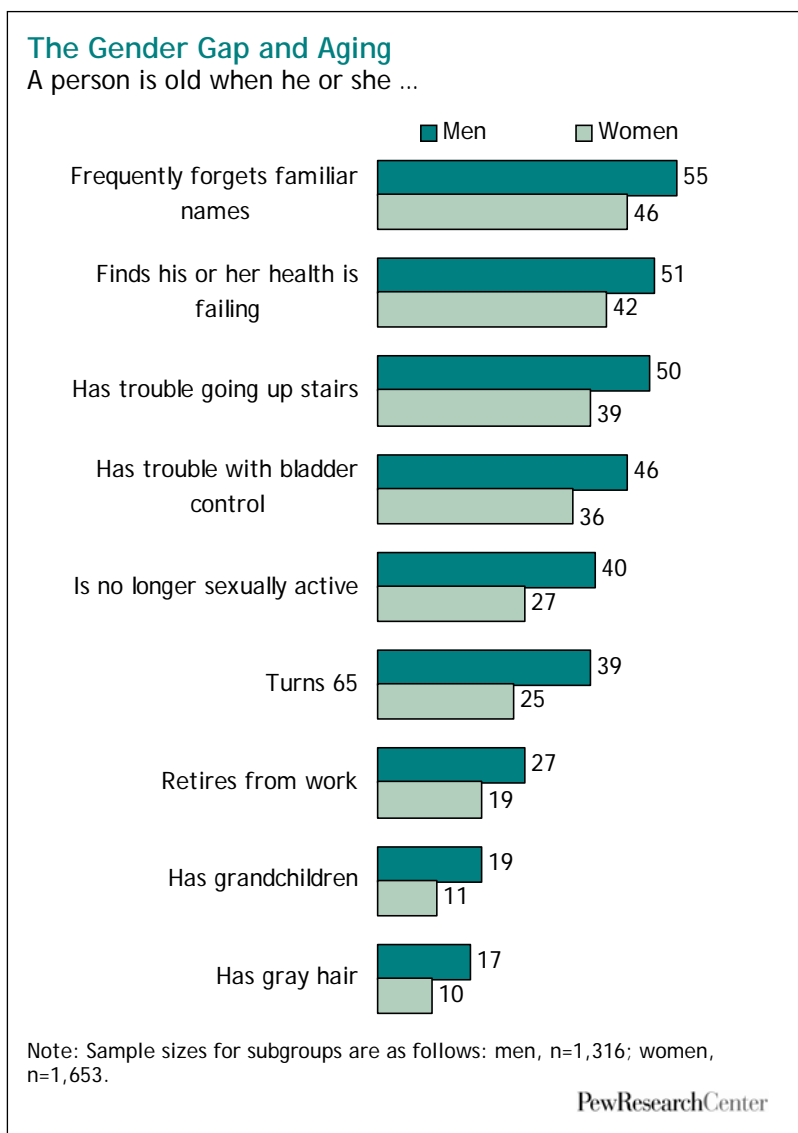
Men are much more likely than women to view many of these markers as signs of old age. Nearly four-in-ten men (39%) say that a person is old when he or she turns 65; only 25% of women agree. On average, women say a person becomes old upon turning 70, while men say old age sets in at age 66. In addition, while 40% of men say no longer being sexually active is a sign of old age, only 27% of women agree. Men and women also differ over the significance of incontinence: 46% of men and just 36% of women say a person is old when bladder control is a problem.

Significant gender gaps exist on several other items as well. Some of them relate to mental or physical health—frequently forgetting familiar names, having trouble going up stairs or being in failing health. Others relate to lifestyle or circumstances, such as having grandchildren or retiring from work. In each case, more men than women see these particular

milestones as markers of old age. The gender gap is even more pronounced among those ages 50 and older. One of the largest gaps is over whether a person is old when he or she turns 75. While 54% of men ages 50 or above say turning 75 means someone is old, only 38% of women who are 50 or older agree. Men and women under age 50 are largely in agreement on this issue—more than 70% of both genders say that when people turn 75, they are old.

Men and women of all ages tend to agree that when someone turns 85, can no longer live independently or can no longer drive a car, that person is old.

The differences across racial and ethnic groups are not as dramatic or consistent as the gender differences, but a few are worth noting. Whites are more likely than either blacks or Hispanics to see the loss of independence as a



clear marker of old age. Fully 80% of whites say people are old when they can no longer live on their own. This compares with 59% of blacks and 68% of Hispanics. Similarly, while 69% of whites say no longer being able to drive a car is a sign of old age, fewer blacks (57%) and Hispanics (59%) agree.

Blacks are more likely than either whites or Hispanics to see turning 75 as a marker of old age. However, they are less likely to see failing health or trouble walking up stairs as signs that someone is old. Hispanics are more likely than whites or blacks to say that someone is old when that person retires from work or has grandchildren.

Growing Older: Expectations vs. Reality

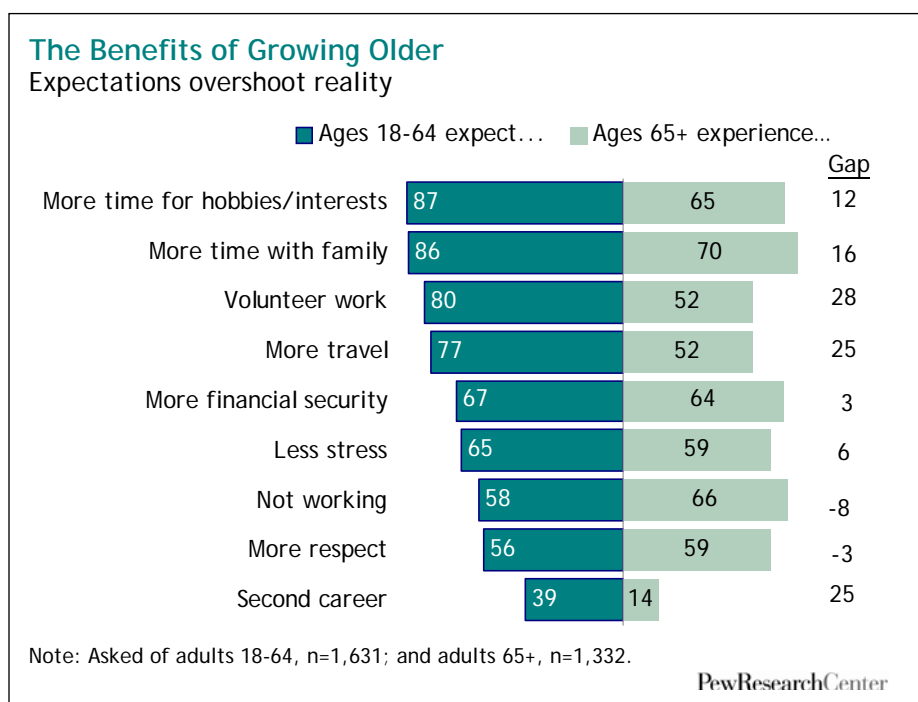
For many young and middle-aged Americans envisioning their lives after age 65, hopes for the future are balanced against anxieties about the potential pitfalls of old age. The vast majority of those under 65 expect that they will spend their golden years pursuing hobbies and interests, spending more time with their families, volunteering in their communities and traveling more for pleasure. Most also anticipate that they will not have to work; that they will be more financially secure; that they will have less stress in their lives; and that they will get more respect than they did when they were younger.

But at the same time, a majority think they will suffer from memory loss and many think they will lose the ability to drive and have to cope with a serious illness. In addition, roughly one-in-three believe that they will no longer be sexually active when they are older and that they will confront sadness, depression, loneliness and the feeling that they are not needed by others. One-in-four anticipate having trouble paying bills and being a burden on others.

When these expectations are compared with the actual experiences of older Americans, there is good and bad news to report.

The bad news first: Those over 65 report experiencing many of the positive aspects of aging at lower rates than younger Americans report expecting to experience them.

Some of the largest gaps involve how older people spend their leisure time. While 87% of those under age 65 expect they will spend more time on hobbies and interests when they are older, far fewer older Americans



(65%) say that they actually do this. Similarly, 80% of those under 65 think they will do volunteer work or get involved in their communities when they are older. Only 52% of older people say they do these types of activities. More than three-quarters of younger respondents expect to travel more for pleasure in their old age; roughly half of those ages 65 and older say they actually do that.

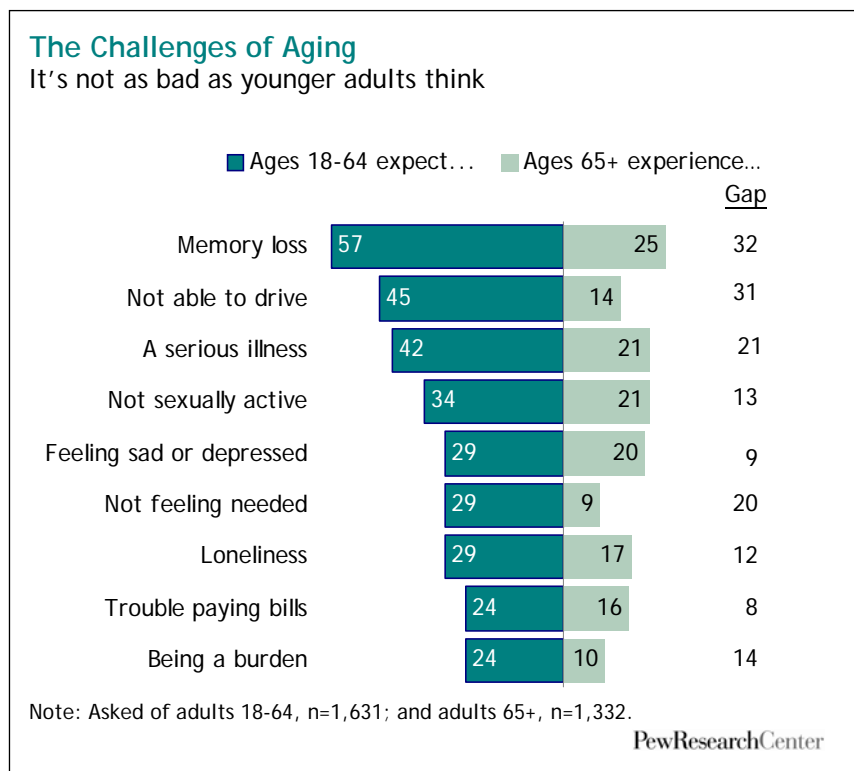
Younger adults also anticipate having more time with their families when they are older—86% say this is something they expect. While a strong majority of older Americans (70%) do say they have more time with their families as they get older, more than a quarter say they do not.

Another realm where expectations differ from reality is post-retirement employment. Among those under age 65, nearly four-in-ten (39%) think they will start a new job or second career when they are older. But only 14% of those ages 65 and older say they have actually done this.

For certain other positive aspects of aging, younger people are quite prescient in their predictions. Roughly two-thirds expect to be financially secure when they are older, and 64% of those ages 65 and above say they are financially secure. The majority of younger respondents (58%) anticipate not having to work when they are older. Fully two-thirds of older respondents say they do not have to work. Experiencing less stress in life and getting more respect from others are also areas where the expectations of younger Americans closely mirror the experiences of older people.

Those examples are part of the “good news” from this survey. But here is the even better news: Many of the problems young adults expect to confront in their old age are not affecting the lives of the vast majority of older Americans.

For example, while more than half of those under 65 (57%) think they will experience memory loss when they are older, only a quarter of respondents ages 65 and older say that has happened to them. Nearly half of younger adults (45%) expect that they will no longer be able to drive when they are older. This is a problem for only 14% of older respondents. Similarly, while 42% of younger respondents think they will have a serious illness when they are older, only 21% of older people say that has happened to them. Roughly three-in-ten younger



adults anticipate that they will feel like they are not needed by others as they get older. Fewer than one-in-ten older people (9%) report actually feeling that way.

How Men and Women Anticipate and Experience Old Age

Men and women have similar expectations about growing old. Most respondents of both genders expect to spend time on hobbies, have more time with their families, become more financially secure, get more respect and retire from work. Women are somewhat more likely than men to say they expect to do volunteer work when they are older (83% of women vs. 77% of men) and travel for pleasure (80% vs. 74%). Meanwhile, men are more likely than women to predict that they will have less stress in their lives when they are older (68% of men vs. 61% of women) and that they will start a new job or second career (45% vs. 32%).

By and large, men and women ages 65 and older report experiencing most of these benefits in roughly equal proportions. There are, however, a few exceptions. Older men are somewhat more likely than older women to travel for pleasure (57% of men vs. 48% of women). Looking at all respondents ages 65 and older, men ages 65-74 are among the most likely to spend time on hobbies and interests (74%). Women ages 65-74 are among the most likely to spend time with grandchildren (74%).

When asked about potential problems they may confront in their old age, younger men and women once again have broadly similar expectations. Women are somewhat more likely than men to expect that they will no longer be sexually active when they are older (38% of women under age 65 vs. 31% of men), and they are more likely to say they expect to feel sad or depressed when they are older (32% vs. 26% of men).

Based on the reports of their older peers, younger women are right to be concerned about feeling lonely when they grow old but wrong about an end to sexual activity. Among those ages 65 and older, more women than men say they often feel lonely (19% vs. 13%). However, men 65 and older are much more likely than women in that age group to say they are no longer sexually active (27% vs. 17% of women). Among men over age 75, that share climbs to 32%.

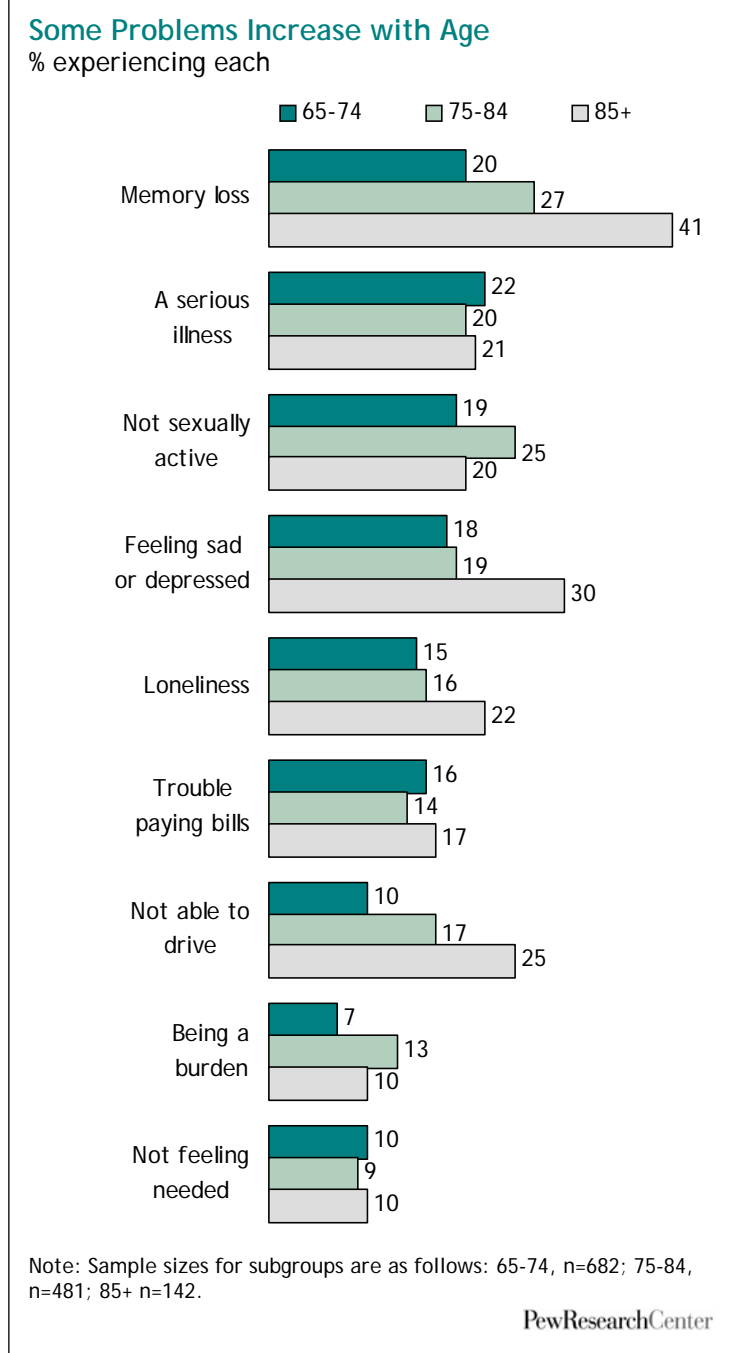
Women ages 75 and older confront other challenges at higher rates than do men in that age group. One-in-four say they are dealing with a serious illness, and an equal percentage say they can no longer drive. Among men 75 and older, just 14% say they have a serious illness and 9% say they cannot drive. Women 75 and above are much more likely than men in that age group to say they feel they are not needed by other people (12% of women vs. 5% of men).

Life Changes after 85

One clear finding from the survey is that the problems of old age mount as people reach ages 85 and beyond. The disconnect between the perceptions of younger adults and the experiences of older Americans may be related, at least in part, to the fact that young adults are imagining what might happen toward the end of their life, and many folks in their 60s and 70s are simply not there yet. The average life expectancy in the U.S. as of 2005 was 77.8 years.

The likelihood of memory loss, depression and a loss of independence increases significantly as people advance into their 80s. Fully 41% of respondents ages 85 and above say they are experiencing some memory loss, compared with 27% of those ages 75-84 and 20% of those ages 65-74. Similarly, while 30% of those ages 85 and older say they often feel sad or depressed, less than 20% of those who are 65-84 say the same. A quarter of those 85 and older report they can no longer drive a car. This compares with 17% of those ages 75-84 and only 10% of those ages 65-74.

However, there are some aspects of life where respondents ages 85 and older do not differ significantly from those ages 65-84. These very old respondents are no more likely to be dealing with a serious illness or to be having trouble paying bills.⁶ In addition, despite their advanced age, they are no more likely than those under 85 to say they feel like a burden to others or that they feel they are no longer needed by others.



⁶ On these questions in particular, our inability to reach people who are too ill to take a telephone survey or who are in nursing homes may be skewing the age comparisons.

Aside from these specific problems and challenges, many older Americans need help more generally to handle their affairs and care for themselves. The need for this type of help increases significantly with age. Among those ages 65-74, only 8% say they need help handling their affairs, while fully 92% say they do not need help. Those ages 75-84 are nearly as independent—11% say they need help with their affairs or caring for themselves, while 89% do not. Once people reach age 85, they are much more likely to need help: 33% of those ages 85 and older say they need help handling their affairs or taking care of themselves.

While the very old tend to experience more of the problems of old age, they enjoy many of the same benefits as their younger counterparts. Those ages 85 and above do not differ significantly from those ages 65-84 when it comes to spending more time with their families now than when they were younger; not having to work; feeling financially secure; or having less stress in their lives. In addition, they are almost as likely to travel for pleasure as are those 10 to 20 years younger.

Where the very old do differ, not surprisingly, is in their level of activity. Only 48% of those ages 85 and older say they spend time on hobbies and interests. This compares with 65% of those ages 75-84 and 70% of those ages 65-74. The very old are also less likely to do volunteer work or be involved in their communities: 36% of those ages 85 and older volunteer, compared with

Help with Day-to-Day Living

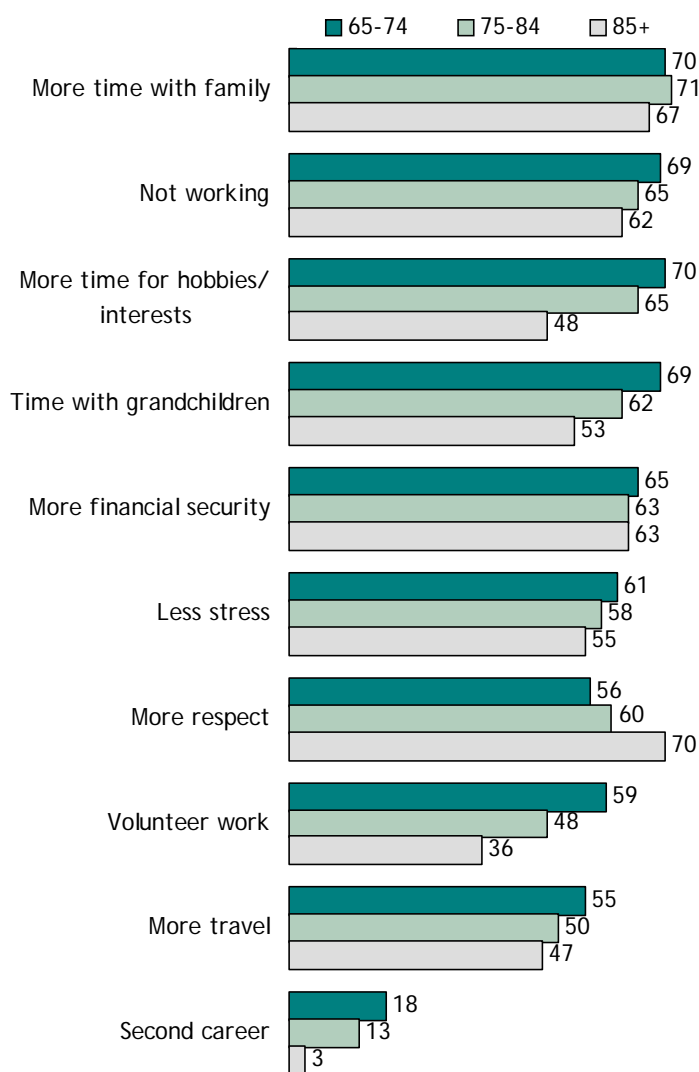
Do you ever need help to handle your affairs or care for yourself, or can you handle these things on your own?

	65-74	75-84	85+
Need help	8	11	33
Can handle on own	92	89	65

Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses are not shown.

Very Old Still Enjoy Many Benefits

% experiencing each



Note: Sample sizes for subgroups are as follows: 65-74, n=682; 75-84, n=481; 85+, n=142.

PewResearchCenter

48% of those ages 75-84 and 59% of those ages 65-74. They are also somewhat less likely to spend time with grandchildren and much less likely to be engaged in a new job or second career.

One area where the very old seem to benefit more than their younger counterparts is in feeling respected. Among those 85 and above, 70% say they get more respect as they get older. This compares with 60% of those ages 75-84 and 56% of those ages 65-74.

Family Matters

Of all the potential benefits of old age, what's most important to older Americans is spending time with their families. When asked which of the 10 benefits they value most, more than half of those ages 65 and older point to family (28% choose having more time with their families and an additional 25% choose spending time with their grandchildren).

Financial security is valued most by 14% of older Americans. Roughly one-in-ten (9%) say having less stress in their life is what they value most. Fewer say they value traveling for pleasure (8%), spending time on hobbies and interests (7%), not having to work (7%) and doing volunteer work (7%). There are few differences across age groups. Whether someone is 65, 75 or 85, family is what matters most.

What Older Americans Value Most

% of those 65 and older who named each

More time with family	28
Time with grandchildren	25
More financial security	14
Less stress	9
More travel	8
More time for hobbies/interests	7
Not working	7
Volunteer work	7
More respect	5
Second career	1

Note: Total exceeds 100% because multiple responses were allowed. "Don't know/Refused" responses are not shown.

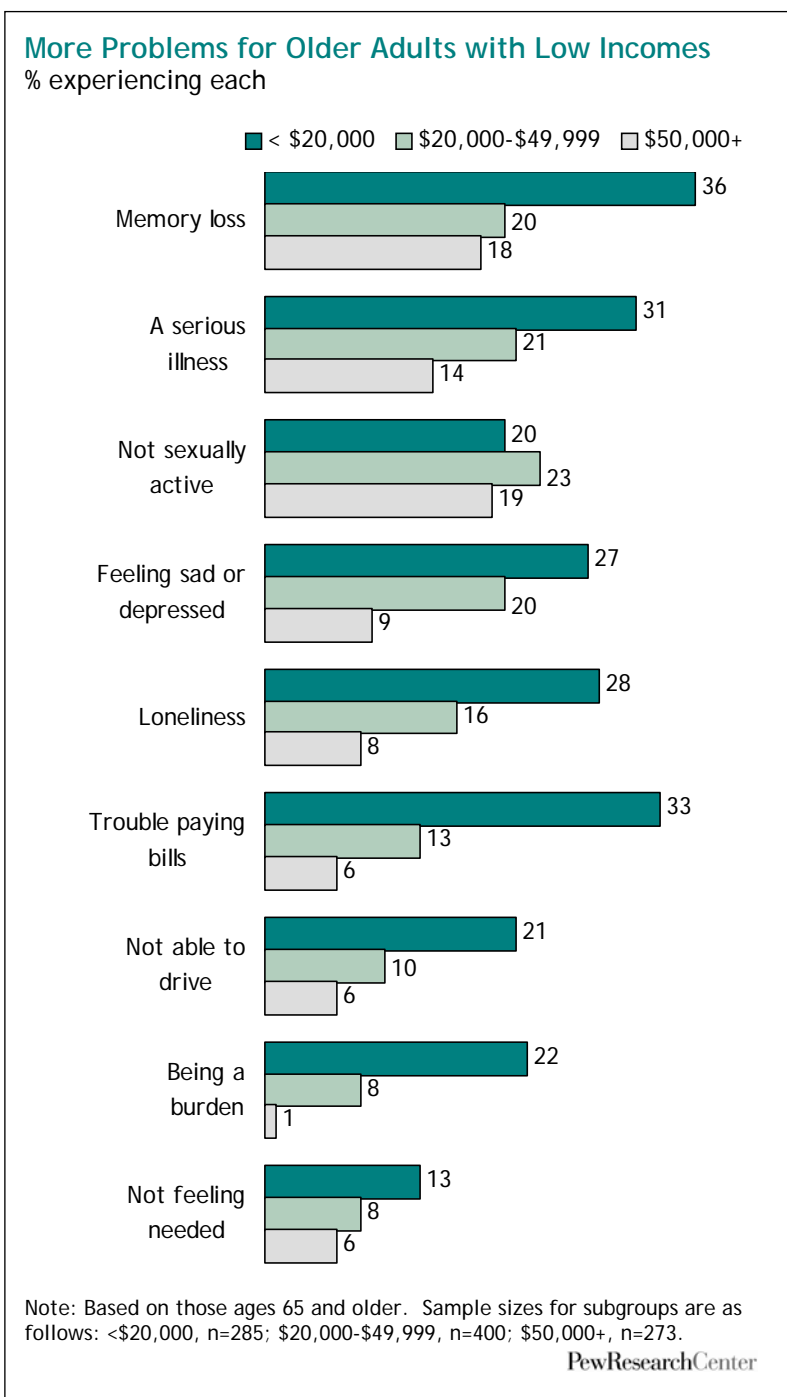
Income's Impact on Old Age

The burdens of old age are felt more acutely by those at the lower end of the income scale. Older adults with annual household incomes under \$20,000 are more likely than those with higher incomes to experience a variety of physical and emotional problems. More than a third (36%) of those ages 65 and older with incomes under \$20,000 say they are dealing with memory loss. This compares with 20% of those with incomes of \$20,000 to less than \$50,000 and 18% of those with incomes of \$50,000 or more a year. Similarly, 31% of older adults with incomes under \$20,000 say they are experiencing a serious illness, compared with less than 20% of those with higher incomes.

Older adults with incomes under \$20,000 a year are also more likely than those with higher incomes to say that they often feel sad or depressed and that they worry about becoming a burden to others. Fully 28% say they experience loneliness. This compares with only 8% among older adults with annual incomes of \$50,000 or higher.

No longer being able to drive is a more common problem among those with incomes under \$20,000: 21% report that they can no longer drive.

Among those with incomes of \$20,000 to less than \$50,000, half as many report having this problem. Even fewer (6%) of older adults with incomes of \$50,000 or higher say they can no longer drive.



Just as older adults with low incomes experience more problems than their counterparts with higher incomes, they are less likely to enjoy some of the benefits of old age. Only 35% of those with incomes under \$20,000 a year say they travel more for pleasure now than when they were younger. This compares with 59% of those with incomes of \$20,000 to less than \$50,000 and 69% of those with incomes of \$50,000 or more.

Similarly, older adults with incomes under \$20,000 are much less likely than those with higher incomes to do volunteer work or be involved in their communities. And, not surprisingly, they are much less likely to feel financially secure.

Old Age More Challenging for Hispanics

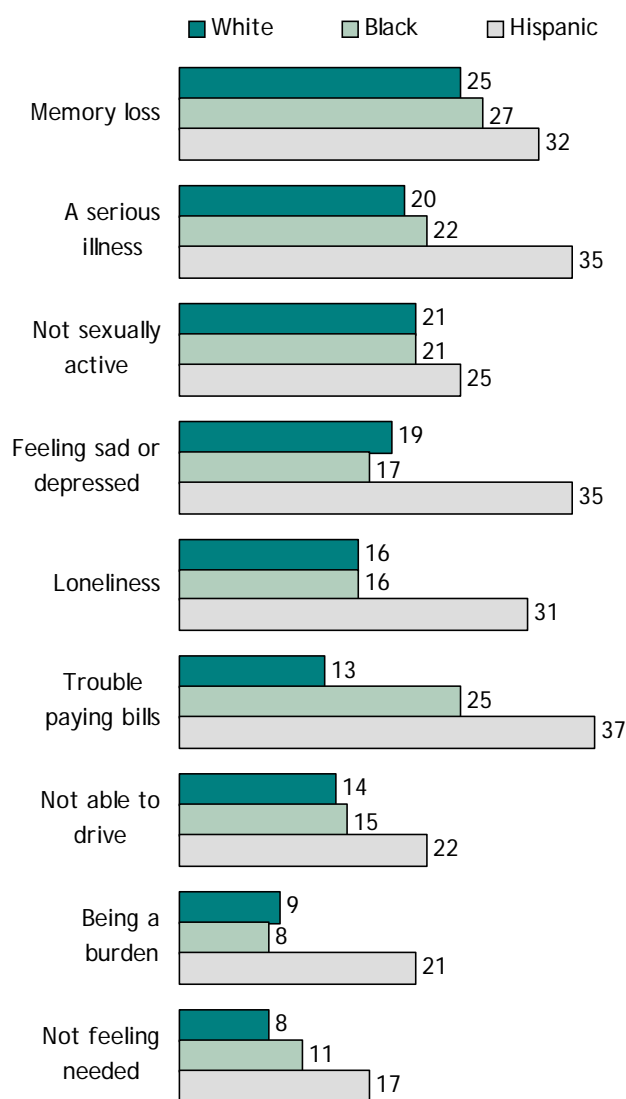
Old age is a little tougher for Hispanic Americans than for whites or blacks. Of the nine potential problems of old age included in the study, Hispanics are experiencing seven at significantly higher rates than either whites or blacks. Among Hispanics ages 65 and older, 35% say they are dealing with a serious illness. This compares with only 20% of whites and 22% of blacks in the same age group.

In addition, older Hispanics are more likely to report problems with their emotional health. More than a third (35%) say they often feel sad or depressed (compared with fewer than 20% among older whites and blacks), and 31% say they are lonely (compared with 16% of both whites and blacks). Older Hispanics are also more than twice as likely as whites or blacks to say they feel they are a burden to others (21% vs. less than 10% among whites and blacks). And more Hispanics than whites or blacks say they feel they are not needed by others.

The only problem area where older whites and blacks differ significantly is finances. Fully a quarter of blacks ages 65 and older say they are having

Older Hispanics Report More Problems than Whites or Blacks

% experiencing each



Note: Based on those ages 65 and older. White includes only non-Hispanic whites; black includes only non-Hispanic blacks. Sample sizes for subgroups are as follows: white, n=799; black, n=293; Hispanic, n=161.

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trouble paying their bills. Only 13% of whites ages 65 and older report having such troubles. Hispanics are having an even more difficult time than blacks in this regard: 37% of Hispanics ages 65 and above say they are having trouble paying the bills.

Despite these differences, older Hispanics enjoy many of the benefits of old age. Hispanics ages 65 and older are just as likely as whites and blacks in the same age group to say they spend more time with their families than when they were younger. They also say they now spend more time on hobbies and interests, have less stress in their lives and get more respect.

They are less likely, however, to do volunteer work or be involved in their communities. Only 43% of older Hispanics say they do volunteer work, compared with 52% of older blacks and 54% of older whites. In addition, fewer say they do not have to work: 55% of Hispanics ages 65 and older say they do not have to work now that they are older, compared with 69% of blacks and 67% of whites.

One benefit that older whites enjoy at much higher rates than older blacks or Hispanics is financial security. While nearly seven-in-ten whites ages 65 and older (68%) say they are financially secure, only 49% of older blacks and 50% of older Hispanics say the same. Older whites are also somewhat more likely than older blacks or Hispanics to travel for pleasure.

“I had put a little money to the side for my retirement, and I put it in stocks and right now I’m losing almost everything I had. ... It’s affecting me because I’m thinking of moving from where I am, but I can’t sell the house because the price is terrible. ... In my later years, I would like to live in a ranch [house] that has no steps—you know, so I could move around. But I think that dream has to be postponed.”

Adults and Their Aging Parents

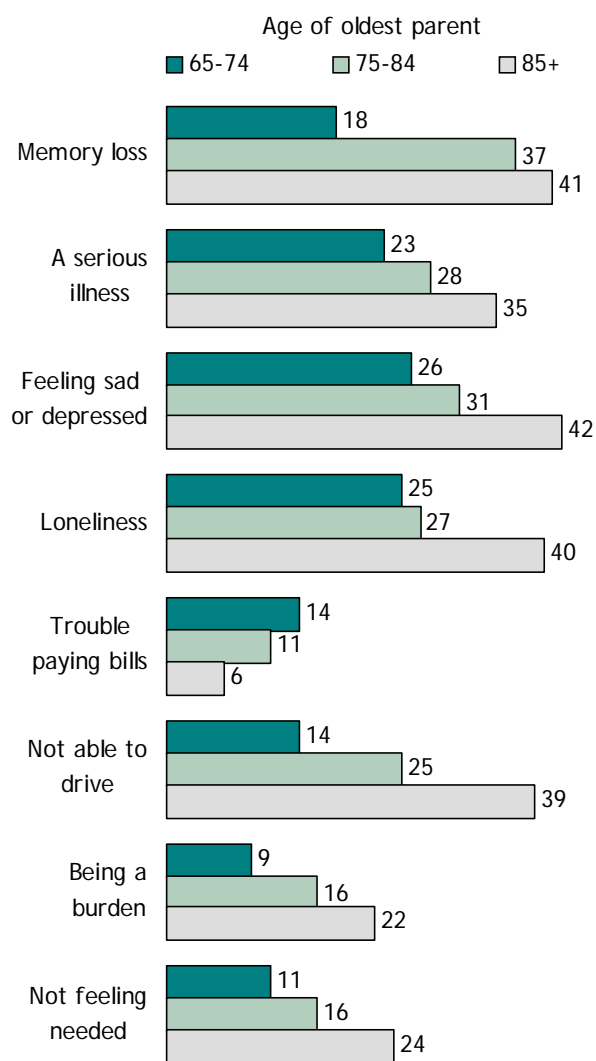
According to the Census Bureau, 5% of adults 65 and older in this country live in a nursing home. They could not be interviewed for this survey, which sampled only the non-institutional adult population. In an effort to capture their experiences and record their stories, the study included interviews with more than 800 adults who have one or more living parents or stepparents ages 65 or older. Those adults served as surrogates for their parents, and in this way provided a window into the lives of all older Americans, including those who are too ill or incapacitated to participate in a survey, or who are living in an institutional setting.⁷

Overall, 4% of the survey respondents with a parent 65 or older report that at least one of their parents is living in a nursing home. An additional 8% have a parent who is living with them or with another family member. For adults with a parent age 85 or older, 12% say at least one parent is living in a nursing home and 15% say they have a parent who is living with them or another family member.

For the most part, adult children of aging parents report that their parents enjoy a good quality of life. A third say their parents' overall quality of life is excellent and an additional 43% describe it as good. Fewer than one-in-four say their parents' quality of life is fair (17%) or poor (6%). The percentage who say their parents' quality of life is excellent varies somewhat depending on their parents' age. Among those whose oldest parent is under age 75, 36% say their parents' quality of life is excellent. For those whose oldest parent is 85 or older, only 27% say the same.

At the same time, adult children report that their aging parents are experiencing

Adult Children Report on Their Parents % experiencing each



Note: Based on reports of adult children whose oldest parent is in this age group. Sample sizes for subgroups are as follows: oldest parent 65-74, n=291; oldest parent 75-84, n=303; oldest parent 85+, n=213.

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⁷ Adult children were asked about their stepparents only if they had no living parent and they had indicated that their stepparent played an important role in their life. In the analysis that follows, any references to parents of adult children include those stepparents (n=22).

many of the same challenges reported by the older adults interviewed for the survey. Problems with physical and emotional health are cited most often, and troubles tend to increase with age. Roughly three-in-ten adults with parents age 65 or older say at least one of their parents often feels sad or depressed (31%) or lonely (28%). Older adults themselves are less likely to say they are dealing with sadness, depression or loneliness. Among those 65 and older, 20% say they often feel sad or depressed, and 17% say they are lonely. In addition to these issues, 29% of adults with elderly parents have at least one parent who is experiencing memory loss and 27% have a parent who is dealing with a serious illness.

One-in-five (22%) have a parent who can no longer drive. Relatively few say their parent does not feel needed by others (15%) or feels like a burden to others (14%). Only 12% say they have a parent who is having difficulty paying bills.

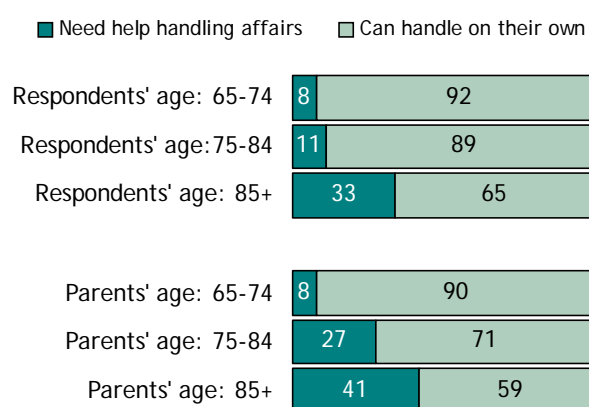
Adult children with parents age 85 or older report much higher incidence of illness, memory loss, loneliness and depression, when compared with those whose parents are ages 65-84. In addition, adults with parents 85 or older are more likely than those with younger parents say their parents can no longer drive or that they feel like a burden or that they are not needed by others. The only problem that may ease over time involves finances: Only 6% of those who have a parent age 85 or older say that parent has trouble paying the bills.

Overall, the aging parents of the adult children surveyed appear to have more problems than the older adults themselves who were surveyed, and this is particularly true of those 85 and older. For example, while 39% of adults who have parents 85 or older say that at least one of their parents can no longer drive, only 25% of older adults in this age group report that they are no longer driving. More than a third of adults with parents age 85 or older have a parent with a serious illness. Only 21% of those ages 85 and older say they are dealing with a major illness. While 42% of adults with parents age 85 or older report that their parents experience sadness, depression and loneliness, relatively few of those 85 and older (30%) report that they themselves are experiencing those feelings.

Looking more broadly at whether older adults need help handling their affairs or caring for themselves, children with aging parents are more likely to say their parents need help than older adults are to say that they themselves need help.

Among those ages 65-74, there is no significant difference. Only 8% of adults in this age group report that they need help handling their affairs. Similarly, 8% of adult children with parents in this age group say that their parents need this type of help. The differences emerge among those ages 75 and older. Among adults 75-84, 11% say they need help handling their affairs, while

Comparing Self Reports of Older Adults with Adult Children's Reports on Their Aging Parents % saying that they ...



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

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roughly a quarter (27%) of adult children with parents in this age group say their parents need help. Finally, while only a third of those 85 and older say they need help handling their affairs, 41% of adult children with a parent age 85 or older say that their parents need help handling their affairs or caring for themselves.

To be sure, no survey can ever capture the heartaches in the families of older adults who suffer from acute and debilitating physical or mental diseases. The quotations below, taken from focus group sessions in Baltimore, Md., offer a glimpse into the lives of families grappling with these challenges.

“She’s 93, almost 94. She was in the psych unit last year for three months with clinical depression. Her mind is 80 percent fine; she can tell you, you know, exactly what’s going on in current events and the stock market and who won the [presidency]—this, that and the other—but she also has a little green man that has it out for her. You know, she’s got some delusional paranoia, for which she takes some heavy drugs. ... She is tired. She wants to be dead. She’s kind of, you know, a little aggravated every day that she wakes up.”

RETIRED WHITE MALE, AGE 64, WHOSE 93-YEAR-OLD MOTHER IS IN A NURSING HOME

“She doesn’t know that I’m her daughter. I’m just somebody that lets her sleep [in my house]. And I feed her and take care of her. But yet, she remembers my sister, who does nothing, and my brother, who’s been deceased for 30 years. I finally came to terms with it ... but I was getting ill myself in trying to balance it all out. But you know, I don’t have a relationship with her; I can’t. It’s impossible, you know. You can’t even have a conversation with her. ... It stresses me out tremendously.”

WHITE FEMALE, AGE 44, CAREGIVER FOR HER 70-YEAR-OLD MOTHER, WHO HAS ALZHEIMER’S

The Generation Gap

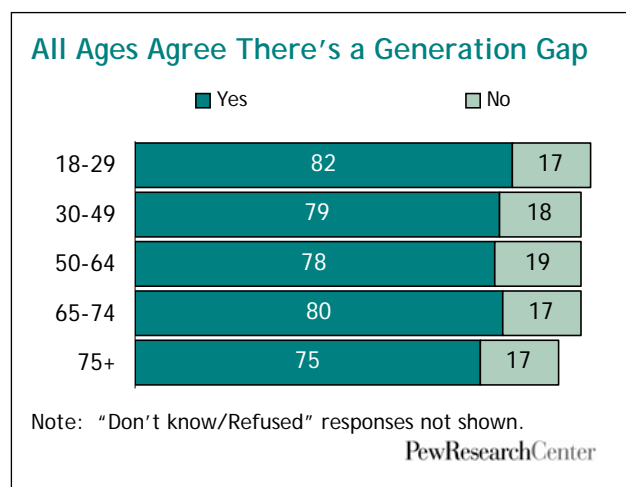
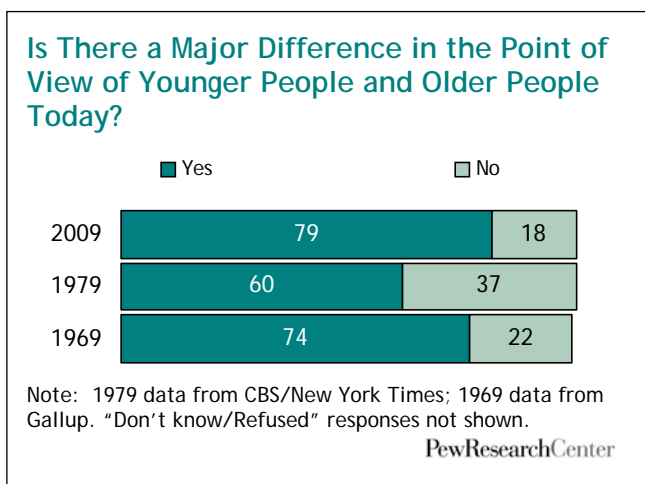
There's a generation gap in America. It's not clear whether the phrase means the same thing now that it did 40 years ago, but it *is* clear that an overwhelming majority of adults of all ages see "a major difference in the point of view of younger people and older people today."⁸ About eight-in-ten Americans (79%) say there is such a difference, including nearly identical shares of young, middle-aged and older adults.

The generation gap became a part of the American lexicon in the 1960s when young adults (and teenagers) clashed with their elders, mainly over culture, lifestyle, politics and attitudes toward authority. In 1969, when the Gallup Organization asked Americans whether they thought there was a major difference in the point of view of younger people and older people, 74% said yes. Ten years later, CBS News and The New York Times asked the same question. At that time, fewer people, though still a 60% majority, saw a major difference between young and old. But now, 20 years later, the percentage of Americans who say there's a generation gap is slightly higher than it was in 1969.

The main generational differences, according to respondents to this latest survey, have to do with values and morality. When asked in an open-ended, follow-up question how younger people and older people differ most, nearly half of respondents (47%) point to something having to do with values. Political views are cited much less frequently.

Within the broad category of values, the top volunteered responses are morality, ethics and beliefs (12%) and a sense of entitlement (12%).

Young, middle-aged, and older respondents cite morality and ethics in roughly equal proportions. However, those under 30 are much less likely than their older counterparts to say a sense of entitlement or wanting everything handed to them is a major generational difference (3% vs. 15% among those ages 30 and older). Those ages 50-64 are among the most likely to offer this response. Back when they were young, these baby boomers were on the other side of a much noisier generation gap. Now they are the most inclined of any age group to describe today's young people as spoiled, materialistic and interested in instant gratification.



⁸ This survey question does not define what it means to be young or old. It is worded as follows: "Some people talk about a generation gap. Do you think there is a major difference in the point of view of younger people and older people today." The same language was used in 1969, 1979 and 2009.

Another common response under the broad category of values is a differing work ethic (cited by 9% of respondents overall). Here again, there is a difference in perceptions among different age groups. Just 5% of adults under age 30 say that where young and old differ most is in their work ethic. But twice as many—10%—of those 30 and older point to this as a major difference. Other top responses within the category of values include a lack of respect or manners (7%) and differences in behavior and lifestyle (6%).

Roughly one-in-four respondents (27%) say a difference in general outlook is what separates the generations. Within that broad category, respondents point to different perspectives and ideas between younger and older people (13%), different likes and dislikes (5%) and different priorities (3%).

One-in-ten respondents (9%) say younger and older people differ most in their experience and wisdom. Those ages 30 and older are more likely than those under age 30 to point to this as a major difference (10% vs. 6%). Overall, just 9% cite differences in politics and policy views. Younger respondents are more likely than those who are older to see this as a major difference: 13% of those under age 30 say so, compared with 8% of those ages 30 and older.

Money and technology are other areas that separate the generations. Some 7% say younger and older adults differ most in their views on money and finances. Nearly as many (6%) say the generations differ most in their use of technology.

Today's Generation Gap

In what ways do younger people and older people differ most?

	All	18-29	30+
VALUES (NET)	47	41	48
Morality/Ethics/Beliefs	12	14	12
Sense of entitlement	12	3	15
Work ethic	9	5	10
GENERAL OUTLOOK (NET)	27	27	27
Different perspective/ideas	13	13	13
Different likes and dislikes	5	5	4
Different priorities	3	5	2
EXPERIENCE/WISDOM (NET)	9	6	10
Experience/Maturity/Knowledge	5	4	5
Don't understand the world	3	0	4
Education	1	2	1
POLITICS & POLICY (NET)	9	13	8
Views on government	5	6	5
Political ideology	2	2	2
Views on social & global issues	2	3	1
Views on money	7	7	7
Technology	6	8	5
Everything	3	5	2
Physical health	2	2	1
Jobs/Employment	1	1	1
Other	5	4	5

Note: Top three responses are shown within each net category.

Section II. Daily Lives of Older Americans

The vast majority of older Americans are living independently and are actively engaged in the world around them. They participate in a wide variety of daily activities, and most are highly satisfied with their lives. They talk with their family and friends on a daily basis, they spend time reading and watching TV and most of them pray every day. Many are engaged in hobbies, and nearly a quarter say they got some type of vigorous exercise in the 24 hours before they were interviewed for the survey.

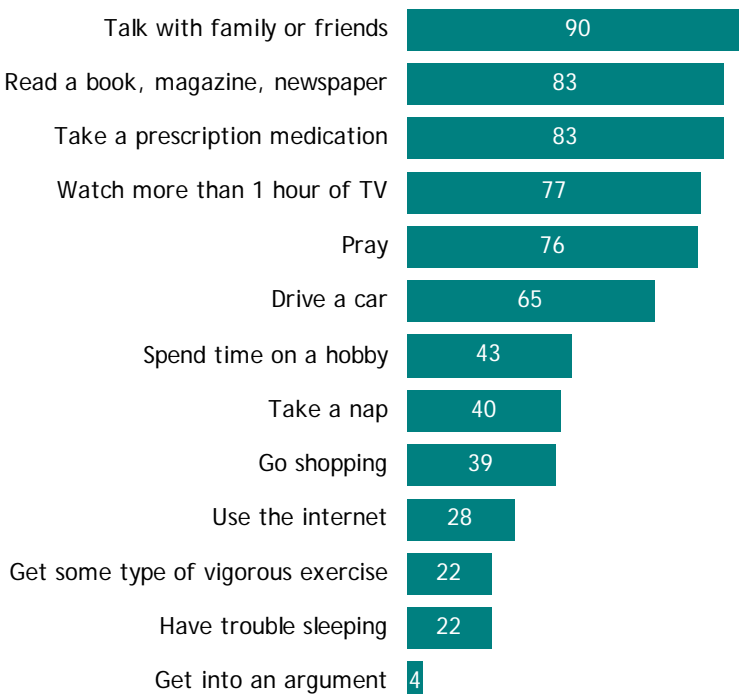
Older Americans are quite mobile, with roughly two-thirds saying they drove a car in the past 24 hours and 39% saying they went shopping. At

the same time, many take time to rest during each day—40% say they took a nap in the past 24 hours. Very few report having major conflicts in their daily lives. Only 4% say they got into an argument the day before they were interviewed.

Not surprisingly, older adults differ from younger adults in terms of their level of activity. In some areas, older adults lag behind younger people; in other areas, they are more active. And among those 65 and older, daily life changes with advancing age. Those 85 and older are less mobile and less physically active. In addition, daily activities vary among older adults according to race and gender.

The Daily Activities of Older Americans

In the past 24 hours did you ... ?



Note: Based on adults 65 and older, n=1,332.

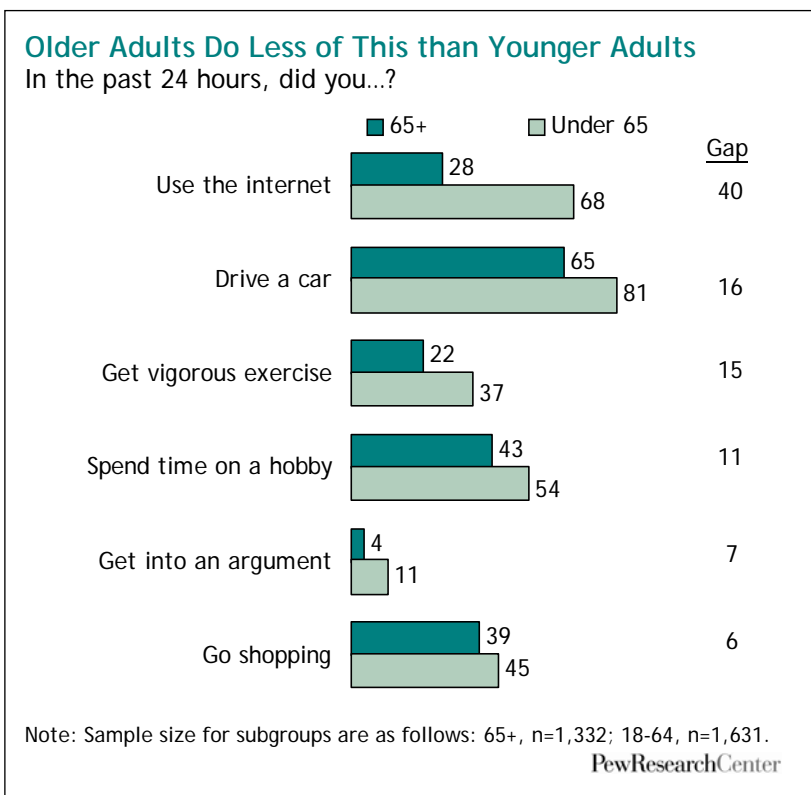
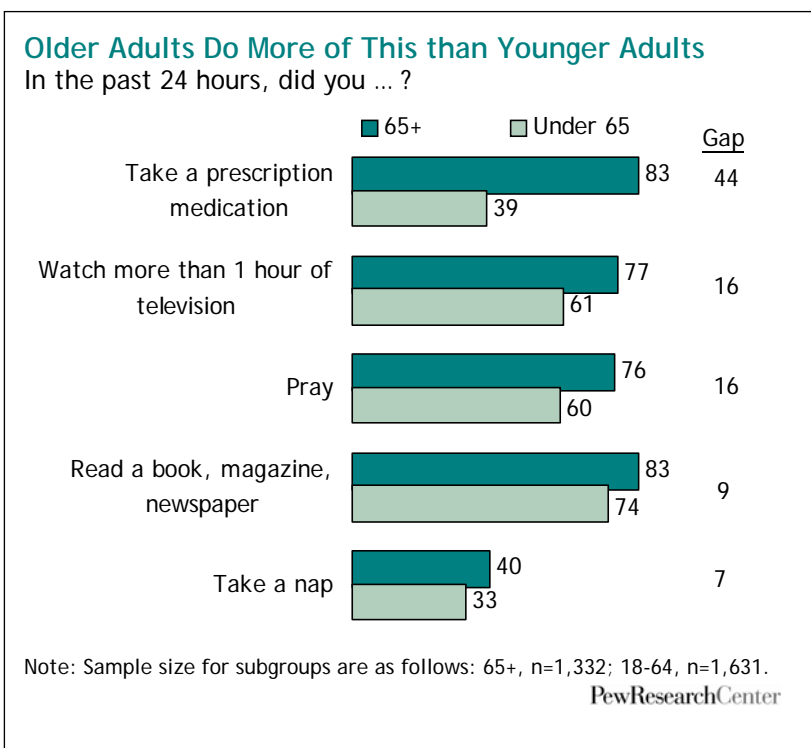
PewResearchCenter

The Activities of Daily Life: Young vs. Old

Where young and old are concerned, there is one area of daily life in which the two do not differ significantly. When asked whether they talked with family or friends in the past 24 hours, young adults and those 65 and older are about equally likely to say they did (95% of those ages 18-29 and 90% of those 65 and older). Older folks are somewhat more likely than adults ages 18-64 to have read a book, magazine or newspaper in the past 24 hours (83% vs. 74%), and they are significantly more likely to have watched more than an hour of television. Fully 77% of those 65 and older say they watched more than an hour of TV in the past 24 hours. This compares with 61% of those under 65. Adults 65 and older are also more likely than those who are younger than 65 to pray on a regular basis: 76% of those 65 and older say they prayed in the past day, compared with 60% of those under 65.

One of the biggest gaps in daily activity is the share who took a prescription drug in the past 24 hours. Fully 83% of those 65 and older say they took a prescription drug in the past day. This compares with only 39% of those under age 65.

While older adults are more likely than other adults to spend time on sedentary activities such as reading, watching TV and napping, younger adults are more apt to be



engaged in physical activities such as exercise, hobbies and driving. Some 37% of those under 65 say they engaged in vigorous exercise such as jogging, biking or working out at a gym in the past 24 hours. This compares with 22% of older adults.

Many people envision old age as a time to pursue hobbies and interests. However, older adults are less likely than younger adults to regularly spend time on hobbies. Among respondents 65 and older, 43% say they spent time on a hobby in the past 24 hours. This compares with 54% among those under 65.

Younger adults are somewhat more likely than older folks to have gone shopping in the past 24 hours. However, the gap is not particularly wide—45% of those under 65 vs. 39% of those 65 and older say they shopped within the past day. Younger adults are also more likely to get into arguments. By a margin of nearly three-to-one, more younger adults (11%) than older adults (4%) say they got into an argument within the past 24 hours.

The largest gap between young and old in terms of daily activities involves the use of technology. Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) of those under age 65 say they used the internet in the past 24 hours, vs. only 28% of those 65 and older.

Daily Life After 65

As people advance into their 70s and 80s, their level of activity diminishes in some areas. In addition to exercising less, they are less likely to drive, and they are a bit less engaged with family and friends. Among those 65-74, 74% say they drove a car in the past 24 hours. This compares with only 57% of those 75 and older. And while 94% of those ages 65-74 say they talked to family or friends in the past 24 hours, slightly fewer of those 75 and older (86%) did so.

There are some things older adults do *more* of as they get into their 70s and 80s. Among those 85 and older, 86% say they prayed within the past 24 hours. This compares with 77% of those ages 75-84 and 73% of those 65-74. Prescription drug use also increases with age. Fully 88% of those 75 and older say they took a prescription drug in the past 24 hours, compared with 80% of those 65-74. In addition, a majority of those 85 and older (57%) say they took a nap in the past day, while less than four-in-ten of those 65-84 did the same.

In other areas, advancing age doesn't seem to affect activity levels. Whether they are in their 60s, 70s or 80s, older adults are equally likely to have spent time reading or watching TV in the past 24 hours. In addition, similar proportions of those 65-74, 75-84 and 85 and older say they spent time on a hobby or went shopping in the past 24 hours. Finally, relatively few older adults—whether 65-74, 75-84 or 85 and older—say they had trouble sleeping in the past 24 hours.

Older men and older women differ somewhat in terms of their daily activities. Older men are more likely than older women to say they drove a car in the past 24 hours. They're also more likely to have gotten vigorous exercise, taken a nap and gotten into an argument. Older women, on the other hand, are more likely than older men to pray on a daily basis and to have trouble sleeping.

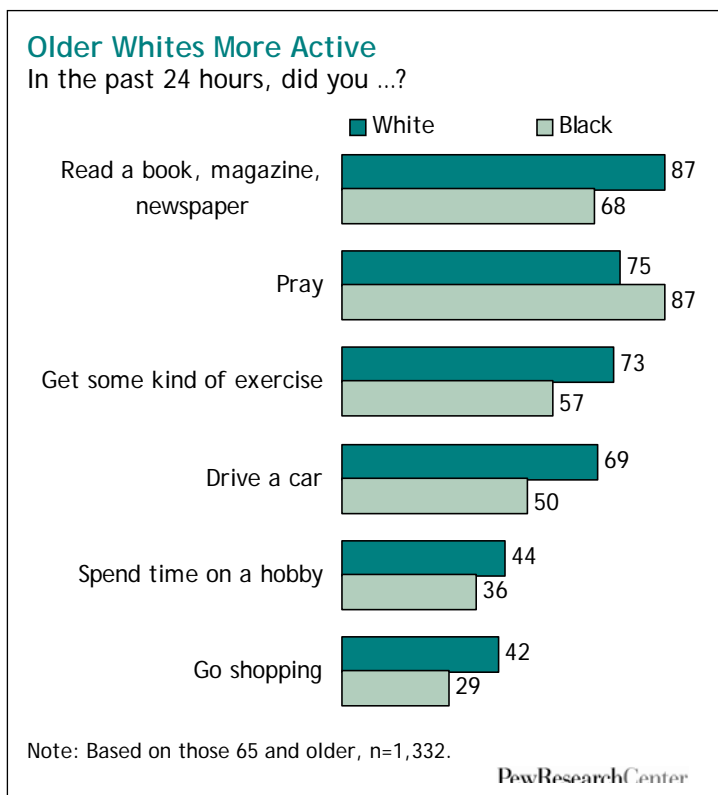
In most areas, however, older men and older women have a lot in common. Nearly equal proportions say they talk with friends and family, read, watch TV, shop and spend time on hobbies on a daily basis. In addition, older men and older women are equally likely to report that they took a prescription drug in the past day.

Race and Daily Activities

Older whites are more active than older blacks in several areas. Among those ages 65 and older, 87% of whites say they read a book, magazine or newspaper in the past 24 hours, compared with 68% of blacks. Older whites are also much more likely than older blacks to say they drove a car in the past 24 hours, 69% vs. 50%. In addition, more older whites than older blacks exercise on a regular basis. Nearly three-quarters of older whites say they got some kind of exercise in the past 24 hours. This compares with 57% of older blacks.⁹

Older whites are also more likely than older blacks to say they spent time on a hobby or went shopping in the past 24 hours. One area where older blacks outpace whites is daily prayer. Fully 87% of blacks 65 and older say they prayed in the past 24 hours. Fewer whites (75%) in that age group report praying in the past 24 hours.

Older whites and older blacks do not differ significantly in several areas of activity. Nearly equal proportions say they spoke with family or friends in the past 24 hours. Roughly the same percentage of older whites and blacks say they watched more than an hour of TV. In addition, older whites are no more likely than older blacks to say they took a prescription drug, had trouble sleeping or took a nap in the past 24 hours.

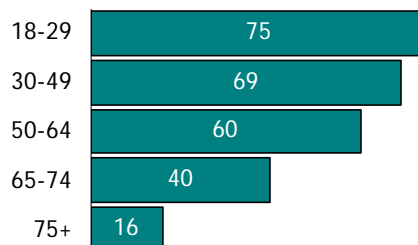


⁹ Several of the items included in the list of daily activities were asked of only half the sample. Data on the daily activities of older Hispanics are not reported due to small sample sizes.

Old Age and the Internet

Older Americans are active on many fronts, but they are quite different from the rest of the population when it comes to their use of technology. While 68% of those under age 65 say they used the internet in the past 24 hours, only 28% of those 65 and older did the same. Internet usage drops off most sharply after age 75. Of those ages 65-74, 40% used the internet in the past 24 hours. That share falls to 16% among those 75 and older.

Older Adults Far Behind on Internet Use
% who used the internet in the past 24 hours



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While there is a wide gap in internet usage by age, older Americans are gaining ground. According to the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, the biggest increase in internet use over the past few years can be seen among older adults—specifically those ages 70-75. The older adults who are online are more likely than those under 30 to use the internet for gathering information, emailing and shopping. Older users are less likely than young adults and teens to use the internet for socializing and entertainment.¹⁰

In the latest Pew Research survey, among all adults ages 65 and older, men are almost twice as likely as women to have used the internet in the past 24 hours (39% vs. 20%). There is no gender gap among those under 65. In addition, older whites are much more likely than older blacks to have gone online: 31% of whites ages 65 and older say they used the internet in the past 24 hours, compared with 17% of blacks 65 and older. There is a similar racial gap among those under 65, however, it is not as pronounced.

Older adults who have attended or graduated from college are nearly three times as likely as those with less education to regularly use the internet. Half of those 65 and older who went to college say they used the internet in the past 24 hours, compared with only 17% of those who never attended college. There is a similar, though not as substantial, gap among those under age 65 in internet use by education level.

While only 28% of older Americans use the internet on a daily basis, the percentage who say they use it at least occasionally is significantly higher. Among those 65 and older, 42% use the internet at least occasionally. This compares with 82% of those under 65. More than half of those 65-74 (55%) use the internet, and that share decreases steadily with age. One-third of those 75-84 go online at least occasionally, as do 16% of those 85 and older. Overall, 40% of older adults say they send or receive email at least occasionally—including 51% of those 65-74 and 29% of those 75 and older. Among those under age 65, 75% use email at least occasionally.

¹⁰ See Jan 28, 2009 Pew Internet & American Life Project survey report, [“Generations Online in 2009.”](#)

Old Age and Cell Phones

When they need to make a phone call, older Americans still rely much more on traditional landline phones than on cell phones. To be sure, a majority of older adults report that they have a working cell phone (61%). But this compares with 85% of those ages 50-64, 89% of those 30-49 and 91% of those under 30. Older men are more likely than older women to have a working cell phone, and older whites are more likely to have one than either older blacks or older Hispanics.

Although most older Americans have a cell phone, a majority say they receive most of their calls on a landline phone. When asked about the phone calls they receive, 73% say very few or none of these calls come in to a cell phone. Roughly one-in-five (21%) say they receive some calls on a cell phone and some on a landline phone. Only 5% of older adults say they receive all or most of their calls on a cell phone.

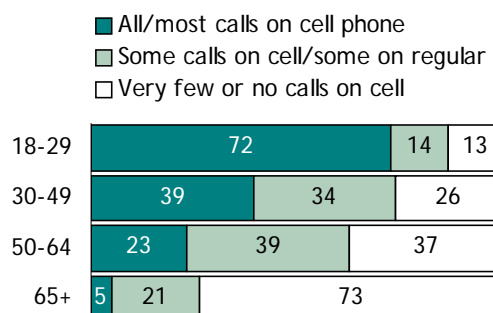
The phone habits of older adults are dramatically different from those of younger adults. Among those under 30, fully 72% receive all or most of their calls on a cell phone. Only 13% say very few or none of their calls come in on a cell phone.

Among those ages 30-49, 39% rely primarily on cell phones while 34% say their calls are a mix of cell and landline. Among those 50-64, 39% receive some calls on cell phones and some on landline phones; 23% get all or most of their calls on cell phones.

Relatively few older adults use their cell phones to send or receive text messages. Among all older adults with a working cell phone, 11% say they use their phone for text messages. Texting is much more common among younger adult cell phone users, even those in their 50s and early 60s. Among those ages 50-64, nearly four-in-ten (38%) say they send or receive messages on their cell phones. That number increase to 68% among those 30-49. For those under 30, texting is nearly universal—87% say they use their cell phones for text messages.

The Cell Phone Gap

Of all the telephone calls you receive, are ...?

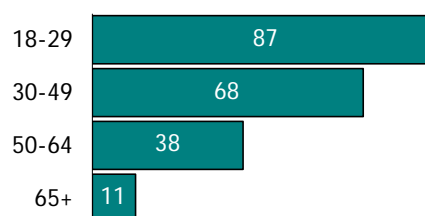


Note: Sample sizes for subgroups are as follows: 18-29, n=381; 30-49, n=625; 50-64, n=606; 65+, n=1,332. "Don't know/Refused" responses are not shown.

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Older Adults and Texting

% who use cell phone to send or receive text messages



Note: Based on all cell phone users. Sample sizes for subgroups are as follows: 18-29, n=321; 30-49, n=541; 50-64, n=508; 65+, n=833.

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The Religious Lives of Older Americans

Religion is an important part of the lives of many Americans, and this is especially true for older Americans. Those 65 and older are more likely to pray, attend worship services and believe in God than those under 65. Religious commitment generally increases with age. As people marry, become settled in their communities and begin to raise families, they are more likely to affiliate with a particular religion and participate in worship and other religious practices.

Today's young adults are more likely than previous generations of young adults to have no religious affiliation. This has resulted in a particularly wide gap between young and old in terms of their religiosity. Fully 25% of those under age 30 describe themselves as atheist, agnostic or nonreligious. This compares with 18% of those ages 30-49, 13% of those ages 50-64 and only 7% of those 65 and older.

Among all older adults, 66% say religion is very important in their life. That share is even higher among those 75 and older—70% say religion is very important to them, compared with 62% of those 65-74. Religion is nearly as important to those ages 50-64 (61% say it is very important) but not quite as important to those under 50. Just over half (54%) of those ages 30-49 say religion is very important in their lives. Only 44% of those under 30 say the same.

The importance of religion varies not only across age groups but also by gender and race. More women than men say religion is very important in their lives (63% vs. 48%), and blacks are much more likely than whites to say religion is very important to them (80% vs. 50%). The gender gap is even more pronounced among older Americans. Among those 65 and older, 76% of women say religion is very important in their

Religious Affiliation by Age

	Protestant	Catholic	Jewish	Other	No religion/ Atheist/ Agnostic
	%	%	%	%	
18-29	46	20	1	7	25
30-49	50	24	2	6	18
50-64	55	23	2	5	13
65+	62	24	2	3	7

Note: Based on 2008 compiled surveys from the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press (N=35,702). "Don't know/ Refused" responses are not shown.

Religion Matters More to Older Adults

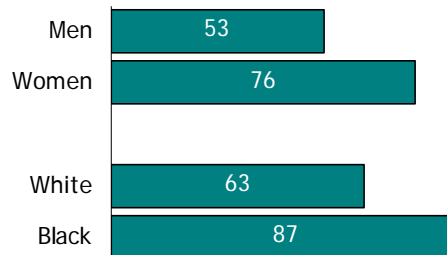
% who say religion is very important in their life



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For Older Adults, Importance of Religion Differs by Gender, Race

% who say religion is very important in their life



Note: Based on those 65 and older, n=1,332.

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life. This compares with only 53% of men 65 and older.

In addition to considering how important religion is in their lives, respondents were asked whether their religious faith has become more or less important as they have gotten older. Nearly four-in-ten (38%) say their faith has become more important as they have aged, and only 9% say their faith has become less important over time. A narrow majority of Americans (53%) say their religious faith has remained the same as they have gotten older.

These responses are fairly consistent across age groups. Older adults are no more likely than young adults to say their faith has become more important with age. Most (60%) say their faith is as important now as it has always been, and 34% say it has become more important as they have gotten older. Among those under age 65, fewer than four-in-ten say their faith has become more important in their lives as they have gotten older, while a plurality say their faith has remained fairly constant. Adults under age 30 are more likely than any other age group to say their faith has become less important to them as their have gotten older—14% offer this response.

Among those 65 and older, women are more likely than men to say their faith has become more important with age (39% vs. 27%). In addition, older adults who are dealing with many of the problems and challenges of old age are among the most likely to say their religious faith has become more important to them. Illness and depression are among the more acute problems some older people face.

When Troubles Come, Faith Deepens

As you have gotten older, has your faith...?

	Become more important %	Become less important %	Stayed about the same %
All 65+	34	4	60
65+ and serious illness	43	3	52
65+ and depression	43	5	49

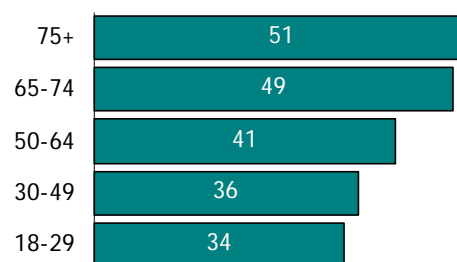
Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Fully 43% of those who are dealing with a serious illness say religion has become more important to them as they have aged. Only 32% of those who are not dealing with a serious illness say the same. Similarly, 43% of those who say they often feel sad or depressed say religion has become more important to them as they have gotten older, compared with just 31% of those who are not sad or depressed who say the same.

In addition to placing more importance on religion, older adults are more likely than younger adults to attend worship services regularly and to be involved in activities at their church or house of worship. Half of those 65 and older say they attend religious services once a week or more. This compares with 41% of those ages 50-64 and 35% of adults under age 50.

Attendance at religious services falls off slightly among the very old. While 54% of those ages 75-84 attend services at least once a week, 41% of those 85 and older do the same. Older women and older blacks are among the most likely to attend religious services. Some 59% of women ages 75 and older worship at least once a week. And among blacks ages 75 and older, 72% go to church every week. Older folks who live alone are just as likely as those who do not live alone to attend religious services every week. And even among older adults who say they sometimes need help taking care of themselves or handling their affairs, 45% attend church on a weekly basis. This is not statistically different from the percentage of those who do not need help and who attend weekly (50%).

Attendance at Religious Services by Age % who attend church or house of worship weekly or more



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Aside from attending religious services, many older adults are involved in activities at their church or house of worship. Among those 65 and older who attend a church or house of worship at least occasionally, 20% say they are very involved in activities there, and an additional 28% say they are somewhat involved. Overall, roughly four-in-ten older adults are at least somewhat involved in church-related activities.

Those ages 50-64 show nearly the same level of involvement as those 65 and older. Among those 50-64 who attend services at least occasionally, 42% are very or somewhat involved in activities at their house of worship. Adults under age 50 are somewhat less involved in church activities outside of worship: 40% of those ages 30-49 and 33% of those ages 18-29 are at least somewhat involved in activities at their house of worship.

Where Older Americans Call Home

For the most part, older adults live in multi-generational communities. Relatively few live in so-called senior communities designed specifically for people over a certain age. Among all respondents ages 65 and older interviewed for this study, 92% live in their own home or apartment. An additional 3% live with a child or other family member, and 4% live in an assisted living facility. Of those who live in their own home or apartment, one-in-ten say that home is in an age-restricted community. Adults ages 85 and above are less likely than those ages 65-84 to live independently. Even so, 80% of those interviewed who are ages 85 and older live in their own home. An additional 5% live with a child or other family member, and 15% are in an assisted living facility.

Older Americans' Living Arrangements				
	All	65-74	75-84	85+
<i>Currently living in:</i>				
Own home or apartment	92	95	90	80
Child's home	2	1	3	3
Other family member's home	1	1	1	2
Assisted living facility	4	2	4	15
Other	1	1	1	1
<i>Live in age-restricted community?*</i>				
Yes	10	6	11	20
No	89	93	88	75
<i>Live alone?</i>				
Yes	41	30	47	66
No	58	70	52	34
Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown. * Based on those living in their own home/apartment.				

An important caveat: These survey findings do not include the responses of older adults who are living in institutional settings, such as nursing homes, because they could not be contacted for the survey. However, in an effort to record their experiences, the survey included interviews with adults who have at least one parent age 65 or older. Taken together, these two samples provide a portrait of the entire population of older Americans. Among the children of older adults, 87% report that their parent or parents live in their own home or apartment. The remaining 13% are either living with a family member or in a nursing home or assisted living facility. For the most part, the children of older adults are satisfied with the parents' living arrangements—68% are very satisfied and 22% are somewhat satisfied.

The majority of older Americans are quite satisfied with their current living arrangements. Among all respondents ages 65 and older, 67% say they are very satisfied with their housing situation. An additional 21% are somewhat satisfied. Only 9% say they are somewhat or very dissatisfied. Older adults who live in age-restricted communities are slightly less satisfied with their housing situation (59% very satisfied) than those who do not live in these types of communities (70% very satisfied).

When compared with other age groups, older Americans are among the most satisfied with their living arrangements. Only 42% of adults under 30 and 56% of those ages 30-49 are very satisfied with their housing situation. Among those ages 50-64, 62% are very satisfied.

Roughly four-in-ten older adults (41%) live alone. That share increases significantly with age. Among those ages 65-74, only 30% live alone. By contrast, two-thirds of those 85 and older live alone. Older women are much

more likely than older men to be living alone. Among those ages 65-74, 38% of women live alone, compared with 20% of men. The gap is even wider for those 75 and older: 63% of women in this age group live alone, compared with only 34% of men.

Not surprisingly, older adults who live alone are much more likely to experience loneliness than those who live with others. More than a quarter of those who live alone (28%) say they are lonely vs. only 7% of those who don't live alone. Living alone can also contribute to sadness and depression. Among older adults who live alone, 26% say they are often sad or depressed. Only 14% of those who don't live alone say they experience sadness or depression.

Just under half of all adults ages 65 and above are married or living with a partner (48%). Roughly one-in-ten (11%) are divorced or separated, and 37% are widowed. As would be expected, the percentage of older adults who are married decreases with age. While 60% of those ages 65-74 are married or living with a partner, only 41% of those ages 75-84 are married. That share falls to 21% among those ages 85 and older.

A majority of older Americans say they would like to either stay in their own homes or move into an assisted living facility if and when they can no longer care for themselves. Very few think they'll end up in a nursing home. When those who currently live in their own home are asked what they would do if they could no longer live independently, a plurality (38%) say they would stay in their home and have an aide or family member there to care for them. Roughly a quarter (23%) say they would move into an assisted living facility. An additional 12% say they would move in with a child or other family member. Only 7% say they would move into a nursing home. Nearly one-in-five say they either haven't thought about this (7%) or they simply don't know what they would do (12%).

Those 85 and older are less likely than those 65-84 to say they would stay in their own home if they could no longer care for themselves—28% say they would stay in their home and have someone care for them there vs. 39% of those ages 65-84. Older whites are more likely than older blacks to say they would move into an assisted living facility if they could no longer live independently (24% vs. 17%), while older blacks are more likely than whites to say they would go into a nursing home (14% vs. 7%).

Thinking Ahead

What would you do if you could no longer live on your own?

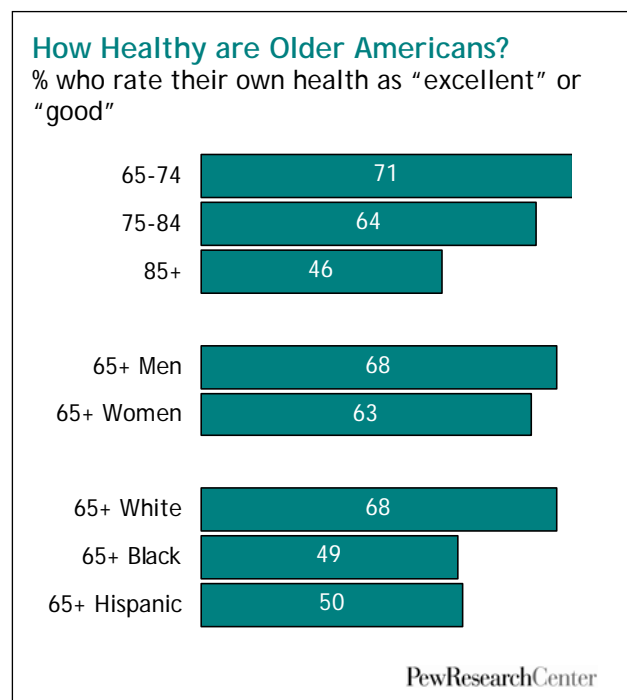
	Percent
Stay in your own home but have someone there to care for you	38
Move into an assisted living facility	23
Move in with a child/family member	12
Move into a nursing home	7
Some other arrangement (VOL.)	2
Haven't thought about this (VOL.)	7

Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
* Based on those living in their own home/apartment, n=1,230.

Health Status

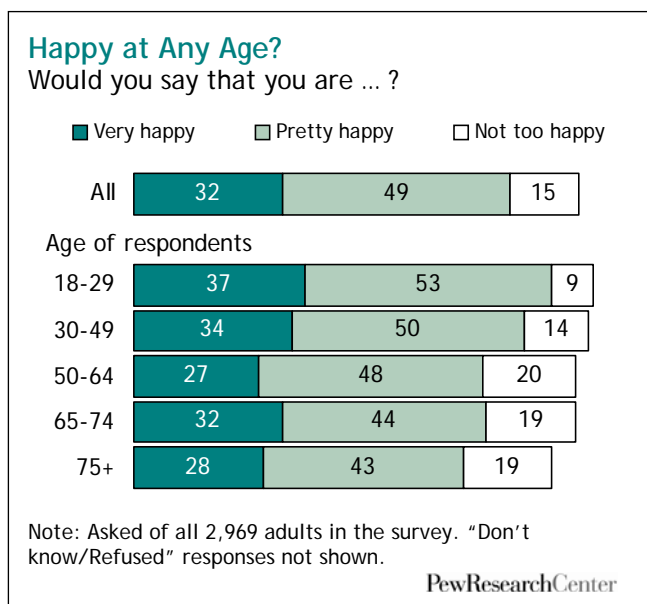
Most older Americans say they are in good health. Among those interviewed for the survey, 20% rate their own health as excellent, and 45% say their health is good. A quarter say they are in fair health, and 8% rate their health as poor. Not surprisingly, older adults are not as healthy as younger adults. Among those under 50, 36% say they are in excellent health. For those ages 50-64, the share falls to 28%. Health seems to deteriorate rapidly after age 84. A solid majority of those ages 75-84 (64%) say their health is excellent or good. However, among those ages 85 and older, fewer than half (46%) give their health a positive rating, while 49% say their health is only fair or poor.

Health status does not differ significantly by gender among those 65 and above: 68% of men 65 and older and 63% of women in that age group say they are in excellent or good health. Race is linked to health status for Americans of all ages, with whites more likely than blacks to report that their health is excellent or good. This pattern is even more pronounced among older Americans. More than two-thirds of whites 65 and older (68%) say they are in excellent or good health. This compares with about half of blacks (49%) and Hispanics (50%) in that age group.



The Keys to Happiness: Health, Financial Security and Friends

Overall, older Americans are a pretty happy bunch. The results of this survey suggest that they're not quite as happy as young adults; however, the differences across age groups are not large. Adults under age 30 are the happiest: 37% say they are very happy, and 53% say they are pretty happy. Only 9% report that they are not too happy. Among those ages 30-49, 34% are very happy and 50% are pretty happy. Fewer of those ages 50-64 say they are very happy. Among those ages 65 and older, 30% are very happy (27%). While the differences between those under age 50 and those age 50 and older are significant, the balance of attitudes is broadly similar across age groups—more Americans are very happy than unhappy, and the plurality (or, in some cases, the majority) in all groups is “pretty happy.”



It should be noted that previous Pew Research surveys, as well as other research on happiness, have shown that older people are somewhat happier than younger adults. For example, a 2008 analysis based on Pew Research Center’s Social & Demographic Trends surveys taken in 2005 and 2008 showed that advancing age contributes to happiness, even when other factors are held constant. In that analysis, those ages 65 and older were happier than those under 65.¹¹ Similarly, a recent academic study conducted by researchers at the University of Chicago showed that happiness increases with age. This research suggests that maturity brings with it a more positive outlook and a greater sense of well-being.¹² Another persistent finding in previous research, which is confirmed in the current survey, is that middle-aged Americans, and specifically baby boomers, are the least happy of all.¹³

According to the current survey, among those ages 65 and older, happiness does not vary by age. Whether 65-74, 75-84 or 85 and above, older Americans are equally content. Three-in-ten are very happy, while roughly one-in-five say they are not too happy. Nor does happiness vary by gender. Older men are as likely as older women to say they are very happy. In addition, race is not linked to happiness among older Americans. Three-in-ten whites over 65 and an equal proportion of blacks over 65 say they are very happy, while 18% from each group say they are not too happy.

Older Hispanics, on the other hand, are less happy than older whites or blacks. Among Hispanics ages 65 and above, 29% say they are not too happy, compared with 18% of whites and blacks. Roughly a quarter (24%) say they are very happy, and 30% are pretty happy.

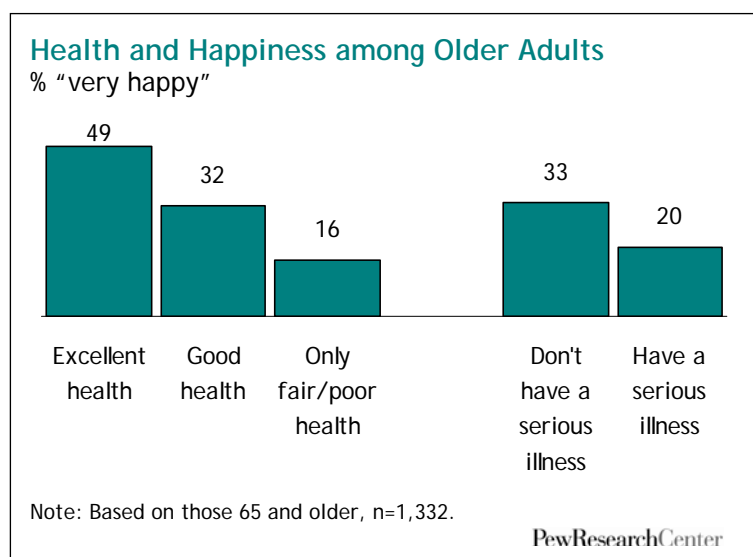
¹¹ See Pew Social & Demographic Trends Oct 23, 2008 survey report [“Republicans: Still Happy Campers.”](#)

¹² See Yang, Yang “Social Inequalities in Happiness in the United States, 1972-2004: An Age-Period Cohort Analysis.” *American Sociological Review*, Volume 73, Number 2, Pages 204-226. April 2008.

¹³ See Pew Social & Demographic Trends June 25, 2008 survey report [“Baby Boomers: The Gloomiest Generation.”](#)

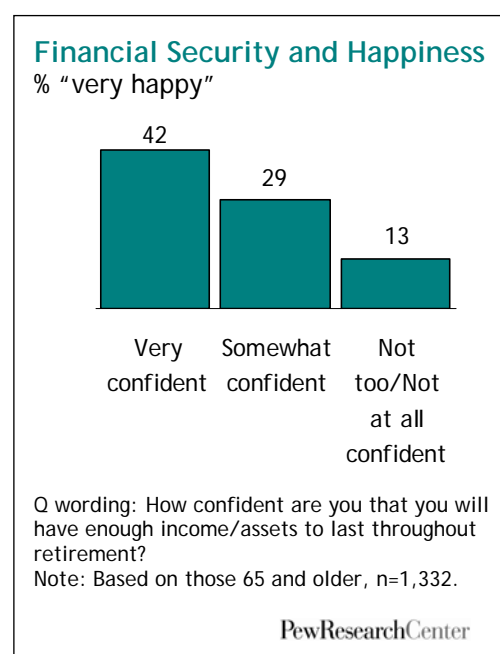
Health: Good health contributes to happiness for young and old alike. Healthier adults are happier than those who are less healthy, and this is true across all age groups. Among older adults who say they are in excellent health, nearly half (49%) are very happy with their lives. Older adults who say they are in good health are somewhat less likely to be very happy (32%) Those who say they are in only fair or poor health are much less likely happy (16% very happy).

Similarly, older adults who are dealing with a major illness are less likely than those who are healthy to be very happy. Only 20% of those who have a serious illness say they are very happy with their lives. This compares with 33% of those who don't have a serious illness. Among those who are sick, 30% say they are not too happy with their lives overall.



Resources: In addition to being in good health, having the financial resources to live comfortably appears to contribute to happiness. Those who have higher incomes and are more satisfied with their personal financial situations tend to be happier. This is true for older and younger Americans. Among older adults with annual household incomes of \$50,000 or more, 41% say they are very happy. This compares with 29% of those with incomes of \$20,000 to less than \$50,000, and 21% of those in the lowest income category (less than \$20,000 a year). This happiness gap by income is not as wide among younger Americans. Among those under 65 with annual incomes of \$75,000 or higher, 39% are very happy. Of those with incomes under \$30,000, 28% are very happy.

Similarly, those who are the most satisfied with their personal financial situation are among the happiest overall. For old and young alike, more than half of those who say they are very satisfied with their financial situation also say they are very happy with their lives. Among those who are dissatisfied with their financial situation, fewer than one-in-five say they are happy.

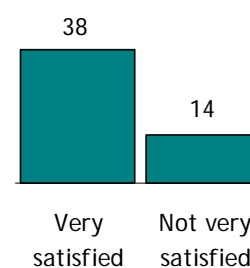


Feeling confident about retirement savings is also linked to overall happiness. Older adults who feel very confident that they will have enough income and assets to last throughout their retirement years are more likely

than others to be very happy. More specifically, 42% of those who say they are very confident that they will have enough money to last through their retirement years are very happy with their lives. Only 13% of those who are not confident that they will have enough money for retirement are equally happy.

Companionship: Having friends is another important component to happiness for young and old alike. People who are very satisfied with the number of friends they have tend to be happier than those who are less satisfied with this aspect of their lives. Among older adults, 38% of those who are very satisfied with the number of friends they have are also very happy with their lives overall. Only 14% of those who are less satisfied with the number of friends they have are very happy. Among those under age 65, a similar pattern holds: 39% of those who are very satisfied with the number of friends they have are very happy with their lives, compared with 19% of those who are less satisfied with the number of friends they have.

Friends and Happiness % "very happy"



Q wording: How satisfied are you with the number of friends you have?
Note: Based on those 65 and older, n=1,332.

What Matters Most?

Many other factors also are linked to overall happiness. Research has shown that variables such as marital status, church attendance and even partisanship and political ideology (eg, being a Republican and/or a conservative) are linked to personal happiness. In addition, a great deal of academic research has shown that individual happiness is influenced by life events and psychological traits.

Because this survey is so heavily focused on the experiences, attitudes and demographic characteristics of older Americans, it offers new opportunities to explore the interplay of factors that influence happiness among people in this age group. We can do this by using a statistical technique known as logistic regression, which provides a way of measuring the effect of any given variable on happiness while controlling for the effects of all other variables.

We set out to answer two questions with this technique: What are the strongest predictors of happiness among older Americans? And, are the predictors of happiness the same for older adults as for younger adults? To address the first question, we included 13 independent variables in our regression model. Some variables were chosen based on their predictive power in previous research; others were chosen because they seemed to be central to the lives of older Americans. Of the 13 variables included, five turn out to be significant predictors of happiness among older adults. The significant predictors fall into two tiers—the first tier having a greater impact on overall happiness than the second tier.

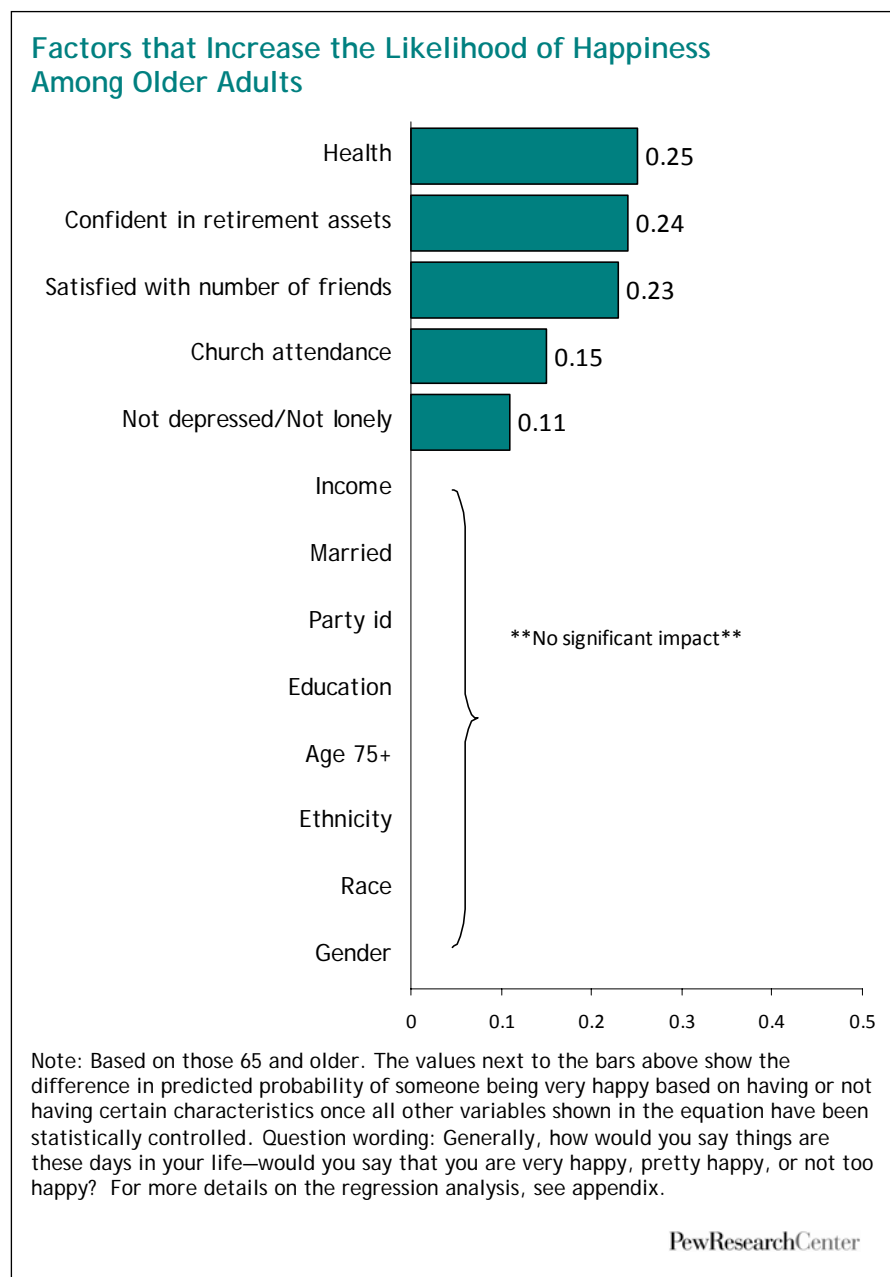
Being in excellent health, feeling very confident that you have enough money and assets to last through your retirement years, and being highly satisfied with the number of friends you have are the strongest predictors of happiness in older Americans. The values that accompany these variables in the chart represent the difference in predicted probability of someone being very happy based on having or not having a certain characteristic (such as being in excellent health), after all the other variables in the model are held constant. For example, an older adult who is in excellent health is 25% percentage points more likely to be very happy than an older adult who is in poor health. And an older adult who is very confident about having enough income and assets to last throughout his or her retirement years is 24% percentage points more likely to be very happy than someone who is not at all confident about having enough money.

In addition, an older adult who is very satisfied with the number of friends he or she has is more likely to be very happy when compared with an older adult who is not satisfied with his or her number of friends, even when controlling for other factors. When it comes to happiness, having friends is about as important as good health and financial security.

Two additional factors are statistically significant,

though less important, in explaining happiness among older adults. One is attendance at religious services.

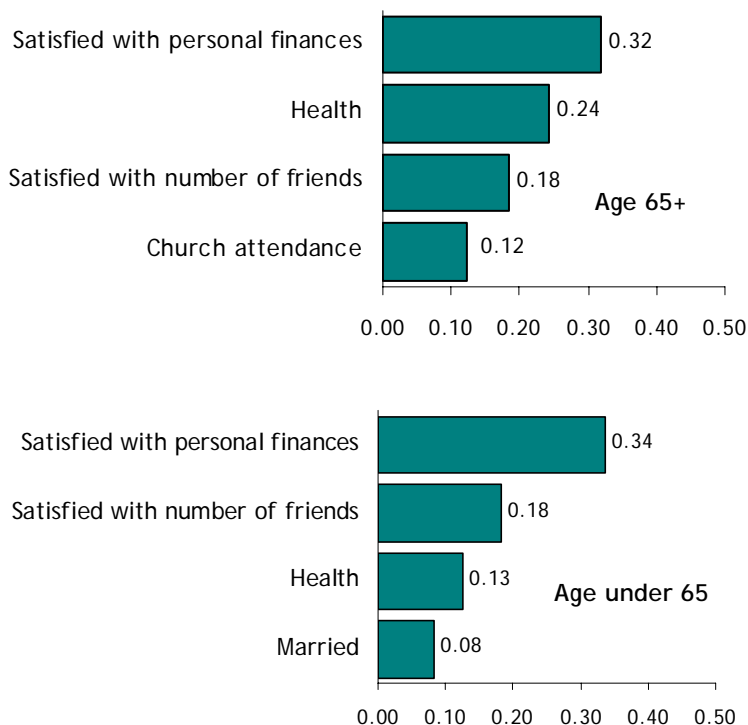
Those who attend religious services weekly or more often have a better chance of being very happy than those who never attend. In addition to church attendance, emotional well-being is a significant predictor of happiness. Older adults were asked about a series of potential problems often associated with old age, including sadness or



depression, loneliness, and not feeling needed by others. Older adults who are not experiencing these problems have a greater probability of being very happy.

While these five factors are linked to happiness among older adults, none of the demographic variables included in the model are statistically significant. (For more details on the regression analysis, see appendix). Income, which has been an important predictor of happiness in past analyses of the general population, doesn't reach the customary levels of statistical significance in this model. That change in pattern suggests that for older adults, happiness depends less on the level of annual income than on whether one feels financially secure with the overall mix of income and assets. Marital status, also a significant predictor in past research on the happiness of the general population, does not contribute to happiness for older adults when other factors are held constant. This suggests that the psychic benefits of marriage—love, companionship, security, family life—may be more powerful among younger adults than among older adults, many of whom had been married but are now widowed. Other variables that do not have a meaningful impact on happiness among older adults include party identification, education, age, ethnicity, race and gender.

Comparing the Factors that Increase the Likelihood of Happiness in Older and Younger Adults



Note: The values next to the bars above show the difference in predicted probability of someone being very happy based on having or not having certain characteristics once other variables included in the equation have been statistically controlled. Variables included in the equation but not shown in the chart include income, party id, education, age, ethnicity, race and gender.

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That brings us to our second question: Are the predictors of happiness the same for old and young? Making this comparison required using a slightly different statistical model. That's because some questions in our survey were asked only of older adults (for example, questions about sadness, loneliness and depression) and thus could not be included in a side-by-side comparison. Also, other questions had a different meaning for those under 65 and those 65 and older. For example, in these two models for comparison, we used a question about satisfaction with personal finances in place of a question about confidence in retirement savings. Are the predictors that matter most the same for old and young? Not exactly. Satisfaction with personal finances is the strongest

predictor of happiness for both groups. Health is a significant factor for each group but is much more important in terms of predicting overall happiness for those 65 and older than for those under 65. Friendship is equally important for both age groups.

Church attendance, while a significant predictor of happiness for older folks, is not a significant factor in this model for those under 65. Marital status, meanwhile, is a significant predictor of happiness for younger adults but not for older adults. Among younger adults, those who are married are 8% percentage points more likely to be very happy than who are unmarried, when all other factors are held constant.

Interestingly, in comparing the two models, gender, ethnicity and income have no significant impact on the happiness of people in *any* age group, once all the other variables in the model have been controlled. Race matters only for those under 65.

No statistical model can ever unlock all the mysteries of human happiness. But this exercise does show that happiness is the result of a complex set of factors at work in an individual's life. And that, whether you're young or old, it helps to have good health, good friends and solid financial footing.

Section III. Family and Friends

Family Connections—The Ties that Bind

What older Americans value most in their lives is time with their family. But the makeup of the family—especially the nuclear family—changes as people get older.

In the Pew Research survey, roughly half of those 65 and older (46%) are married. Among those who are not married, most are widowed while about one-in-five are divorced or separated. Only 5% of older adults have never been married. Not surprisingly, the proportion of older adults who are widowed increases sharply with age. Among those respondents ages 65-74, 21% are widowed. Nearly half of those ages 75-84 (47%) have lost their spouse, as have 66% of those 85 and older.¹⁴

Marital Status of Older Americans

	All 65+	65-74	75-84	85+
	%	%	%	%
Married	46	58	40	21
Living with a partner	2	2	1	0
Divorced/Separated	10	14	7	5
Widowed	37	21	47	66
Never been married	5	5	4	8

Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses are not shown.

Because women have a longer life expectancy than men, there are many more widows than widowers. The gap is particularly wide among those 75 and above. Among women 75 and older, only 18% are married while 70% are widowed. By contrast, most men 75 and older are still married (61%), while 26% have lost their wives. Older whites are more likely than older blacks to be married. Among those 65 and older, 48% of whites are married compared with 31% of blacks.

The vast majority of older adults interviewed for this survey (87%) say they do not need help handling their affairs or caring for themselves, and for the most part they say the same is true of their spouses. Among married older adults, 86% say their spouse does not need help caring for himself or herself, and 14% say their spouse does need help. Among those who are married and say that either they or their spouse needs assistance with day-to-day living (only 7% of the overall sample of older adults), a majority say they provide more care to their spouse; very few say their spouse provides more care to them.

In a number of ways, growing old is a different experience for married and unmarried people. Older adults who are married are happier than those who are not married. Among those 65 and older, 35% who are married say they are very happy with their lives; this compares with 26% of those who are unmarried. In addition, older folks who are married are more satisfied with their financial situation than those who are not married (36% very satisfied among older adults who are married vs. 27% very satisfied among unmarrieds).

As would be expected, older adults who are not married are much more likely than those who are married to say they are lonely (27% vs. 5%). In addition, worrying that they might become a burden to their children is more common among unmarried older adults than those who are married.

¹⁴ These survey figures are at variance with the most recent Census, Current Population Survey figures which show that 56% of those ages 65 and older are married.

Contact with Children

An overwhelming majority of older adults (87%) have children, and those children are central to their lives. Most older adults with children (54%) say they communicate with a son or daughter on a daily basis. And more than eight-in-ten say they are very satisfied with their relationship with their kids.

When asked which family member other than their spouse they have the most contact with, 82% of older adults who have children name either a son or a daughter. Daughters are named more often than sons (51% vs. 38%). Fewer than one-in-ten older adults with children (7%) say the family member they have the most contact with is a brother or sister. An additional 5% name a grandchild, and 5% name some other relative.

Older women who have children are more likely than older men with children to say their daughter is the family member with whom they have the most contact—55% of women ages 65 and older name their daughter, as do 45% of men. At the same time, among those who have children, older men are more likely than older women to be in close contact with their sons: 43% of men ages 65 and older say their son is the family member with whom they have the most contact, compared with 34% of women. These family dynamics differ somewhat according to race. More older whites with children (85%) than older blacks (70%) say they are in closest contact with a son or daughter. Older blacks with children are more likely than older whites to name a sibling as the relative with whom they have the most contact (15% of blacks vs. 6% of whites).

Among older adults who do not have children, 42% say the family member with whom they have the most contact is a sibling; 29% name an aunt, uncle or cousin; and roughly one-in-five name some other relative.

When asked specifically how often they are in touch with their kids, more than half of older adults who have children say they see or communicate with them every day. Respondents with one child were asked to think about that child, while those with more than one child were asked to think about the son or daughter with whom they have the most contact. Overall, 54% say they see, speak to, or exchange email with their son or daughter on a daily basis. An additional 40% say they are in touch with their child once a week or more. Only 4% say they communicate with their child monthly, and even fewer (2%) say they are in touch with their child less often than that. Older adults who are unmarried are in closer contact with their children: 59% say they talk to their son or daughter every day, compared with 49% of those who are married.

Older women communicate with their children more often than do older men, and when the child is a daughter, the gap is particularly wide. Among older women who either have only a daughter or say they are in closest contact with a daughter, 66% say they talk to their daughter every day. Among men whose only or closest child

Family Ties

65+

Have children/stepchildren:

Yes	87
No	13

*Which family member do you have the most contact with?**

Daughter	51
Son	38
Brother/Sister	7
Grandchild	5
Aunt/Uncle/Cousin	1
Mother/Father	1
In-law	1
Other	2

Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

* Based on those who have at least one living child [n=1,149].

is a daughter, only 40% say they talk to her every day. Most men (53%) say they talk to their daughter once a week or more.

When it comes to communicating with their sons, there is no gap between older women and men. Among those who have only a son or are in closest contact with a son, 52% of both women and men say they are in touch with him on a daily basis.

For older adults who have more than one child, there is no clear pattern in the birth order of the child with whom they are most in contact: 35% say it is their oldest child, 37% say it is their youngest child and 27% say it's a middle child.

Staying Connected with Aging Parents

The issues that older adults confront as they age have a significant impact on their adult children. More than one-third of all adults (35%) have at least one living parent or stepparent age 65 or older. And among those between the ages of 30 and 64, a majority (55%) has a parent 65 or older. Because men have a shorter average life span than women, adults are more likely to have a mother age 65 or older than they are to have a father in this age group. Among all adults ages 18 and older, 31% have a mother who is 65 or older and 21% have a father in that age group.

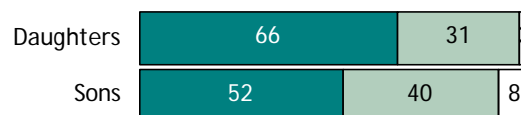
The children of older adults stay in close contact with their parents. More than a third (36%) say they are in touch with their parents—either by seeing them in person, talking to them on the phone or communicating by email—every day. An additional 50% are in contact with their parents at least once a week. Some 7% say they are in touch with their parents on a monthly basis, and 5% communicate with their parents less often than that. The frequency of contact does not vary significantly according to the age of the parent. Adults with very old parents (85 and

Mothers and Daughters in Close Communication

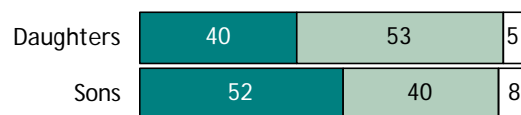
How often are you in contact with your son/daughter?

■ Every day ■ Once a week or more □ Less often

Mothers in contact with



Fathers in contact with



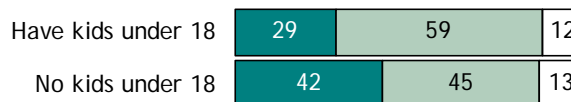
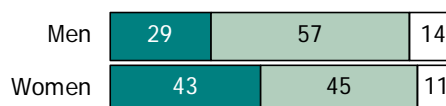
Note: Based on those 65 and older who can name the child with whom they are in closest contact, n=985. Those with an only child who is a daughter or who are in closest contact with a daughter were asked about their daughter. Those with an only child who is a son or who are in closest contact with a son were asked about their son. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

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Daughters Keep in Close Contact with Aging Parents

How often are you in contact with your mother/father/parents?

■ Every day ■ Once a week or more □ Less often



Note: Based on those with at least one living parent age 65 or older, n=807. Those with two living parents were asked about their parents. Those with only one living parents were asked about that parent. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

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older) are no more likely than those with parents ages 65-74 to be in touch every day.

Women are the great family communicators. Just as older women are in closer contact with their adult children, women with parents 65 and older are much more likely than men with parents in that age group to say that they communicate with their parents every day. Fully 43% of women with at least one parent 65 or older say they are in touch with their parents on a daily basis. This compares with 29% of men with older parents. Blacks are more likely than whites to be in contact with their aging parents. Nearly half (48%) of blacks who have at least one parent 65 or older say they communicate with their parents daily vs. 35% of whites and 37% of Hispanics.

Members of the so-called sandwich generation—adults who are raising young children as well as dealing with aging parents—appear to have less time (or energy) to keep in touch with their parents. Among those who have at least one parent 65 or older and at least one child under 18, 29% report that they communicate with their parents every day. Among those who have older parents but no children under 18, fully 42% communicate with their parents every day.

Evaluating Family Relationships

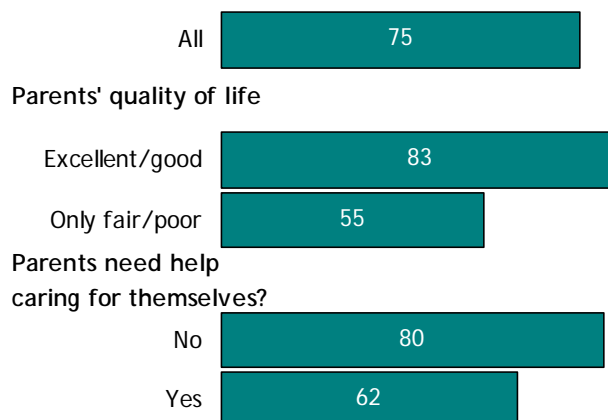
Looking at adults of all ages, most are quite satisfied with their relationship with their parents. Among those who have at least one living parent, 75% say they are very satisfied with the relationship. An additional 16% are somewhat satisfied, and only 5% are somewhat or very dissatisfied. Satisfaction does not vary significantly with age. Among adults under the age of 30, most of whose parents are in late middle age, 74% say they are very satisfied with their relationship with their parents. At the other end of the spectrum, among those ages 50-64, most of whose parents are in their 70s or 80s, 76% are very satisfied with their relationship with their parents.

For adults whose aging parents are dealing with some of the problems of old age, the relationship appears to be more difficult. Among those with parents 65 and older who describe their parents' quality of life as fair or poor, only 55% say they are very satisfied with their relationship with their parents. By contrast, among those who say their parents' quality of life is excellent or good, 83% are very satisfied with their relationship with their parents. Similarly, those who say their aging parents need help taking care of themselves are less satisfied with their relationship with their parents than are those whose parents can handle things on their own (62% vs. 80% very satisfied).

Just as most adults are satisfied with their relationship with their parents, most parents are quite content when it comes to their relationship with their children. Among all adults with at least

Problems of Old Age May Strain Parent-Child Relationship

% very satisfied with relationship with parents



Note: Based on those who have at least one parent ages 65 or older, n=807.

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one child, 83% are very satisfied with their relationship with their children. Roughly one-in-ten are somewhat satisfied, and only 3% are dissatisfied. Younger parents are among the most satisfied. Fully 87% of parents under age 50 say they are very satisfied with their relationship with their kids. This compares with 80% among those 50 and older.

Among those 65 and older, men and women are equally satisfied with their relationship with their children. Older whites, blacks and Hispanics are also equally satisfied. Older adults who need help caring for themselves are just as satisfied with their relationship with their children as are those who can handle things on their own. However, older adults who are married or living with a partner, as well as those who are widowed are much more satisfied with their relationship with their children than are those who are divorced or separated (83% vs. 64% very satisfied).

High Marks for Parenting

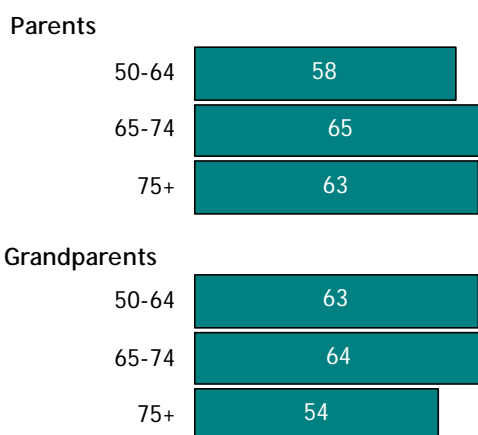
For the most part, parents give themselves good grades for the job they have done raising their children. When asked to rate themselves, 32% of all those with children say they have done an excellent job as a parent, 36% say they've done a very good job, 24% say they've done a good job, 6% give themselves a fair rating and 1% say they've done a poor job. The ratings vary somewhat with age, with younger parents giving themselves somewhat higher ratings than older parents. Among parents under age 50, 72% rate themselves excellent or very good in terms of their parenting. This compares with 64% of those 50 and older.

Among those 65 and older, women and men rate themselves about equally when it comes to the job they have done as parents. Those who are struggling with some of the problems of aging are less likely than others to give themselves high marks. The same is true of those who say they need help caring for themselves. Only half (51%) of those who say they need help caring for themselves or handling their affairs say they have done an excellent or very good job as a parent. This compares with 65% of older adults who can handle these things on their own.

Grandchildren

Grandchildren are central to the lives of many older Americans. According to the survey, 80% of those 65 and older have grandchildren, as do 51% of those ages 50-64. Most grandparents give themselves high marks for the role they are playing in the grandchildren's lives. Overall, 31% of grandparents say they are doing an excellent job, 29% say they are doing a very good job and 27% say they've doing a good job. Fewer than one-in-ten rate themselves only fair (6%) or poor (3%).

Parents and Grandparents Rate Themselves % saying they have done an "excellent" or "very good job" as a parent/grandparent



Note: Based on those who have children and grandchildren, n=1,490.

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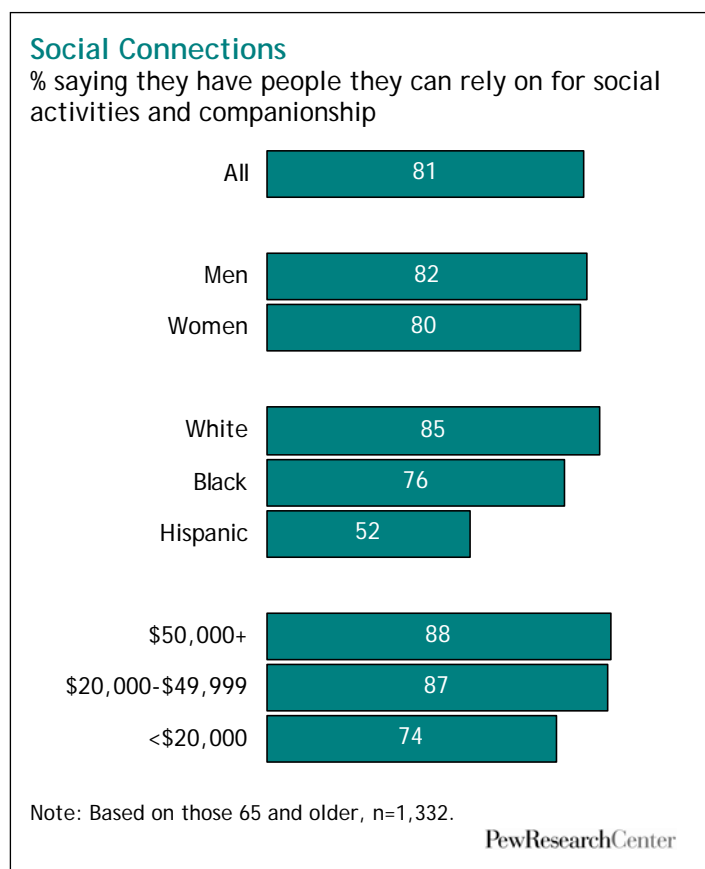
Younger grandparents give themselves slightly higher ratings than their older counterparts. Among those ages 50-74, 63% say they are doing an excellent or good job as grandparents. This compares with 54% of grandparents 75 and older. Among grandparents who give themselves the highest marks for the job they're doing with their grandkids are women ages 65-74. Fully 66% of these women say they are doing an excellent or very good job with their grandkids. This compares with 55% of women 75 and older.

Those who have both children and grandchildren give themselves comparable ratings for their dual roles. Among all respondents who are both parents and grandparents, 62% give themselves an excellent or very good rating for their parenting skills and 60% say they've done an excellent or very good job as a grandparent. The ratings are fairly consistent across age groups, with one exception. Those 75 and older who have both children and grandchildren give themselves slightly better marks for the job they've done as parents (63% excellent or good) compared with how they've done as grandparents (54% excellent or good).

Beyond Family: A Network of Friends

Older Americans are closely connected with their children, but their social circle extends far beyond their families. Most older adults say they have a reliable network of friends that provides both support and companionship. Fully 81% say they have people around them who they can rely on for social activities and companionship. Roughly three-quarters (74%) have people to talk to when they have a personal problem. And 61% say they have people they can turn to for help with errands, appointments and other daily activities. These social connections remain strong as older adults continue to age—even those 85 and older feel they have people around them, other than their families, on whom they can rely.

Among all those 65 and older, men and women are equally likely to say they have people around them who they can rely on for social activities. Older whites are more likely than older blacks or Hispanics to say they have people they can rely on for socializing (85% of whites vs. 76% of blacks and 52% of Hispanics). In addition, older adults with annual household incomes under \$20,000 are less likely than those with higher annual incomes to say they have people they can turn to for companionship.



Respondents were asked whether they have people they can talk to when they have a personal problem. A solid majority say they do have people to turn to. Even those older adults who may seem isolated—widows and those who live alone—have a shoulder when they need one: 79% of those who live alone say they have people they can talk to about their problems.

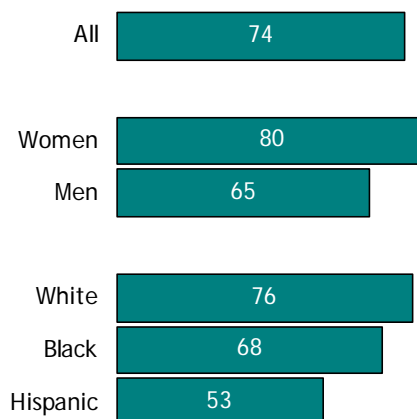
Older women are more likely than older men to say they have people they can turn to when they have a personal problem (80% vs. 65%). A racial and ethnic gap exists as well, with older whites more likely than older blacks or Hispanics to say they have people they can rely on to listen to their problems.

Older Americans are not merely the recipients of support and assistance; many are serving others their age or older who need assistance. Three-in-ten older adults (29%) say they often help other older folks in need. An additional 35% say they sometimes do this. About a third (31%) say they hardly ever or never help other older adults. Not surprisingly, this type of outreach is less common among the very old. Even so, some 44% of those 85 and older say they often or sometimes provide assistance to other people their age or older.

Older men and women are equally likely to reach out to others in need. There are no significant differences across racial and ethnic groups. Equal proportions of older whites, blacks and Hispanic say they often or sometimes help other older people who need assistance.

A Shoulder to Lean On

% saying they have people they can rely on to talk to when they have a personal problem

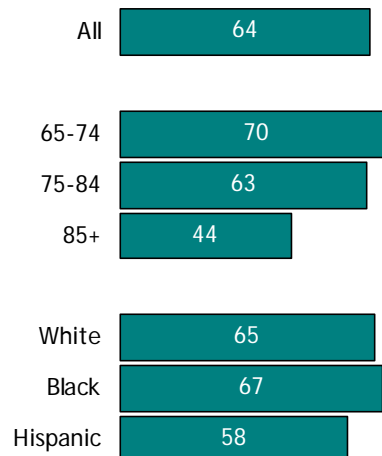


Note: Based on those 65 and older, n=1,332.

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Older Adults Helping Each Other

% saying they "often" or "sometimes" help other people their age or older who need assistance



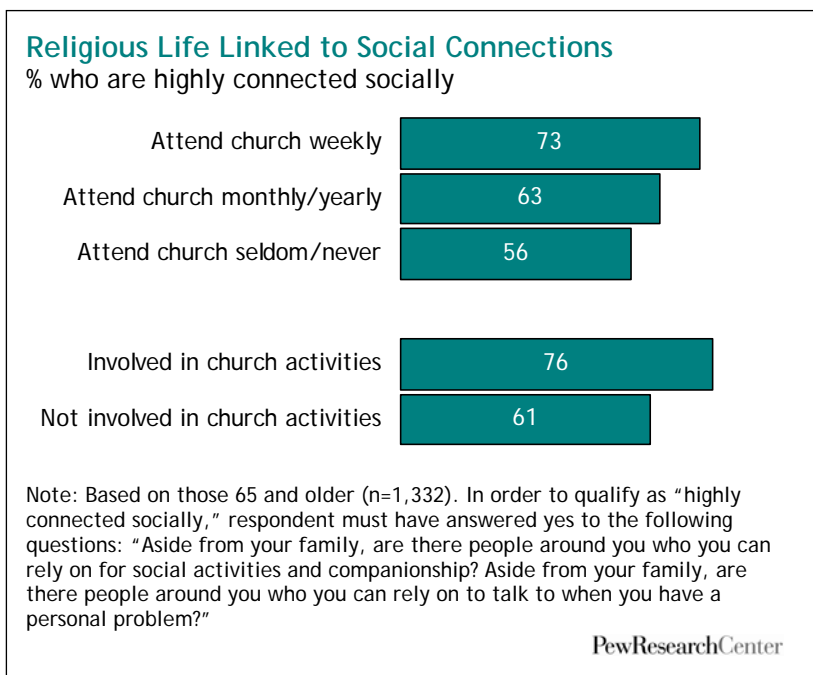
Q wording: How often do you help other people your age or older who need assistance?

Note: Based on those 65 and older, n=1,332.

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The Faith Connection

Older adults who are active in their churches or houses of worship have stronger social networks than do those who don't have these kinds of religious connections. Among those who attend religious services at least once a week, 73% are highly connected socially—that is, they say they have people to turn to both for companionship and for support when they have a personal problem. Among those who attend religious services monthly or yearly, 63% are highly connected; among those who seldom or never attend, 56% are highly connected.



Similarly, those who are involved in activities at their church or house of worship outside of attending services are more likely than those who are not involved to have strong social connections. Among those who say they are very involved in activities at their church or house of worship, 79% are highly connected socially. This compares with 61% who are not too involved or not at all involved in these types of activities.

Active churchgoers are also more likely to be involved in outreach to other older adults. Fully 74% of those who attend religious services weekly say they often or sometimes help other people their age or older who need assistance. This compares with 53% of those who seldom or never attend services. Among those who are very involved in activities outside of worship, 81% say they often or sometimes help other older adults. Of those who are not involved in these types of activities, 59% help older adults in need.

Section IV. Intergenerational Relations within Families

William Wordsworth famously wrote that “the child is father of the man.” William Shakespeare even more famously described the last of the “seven ages of man” as a second childhood. Through the centuries, countless other poets and philosophers have been taken with the idea that toward the end of the human life cycle, the parent becomes the child and the child becomes the parent.

Well, it may work that way in iambic pentameter. But it’s not the way the numbers emerge from our survey.

Just 12% of adults ages 65 and older who have children say that they rely more on their children for assistance than their children rely on them. About the same share—14%—say their children rely more on them. By far the greatest share—58%—say neither they nor their children generally rely on each other for assistance, and an additional 13% say they rely on one another equally.

Intra-family, intergenerational assistance typically takes the form of transfers of money or time. This survey asked both about financial assistance and about help with such things as errands, housework, child care and elder care. In this section we examine the patterns of these exchanges from the perspective of older adults with children (n=1,149) as well as from the perspective of the adult children of older parents (n=807). It needs to be noted at the outset that the respondents from these two different groups in our survey are not from the same family.

Here are some key findings:

- **Exchanges between generations.** About half of parents (51%) ages 65 and older report that they have given one or more children money in the past 12 months, while only 14% say a child or children has given them financial help in the past year. However, the responses to this question from the adult children of parents who are 65 and older are quite different. From their perspective, an almost equal proportion of children gave money (21%) and received money (25%) from their older parents in the past year. Similar perceptual differences emerge when the two generations are asked to tote up who has helped whom in the past year with errands, housework and home repairs. Here, however, the overall pattern of responses suggests that more help flows from child to parent than the other way around. A slightly higher proportion of older parents (36%) say they have received help with housework or home repairs from children than say they have given children similar type of help (32%). There is a much larger gap from adult children’s perspective: Less than one-in-five (19%) say they have received help from parents with errands, housework or home repairs, while nearly half (46%) say they have given their older parents this type of help during the past 12 months.
- **Who relies on whom?** When asked more generally who relies more on whom between parent and child when the parent is over the age of 65, a majority of respondents in both generations say they typically do not rely on each other. About six-in-ten (58%) older adults say that they and their children do not rely on each other, a view echoed by 63% of the adult children of older parents.
- **Older care.** Most adults who are ages 65 or older say that they can handle things on their own (87%), and most adult children of such parents (77%) agree. For older parents who do need help, the major source of care is family members—either adult children (28%) or someone else in the family, including a spouse (44%).

- **Communications about end-of-life arrangements.** More than seven-in-ten older parents (76%) as well as children of older adults (71%) say they have had conversations across generations about the parents' will and about what to do with family belongings after a parent has died. More than six-in-ten (63%) parents say they have talked about how to handle their medical care if they can no longer make their own decisions, and more than half (55%) say they have talked with their children about what to do if they can no longer live independently. Reports from adult children show similar patterns. The survey also finds that parents, rather than adult children, are typically the ones who initiate all these conversations. Seven-in-ten parents say this, as do 52% of children who have older parents.

"I think me and mom take care of each other. That's what I think, because she called me this evening, because of all the snow and stuff, and I don't have a car. 'How'd you make it to work?' 'I made it to work fine, Mom.' 'Are you okay?' 'Yes, Mom.' So we take—you know, we take care of each other. We're always in contact, always in contact."

BLACK MALE, AGE 53

"I told my daughter that if I ever get senile or dementia, don't you ever put me away. Tie me to a chair, but just don't put me in a home. I'm just telling you."

RETIRED WHITE FEMALE, AGE 70

"My mother said if I ever get to the point where you have to put me in a nursing home and I'm crying like a baby or carrying on or whatever, she said, you just ignore it. I am telling you now, while I have all my faculties with me, that you are not to be upset by this and you make rational decisions and don't let my silliness affect you. And believe me, my children are going to get the same advice."

RETIRED WHITE MALE, AGE 68

Exchanges between the Generations: Parents' Views

Half of the parents (51%) ages 65 and older say they have given money to their children in the past year. Asked about the reason for these transfers, half of the parents who gave money say it was for ongoing expenses and about one-third say it was for a major purchase. Also, about two-thirds describe the transfer as just a small gift.

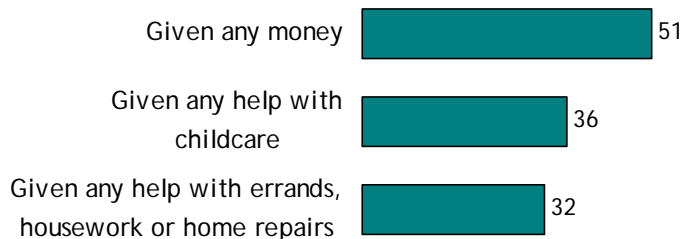
In addition to giving money, parents help their children with other aspects of life. More than one-third of parents (36%) say they have provided childcare help to their adult children, and nearly as many (32%) say they have given help with errands, housework or home repairs to their children in the past 12 months.

Parents also report getting help from their adult children, but in slightly different patterns. The most frequent help, according to parents, is with appointments and work around the house. More than four-in-ten older

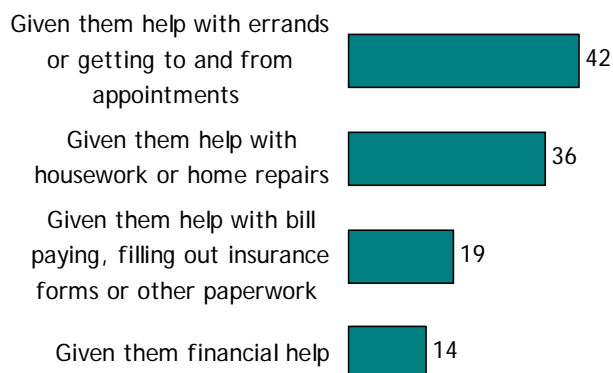
parents (42%) say their children have helped them with errands or getting to and from appointments in the past 12 months, and more than one-third (36%) say their children have helped with housework or home repairs. A much smaller portion of parents (14%) report getting financial help from their children. About one-in-five parents say their children have helped them with bill paying, insurance forms or other paperwork.

Who Helps Whom? (As Older Parents See It)

% saying they have ... to their children in the past 12 months



% saying their children have ... in the past 12 months



Note: Asked of 1,149 adults who are 65+ and have children.

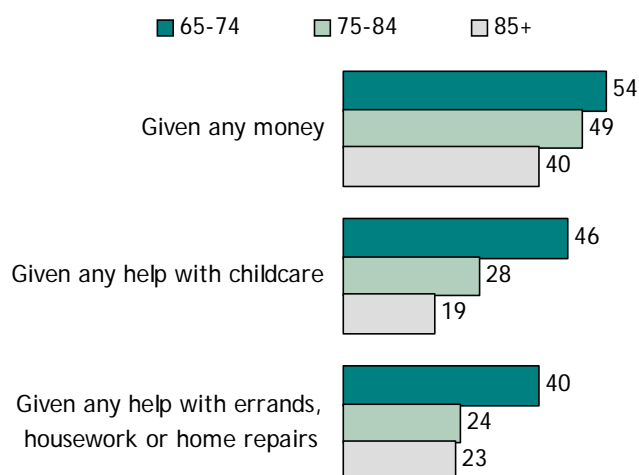
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The age of the parent makes a difference in the patterns of these exchanges. Compared with older parents who are ages 75-84 or 85 and above, parents ages 65-74 provide significantly more help to their adult children. They are more likely to give money to their children than the oldest parents who are 85-plus, and are also more likely to provide help with child care and with errands, housework or home repairs.

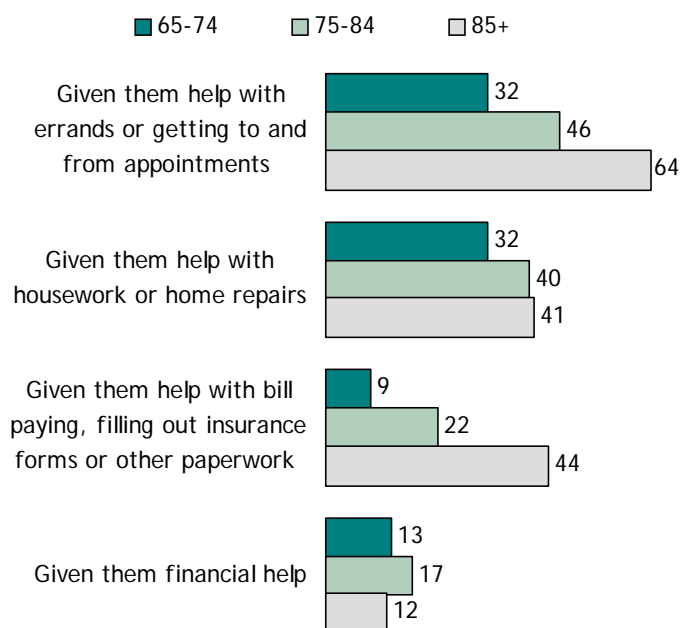
By the same token, parents who are ages 75-84 or 85-plus are more likely than those who are ages 65-74 to get help from their adult children. More than six-in-ten parents (64%) who are ages 85 and older and 46% of parents who are ages 75-84 say their adult children have given them help with errands or appointments, compared with less than one-third of parents who are ages 65-74. Similarly, parents who are ages 75 and older are more likely than those in the 65-74 age group to get help from their children with bill paying, insurance or other paperwork.

Who Helps Whom? (As Older Parents See It, by Age Group)

% saying they have ... to their children in the past 12 months



% saying their children have ... in the past 12 months



Note: Asked of older adults who have children: 592 ages 65-74; 417 ages 75-84; and 119 ages 85+.

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Exchanges between the Generations: Adult Children's Views

The Pew Research survey also asked adults who have parents ages 65 and older about exchanges between them and their parents. Nearly half (46%) say they have given help with housework or home repairs to their parents, and the same share say they have helped their parents with errands and appointments. A lower proportion of children say they have helped with bill paying, insurance and other paperwork (25%) or helped their parents financially (21%).

For those who say that they have provided financial help to their parents, more than four-in-ten (44%) say the help was for special circumstances and slightly more (47%) say it was for ongoing expenses.

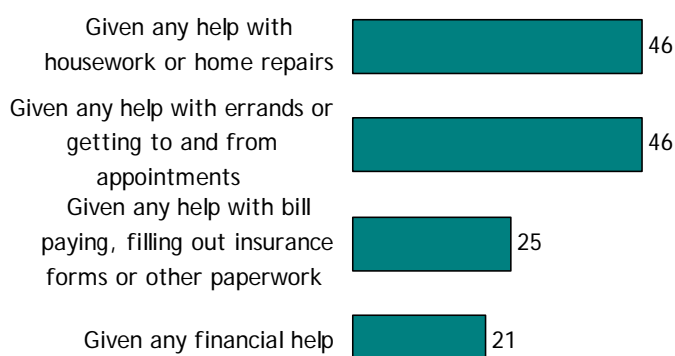
Compared with responses from parents who are 65 or older, adult children report giving more help overall than older parents report receiving. However, parents and children alike report the same pattern in the regularity of such transfers, with financial help being the least frequently reported form of help from adult children to parent.

What about help from parent to child? One-quarter of adult children say their parents have given them money in the past 12 months, 19% say they have gotten help with errands and work around the house and 17% say they've gotten help with child care. These

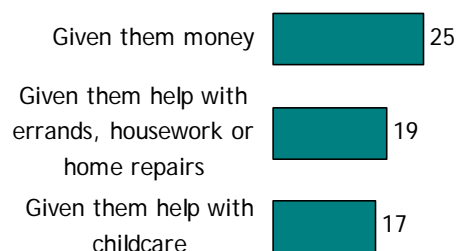
shares are much lower than what is reported by older parents—half of whom say they have given their children money, and about one-third of whom say they have provided help for their children in housework or child care.

Who Helps Whom? (As Adult Children See It)

% saying they have ... to their parents in the past 12 months



% saying their parents have ...in the past 12 months



Note: Asked of 807 adults who have parent(s) ages 65 and older.

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Social desirability may play a role in the differences in these responses, or it could be that the two generations have different definitions of what counts as errands, housework or child care.

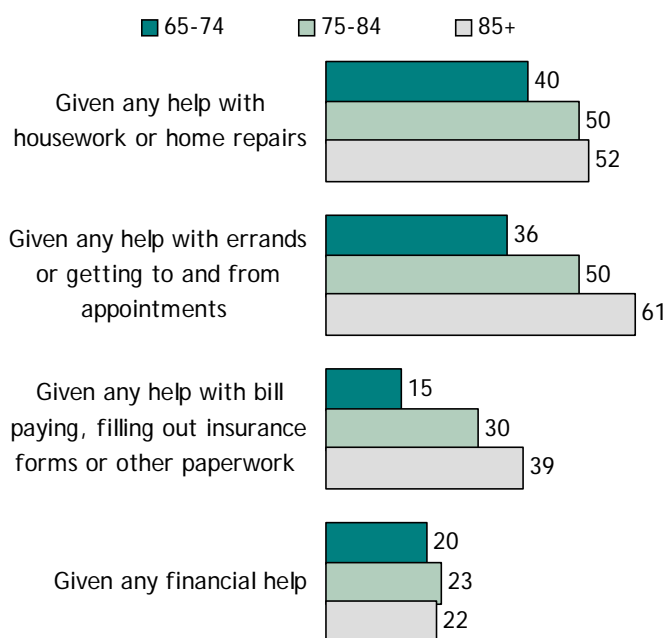
Also, because the two groups are not from the same family, the behaviors of their own children or parents may be different from the overall behavior of the group in the sample. All these factors could contribute to the response differences between the two generations.

Mirroring the reports of parents, adult children report helping more when their parents are older. More than one-in-six adults whose parents are ages 85 and older and half of adults with parents ages 75-84 report that they help their parents with errands and appointments, compared with 36% of adults whose parents are under 75. The same pattern applies to help with bill paying and other paperwork.

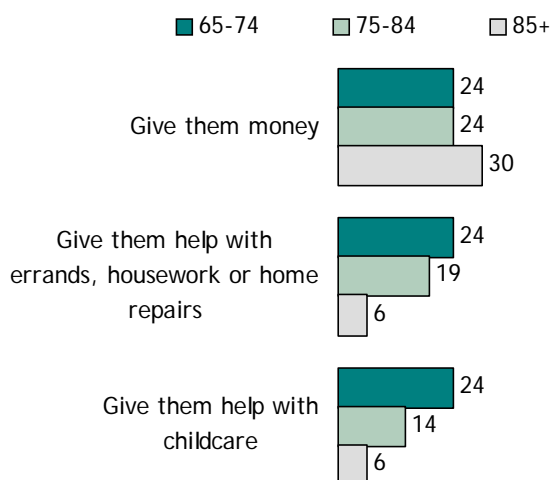
Children of parents who are 65-74 are more likely than children whose parents are 85 and older to say their parents have helped with errands, home repairs or child care. But they are less likely to say they have received financial assistance or money (which is different from the age pattern of reports of older parents).

Who Helps Whom? (As Adult Children See It, by Age of Parents)

% saying they have ... to their parents in the past 12 months



% saying their parents have ...in the past 12 months



Note: Asked of adults with parent(s) ages 65 and older: 291 adults have parent(s) ages 65-74; 303 adults have parent(s) ages 75-84; and 213 adults have parent(s) ages 85 and older.

Giving and Receiving between Generations

In this section we analyze the two main forms of intergenerational exchanges, money and time, through the prism of various demographic characteristics.

Money exchange

Older men are more likely than older women to say that they have given their children money (56% vs. 47%), and they are less likely than women to say that they have received financial help from their children (6% vs. 20%).

Compared with older Hispanics, older whites are more likely to report that they have given their children money (53% vs. 37%). Older blacks fall in between (48%). Both blacks and Hispanics are more likely than whites to report that their children have given them financial help.

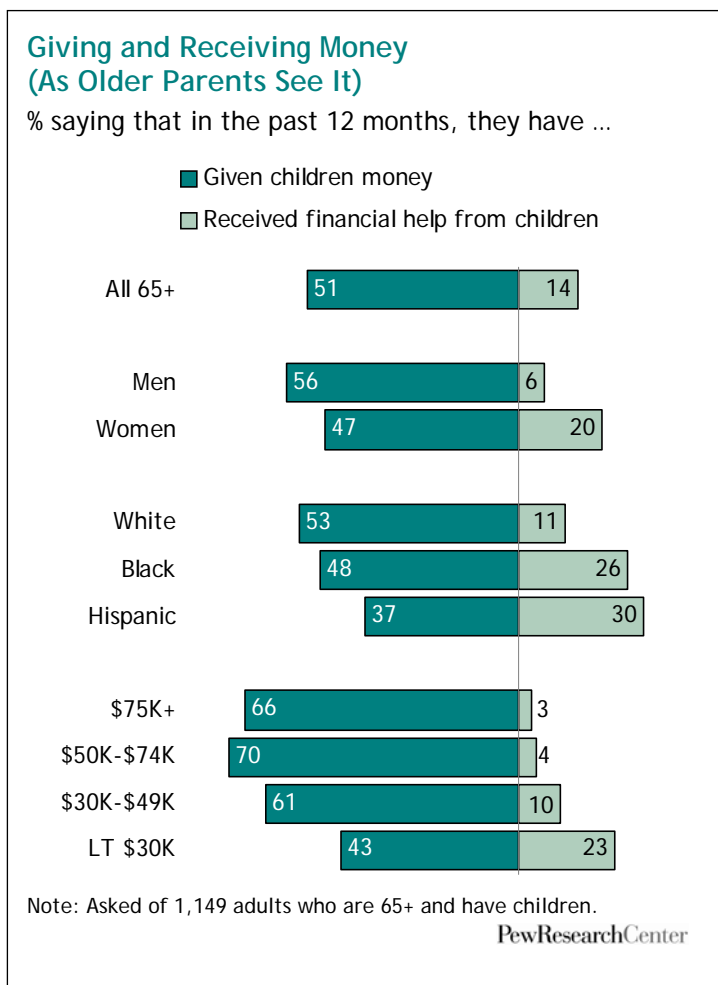
Family income also matters. Not surprisingly, older adults with higher incomes are more likely than those with an annual income of less than \$30,000 a year to report that they have provided financial help to their children.

Reports from the adult children sample shows a somewhat different picture on money exchanges: An almost equal proportion of adult children say that they have given financial help to their parents (21%) as say they have received money from parents (25%).

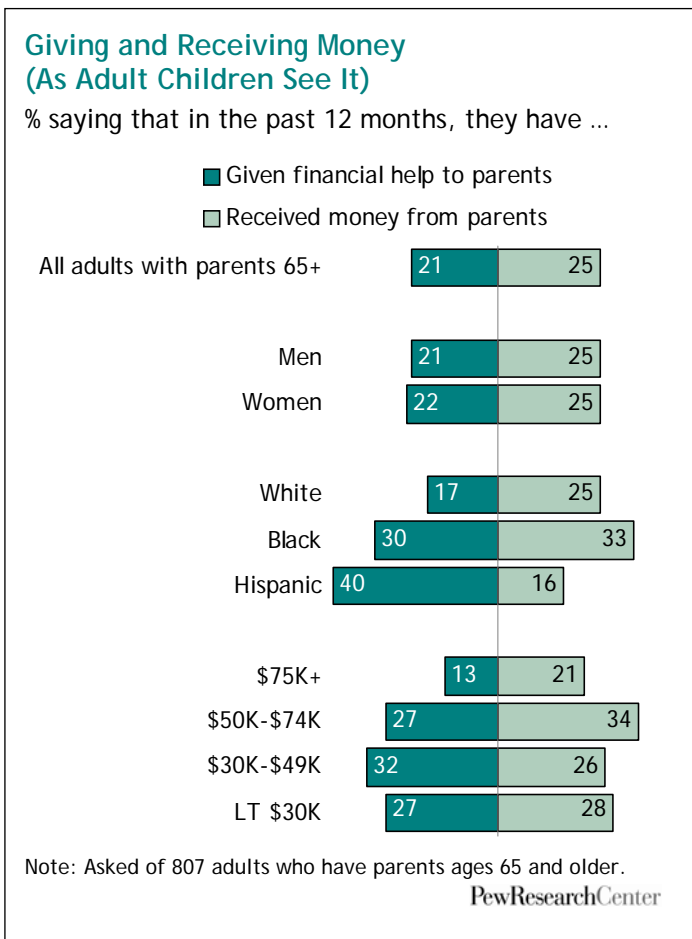
Among those who say that they have provided financial help to their parents, nearly half (47%) say that the money was for ongoing expenses and 44% say it was for special circumstances. In contrast, less than one-third of adults (32%) who have received money from their parents say the money was for help with ongoing expenses, and 27% say it was for a major purchase. Also, almost eight-in-ten (79%) say it was just a small gift.

No gender differences are found among adult children on the questions about whether they give or receive money from their parents.

Consistent with what parents report, blacks and Hispanics are more likely to report providing financial help to their parent(s): Four-in-ten Hispanics and three-in-ten blacks do so, compared with less than two-in-ten whites



(17%). On the receiving side, blacks are more likely than Hispanics to say that their parents have given them money. No statistically significant difference between blacks and whites is found in receiving money from their parents, which is consistent with what parents have reported.



"I have good relationships with my sons, and they help out with little things when we ask them. My son's a computer programmer, and he keeps my computer going even from Wisconsin. And my other son is around the house if we need help—we just remodeled the bathroom, and he helped me get the plumbing in and so forth."

Exchange of Time and Labor

Almost a third of older parents (32%) say they have given help to their children with errands, housework or home repairs in the past 12 months. At the same time, a slightly higher proportion of parents (36%) say they have received help from their children with housework or home repairs.

Men are more likely than women to report that they have helped their children on this front. Four-in-ten men say that they have helped their children with errands, housework or home repairs, compared with only about a quarter of women (26%). Men are less likely than women to say that their children have helped them in the same way (31% vs. 40%).

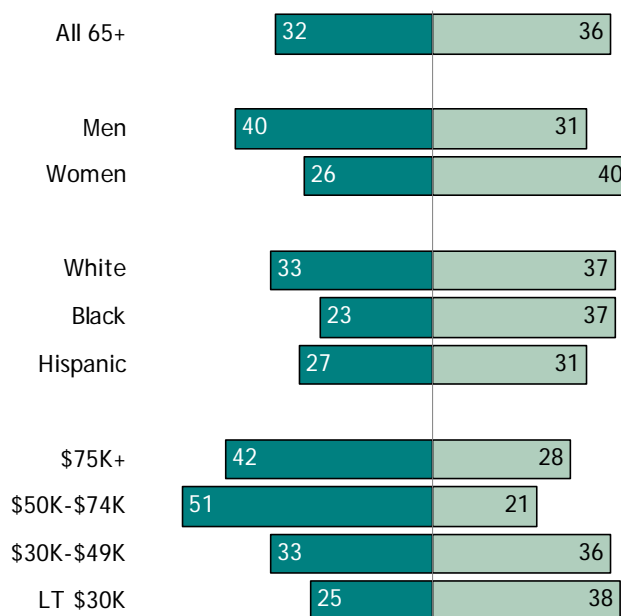
Whites are more likely than blacks to report that they have helped their children around the house (33% vs. 23%), but no statistically significant differences are found among different racial groups on receiving such help from their children.

Older parents with a relatively higher family income are more likely than other older parents to say that they have helped their children with housework and home repairs. On the receiving side, those with lower incomes are more likely than those with higher incomes to report getting help from their children.

Giving and Receiving Help around the House (As Older Parents See It)

% saying that in the past 12 months, they have ...

- Given children help with errands, housework or home repairs
- Received help from children with housework or home repairs



Note: Asked of 1,149 adults who are 65+ and have children.

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Reports from adult children show a clear pattern that the main flow of labor runs from children to parents. Almost half of adult children (46%) say they have given their parents help with housework or home repairs, while less than one-in-five (19%) say their parents have helped them with similar chores in the past 12 months.

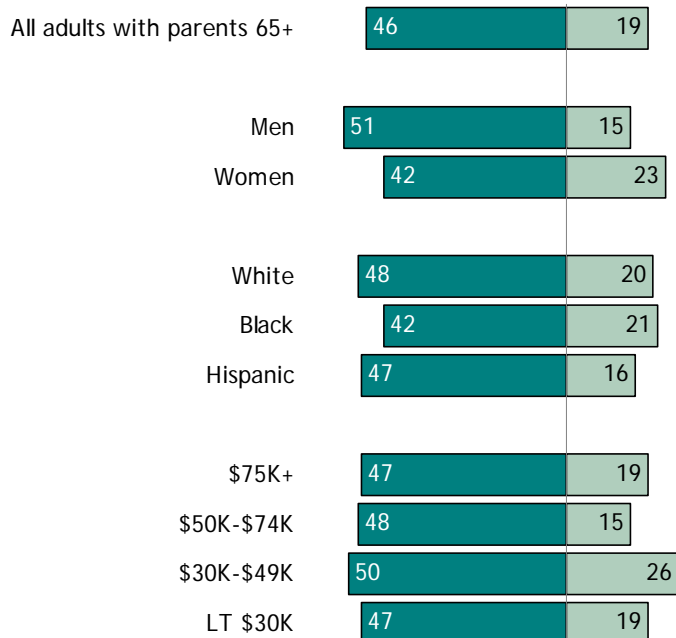
Gender differences are not significant when it comes to reports of giving help to parents. However, women are more likely than men to report that they have received help from their parents with errands, housework or home repairs (23% vs. 15%).

No significant differences are found among adult children who are in different racial groups and different family income categories.

Giving and Receiving Help around the House (As Adult Children See It)

% saying that in the past 12 months, they have ...

- Given parents help with housework or home repairs
- Received help from parents with errands, housework or home repairs



Note: Asked of 807 adults who have parents ages 65 and older.

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Who Relies on Whom? Views from Two Generations

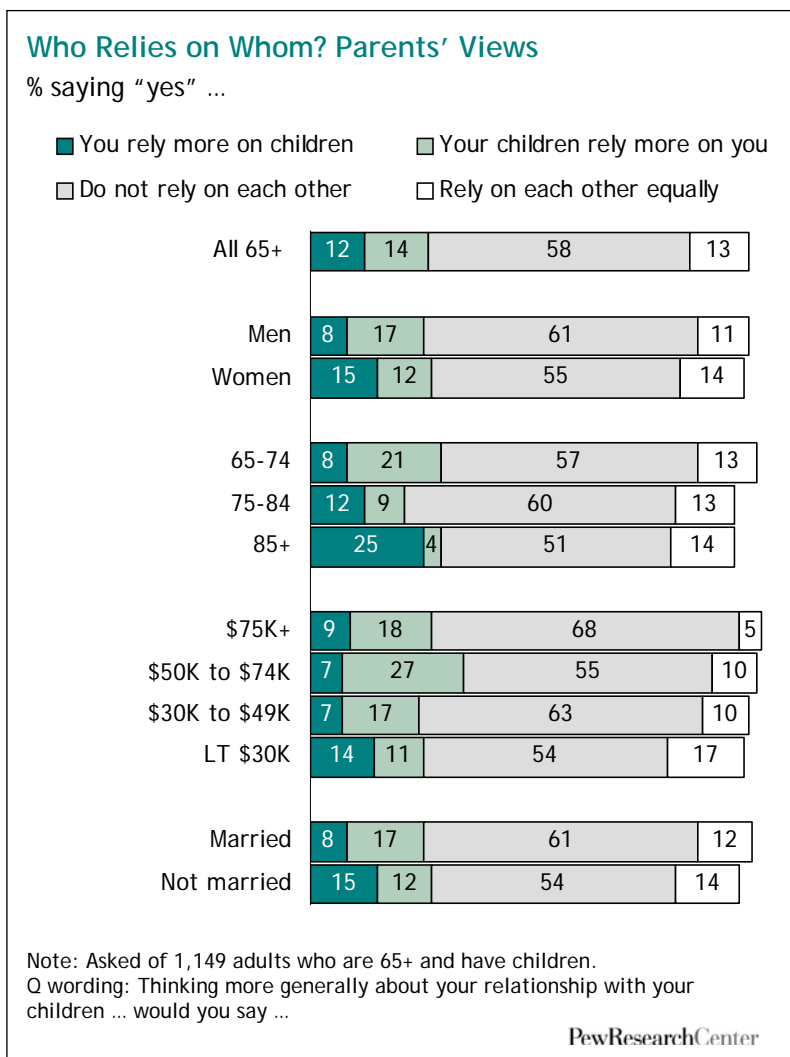
Despite these reports of exchanges of help between the generations, a majority of older adults and their children say that, in general, they do not rely on each other. About six-in-ten (58%) older adults say that they and their children generally do not rely on each other. This view is echoed by the generation of adults who have older parents; 63% say that they and their parents do not rely on each other.

About equal proportions of parents say that they rely more on their children (12%), their children rely more on them (14%) or there's equal reliance between them and their children (13%).

Older women are more likely than older men to report that they rely more on their children (15% vs. 8%), and parents who are ages 85 and older are more likely than other older parents to report that they rely more on their children. Parents who are relatively younger (ages 65-74) are more likely to report that their children rely more on them (21%).

Parents who make less than \$30,000 a year are more likely than other income groups to say that they rely more on their children, and those with a family income of \$50,000 to \$74,999 a year are more likely than those who make less than \$30,000 to say that their children rely on them (27% vs. 11%). Also, parents whose family income is \$75,000 or more a year are more likely than those who make less than \$30,000 a year to say that they and their children do not rely on each other (68% vs. 54%).

Marital status plays a role in whether parents rely on their children. Parents who are not currently married are almost twice as likely as those who are married to say that they rely more on their children (15% vs. 8%).



Children of older adults are more than twice as likely to say that their parents rely on them (19%) than that they rely on their parents (8%). This pattern is slightly different from what is reported in the parents' generation, where the reported balance is nearly even.

One-quarter of the daughters of older parents say that their parents rely more on them, compared with just 13% of the sons of older parents.

Similar to what is reported by the parents' generation, adults with oldest parents (ages 85 and older) are most likely to say that their parents rely more on them, and adults with younger parents (ages 65-74) are more likely than other adults to say they rely more on their parents.

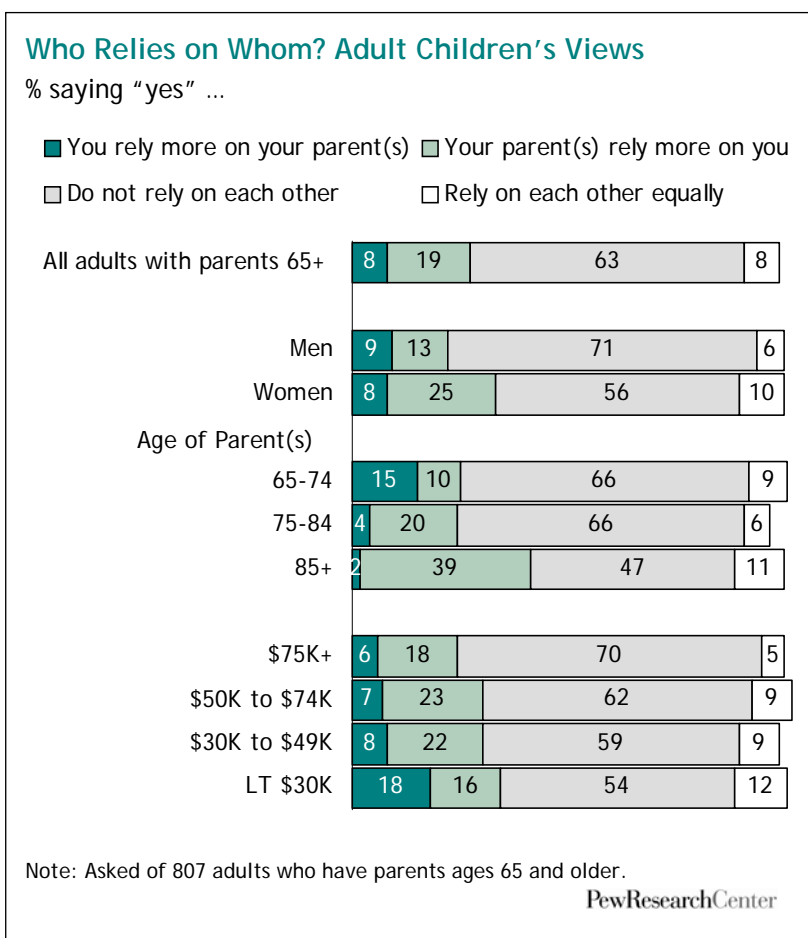
Adult children whose family income is less than \$30,000 a year are more likely than higher income

groups to say that they rely more on their parents. Adults with the highest family income (\$75,000 or more) are more likely than the group with a family income of less than \$30,000 to say that they and their parents do not rely on each other, a finding that echoes what was reported by the parents' generation.

Reliance and exchanges

What parents report about whether they generally rely on their children is consistent with what they say about the exchanges between them and their children. For example, about 73% of parents who say they generally rely more on their children also report that their children have given them help with errands or appointments. Among parents who say that their children rely more on them or that they do not rely on each other, less than one-third of them also report that their children have helped them with errands or appointments.

At the same time, two-thirds (67%) of older parents who say that their children rely more on them also report that they have given money to their children in the past 12 months, but less than half (47%) of parents who say that they rely more on their children or that they and their children do not rely on each other also reported that they have given money to their children.



Worries about Being a Burden

Nearly four-in-ten (38%) parents ages 65 and older say they worry that they might become a burden to their children. Women are more likely than men to harbor this worry (44% vs. 31%), and white and Hispanic parents are more likely than black parents to worry about this.

No significant age differences are found among older parents regarding whether they are worried about becoming a burden to their children.

Less family income is associated with more worries. Close to half of the parents (45%) with a family income of \$30,000 or less are worried about becoming a burden, compared with less than a quarter of parents (24%) who have a family income of \$50,000 to \$74,999. At the upper end of the income scale, however, worries seem to return: Some 37% of those with a family income of \$75,000 or above share this concern.

Unmarried parents are more likely to worry about being a burden to their children than are parents who are married.

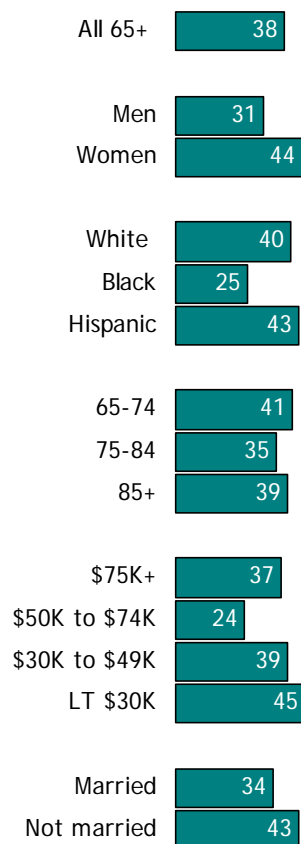
Worry vs. Intergenerational Exchanges

What might ease parents' worries about being a burden to their children? We did a cross-tabulation and found that giving money to children doesn't seem to help. Among parents who have given their children money in the past 12 months, 52% say that they are worried about becoming a burden to their children. Nearly four-in-ten of those who have helped their children with child care (39%) and one-third of parents who have helped their children with errands and housework also worry about becoming a burden.

Parents who have received help from their adult children worry in varying degrees. Half of the parents (51%) who have received help from their children with errands or appointments and just over four-in-ten (42%) parents who got help with housework say they are worried about becoming a burden. In contrast, financial help from children does not seem to pose too much burden on parents: Only 19% of parents who have received financial help from their children worry about becoming a burden to them.

Worry about Becoming a Burden to Your Children?

% saying "yes" ...



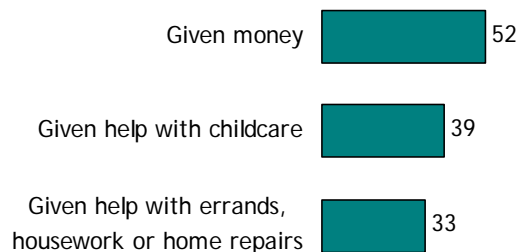
Note: Asked of 1,149 adults who are 65+ and have children.

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Taken together, these findings suggest that parents are more likely to worry about becoming a burden to their children if their children frequently help them with errands, appointments and housework than if their children help them with financial assistance.

What You Have Done for Your Children vs. Being a Burden to Your Children

% saying they worry about becoming a burden to their children

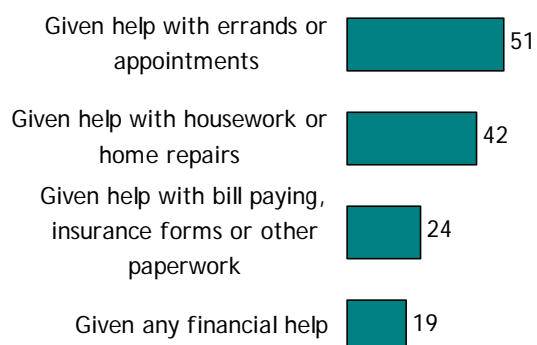


Note: Asked of 1,149 adults who are 65+ and have children.

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What Your Children Have Done for You vs. a Burden to Your Children

% saying they worry about becoming a burden to their children



Note: Asked of 1,149 adults who are 65+ and have children.

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Care for Parents: Who Provides?

About one-in-five children of older parents say that their parent(s) need help to handle their affairs; the rest say that their parents can handle things on their own. This proportion varies by the age of the parents. About 30% of adults with parents ages 75 or older say their parents need help, compared with less than 10% of adults whose parents are under 75. When the same question is asked of older adults themselves, just 12% of all those ages 65 and older say they need help. This share rises to 17% among adults 75 and older.

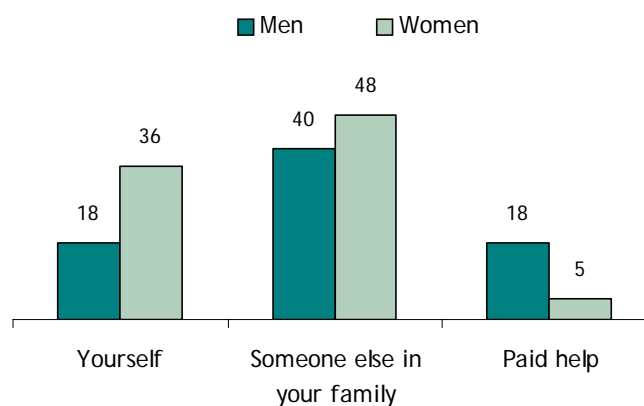
Most of the care for parents who need help comes from family members. Nearly three-in-ten adult children say they provide most of the help, and an additional 44% say that other family members provide the help. In addition, 11% say paid help is the major source of care for their parents, and 14% say there is some other arrangement.

Sons and daughters report different patterns of behavior when it comes to caring for parents. Some 18% of men say that they provide most of the help to their parents, but women are twice as likely (36%) to say that they are main caregivers. Also, men are more likely than women to say that “paid help” is the main care arrangement for their parents in need.

Among adult children who have siblings, nearly four-in-ten (37%) say that siblings are equally involved in caring for their parent(s), while a majority (54%) say that some siblings provide more care than others. Here again, men and women report different patterns. Men are more likely than women to say that siblings are equally involved in

Gender Differences in Caring for Parents

% saying ... provide most of the help for their parents in need

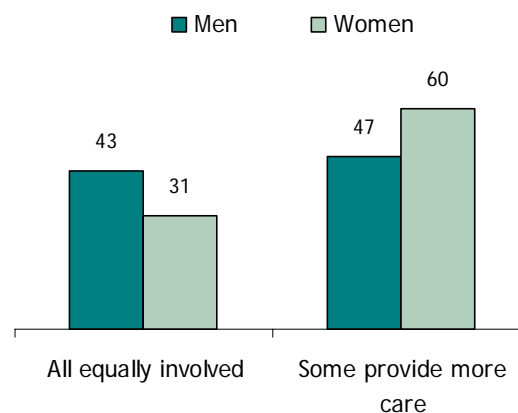


Note: Based on 217 adult children (92 men and 125 women) who say their parents need help to handle their own affairs.

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How Siblings Say They Share Care for Their Parents, by Gender

% saying...



Note: Based on 769 adult children (368 men and 401 women) who have siblings/half-siblings.

Q wording: Thinking specifically about your siblings, would you say you and your siblings are equally involved in caring for your parent(s), or do some siblings provide more care than others?

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caring for parents (43% vs. 31%). Women are more likely than men to say that some siblings provide more care than others (60% vs. 47%).

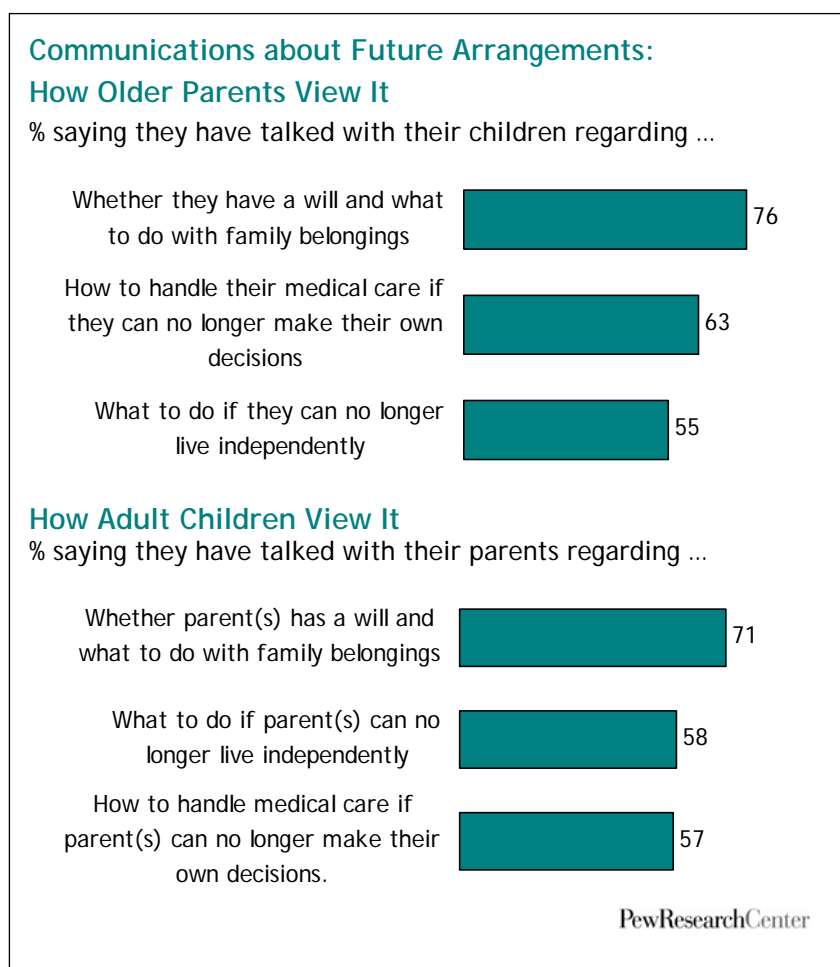
Even though more than half of the adult children in the survey say that they and their siblings are not equally involved in caring for their parents, more than 80% also say that this is *not* a cause of tension in the family. Men and women agree on this.

Communications about Future Arrangements

A majority of older parents report that they have talked with their children about a range of end-of-life matters. More than three-quarters (76%) say they have talked about their will and what to do with family belongings; more than six-in-ten (63%) have talked about how to handle their medical care if and when they can no longer make their own decisions; and more than half (55%) have communicated with their children about what to do if they can no longer live independently.

Reports from adult children on the same subject show a similar pattern. The will is the most mentioned topic; seven-in-ten adult children (71%) say that they have talked with their older parents about their will. And

nearly six-in-ten say they have talked about what to do if their parent(s) can no longer live independently and how to handle medical care if they can no longer make their own decisions.



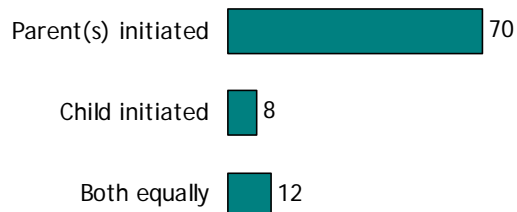
Who initiated the talk?

Reports from both generations indicate that parents are typically the ones who initiate such conversations. Seven-in-ten parents say that they raised these issues with their children, and more than half of adult children (52%) report that their parents initiated the talks.

Fewer than one-in-ten (8%) older parents say that their child or children initiated the talks, and 12% say both generations were equally responsible for raising the issues. From the children's perspective, a higher proportion say they initiated the talk (25%) or say that both generations were equally involved in the initiating (20%).

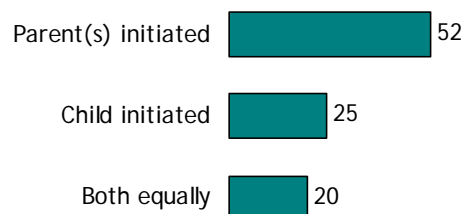
Who Raises These End-of-Life Issues? As Older Parents See It

% saying ...



As Adult Children See It

% saying ...



Note: Wording of the Qs: Generally who raised these issues, was it you or your children/parent(s) ...

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"This last four months have been, I think, the hardest time for all of us, because my mother has had to relent on taking care of everything. And as a matter of fact, before I came here tonight, she had called me and told me that she had canceled some appointments for tomorrow, and before I could say anything ... she busted out crying. So I know that in her mind, it's all about having someone else take care of her. I can't do this on my own, and I have to depend on you guys. And she hates it. It hurts her more than anything in the whole world."

What to Do if You Can No Longer Live Independently?

Slightly over half of all older parents have talked with their children about this issue. Mothers are more likely than fathers to have done so: More than six-in-ten (62%) older women have talked with their children about what to do if they can no longer live independently, compared with 45% of older men.

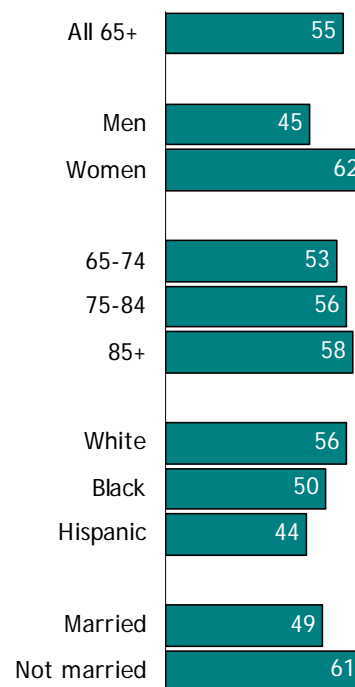
No significant differences are found among various older age groups regarding this issue. Those ages 65-74 are just as likely to talk with their children about this issue as are those who are 85 and older.

Whites are more likely than Hispanics to talk about what to do when they can no longer live independently (56% vs. 44%). Blacks fall in between (50%).

Older adults who are not currently married are more likely than those who are married to talk about these arrangements with their children (61% vs. 49%).

Conversations about What to Do if Parent(s) Can No Longer Live Independently (As Older Parents See It)

% saying they have talked with their children



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"We're going to stay [in our home] until they have to cart us out, hopefully dead. ... If our kids have to come in and cart us out, they'll have to do it, but we're not going to do it on our own. I mean, if we still have our minds we're going to stay there, and if we don't have our minds it's the kids' problem."

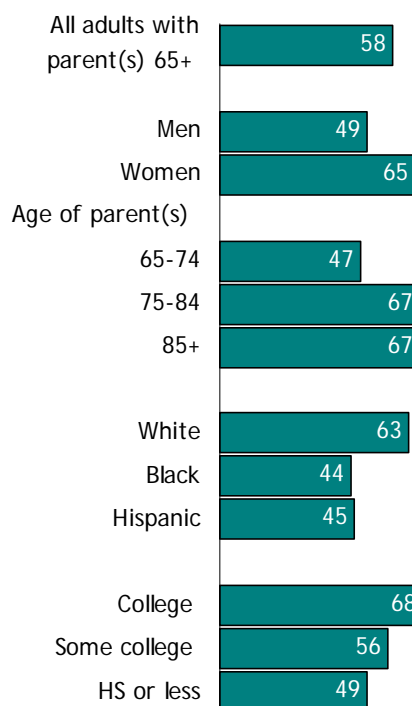
Reports from children show a similar pattern. Daughters are more likely than sons to communicate with their parents regarding this issue (65% vs. 49%). Also, adult children of both genders are more likely to communicate with their parents about this issue when their parents are at an older age. Two-thirds (67%) of children with parents who are 75 and older report that they have talked with their parents regarding what to do when they no longer can live independently, compared with less than half (47%) of adults with parents under age 75.

White are more likely than blacks and Hispanics to have talked with their parents about this matter.

Adults who have a college education or more (68%) are more likely than those with a high school education or less (49%) to report that they have talked with their parents about this matter.

Conversations about What to Do if Parent(s) Can No Longer Live Independently (As Adult Children See It)

% saying they have talked with their parents



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Section V. Work and Retirement

Life after age 65 is not all golf, gardening or relaxing on the porch. True, about three-quarters of all adults in that age group fit the classic stereotype of the retiree who has nothing to do with the working world.¹⁵ But the remaining one-in-four older Americans either work or are looking for a job—even though just over half of the adults in this group still describe themselves as “retired.”

Indeed, one of the clearest findings of this Pew Research survey is that “retirement” means different things to different people. Some 8% of adults ages 65 and older say they are retired but working part time; 2% say they are retired but working full time; and 3% say they are retired but looking for work. Most of these retirees who are still in the workforce say the main reason they continue to work is that they want to, not because they need the paycheck.

Filling out this portrait of the working lives of older Americans, some 11% of all adults ages 65 and older say they are *not* retired. As a group, nearly four-in-ten of these non-retirees (or 4% of the total population that is 65 and older) report that they are working full time; 23% say they have part-time jobs; and 37% say they are job hunting.

Taken together, these findings suggest that Social Security checks and paychecks frequently mix: Nearly one-in-four older adults remains in the workforce after turning 65.

Moreover, the government reports that the proportion of older adults in the labor force has been growing steadily over the past decade. Using a slightly different way of measuring employment status, the Labor Department reports that the percentage of adults 65 or older in the labor force increased steadily from 11.9% in 1998 to 16.8% last year.¹⁶

The Pew survey suggests this trend will continue. Half of all adults currently approaching retirement age—those ages 50-64—say that in the past year, they have seriously considered delaying their eventual exit from the workforce.¹⁷

Work and Retirement

Among all adults 65 or older:

- 76% say they are retired and do not work
- 8% say they are retired but work part time
- 2% say they are retired but currently work full time
- 3% say they are retired but looking for work
- 4% are not retired and are working full time
- 3% are not retired and are working part time
- 4% are not retired and are looking for work

This section examines patterns of work and retirement among adults 65 and older through two lenses. The first part compares older adults who are fully retired with those who work full time or part time, including those who say they are retired. The next part offers a fuller profile of all retirees, whether or not they work, and examines such questions as how long they have been retired, the age they entered retirement and how their lives

¹⁵ For purposes of this report, the term “retiree” includes those who identify themselves in the survey as fully retired or semi-retired.

¹⁶ The labor force participation rate is the share of the working-age population that is either employed or actively looking for work. Data on labor force participation are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

¹⁷ For a complete analysis, see [“The Threshold Generation: Most Middle-Aged Adults Are Rethinking Retirement Plans,”](#) by Rich Morin, Pew Research Center, May 28, 2009.

differ from those of non-retirees. While the two analyses tell complementary stories, each provides slightly different insights into the lives of older Americans.

Older Workers and Full-Time Retirees: A Demographic Profile

In terms of demographic characteristics and core attitudes, older Americans who work at least part time are surprisingly hard to distinguish from those who are fully retired.

Among adults 65 and older, nearly identical proportions of men (75%) and women (76%) are retired and not working. About three-quarters of whites (76%) and an identical proportion of blacks are fully retired, while roughly equal proportions of each group are working.

When it comes to having a full-time job, men are slightly more likely than women to be employed (9% vs. 4%). Women, meanwhile, are slightly more likely to say they are not retired but are looking for work (6% vs. 3%).

These groups are not significantly different in the way they see their lives. Full-time retirees and working older adults are about as likely to say they are very or pretty happy with their lives (75% vs. 70%). And about nine-in-ten report they are satisfied with their current housing situation.

Not surprisingly, the likelihood that a person is retired and out of the labor force increases substantially with age. Overall, about two-thirds of adults ages 65-74 say they are retired and not working, compared with 85% of those ages 75 and older. Similarly, adults ages 65-74 are more than twice as likely to be employed, either part time or full time, as are those 75 and older (33% vs. 15%).

Also not a surprise: Older working adults have significantly higher family incomes than non-working retirees. Overall, the median family income of employed adults 65 and older is approximately \$39,000, or nearly \$9,000 more than that of the typical non-working retiree. This income gap is almost entirely due to the income disparity between working and non-working adults ages 65-74 (\$48,686 for employed vs. \$35,995 for those fully retired); among those 75 and older, the income gap between retirees and the employed is only a few hundred dollars.

Personal finances play a role in the decision to retire at 65 or to continue working. Among all adults who say they are confident that they have enough to live on in retirement, nearly eight-in-ten (78%) are fully retired, while 21% are still in the labor force. By contrast, among those who are not confident about their retirement finances, two-thirds no longer work and a third are employed or looking for a job.

Money Worries and Retirement

Do you have enough income or assets for retirement?

	Confident have enough %	Not confident have enough %	Diff.
Fully retired	78	67	-11
Still working	21	33	+12

Note: "DK-refused" responses not shown.

But the survey also suggests that money worries are most likely to be a factor in retirement decisions before age 75. Overall, more than three-quarters of all adults ages 65-74 say they are confident they have enough money for their retirement years, and among those who share this view, about seven-in-ten are fully retired. In contrast, slightly more than half (54%) of those who say they have little or no confidence about their retirement finances are retired—16 percentage points less than the proportion among those who were confident. But this work-retirement gap largely disappears among those 75 and older, probably because health, family issues or other factors make it more difficult for them to work even if they need to or want to.

One other predictable difference: Older adults who say they are in “excellent” or “good” health are somewhat more likely to be working than those who report their health status as “only fair” or “poor” (30% vs. 23%). As with attitudes about one’s financial security, this difference is almost entirely due to the disparity among older adults under the age of 75: Among this group, those in better health are significantly more likely to say they work than are similarly-aged adults who describe themselves as being in only fair or poor health (36% vs. 26%).

Who Is Retired and Who Is Not

Overall, 83% of all adults 65 and older say they are retired—a group that includes some who work at least part time—while 5% describe themselves as semi-retired.

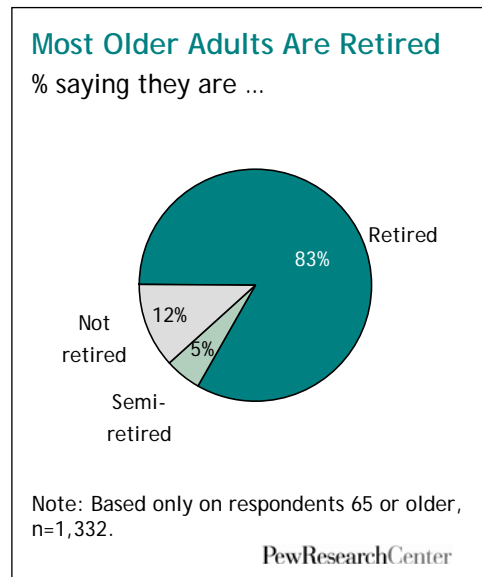
The typical retiree is 75 years old and retired at the age of 62. Among those who say they have retired, more than six-in-ten (62%) retired by age 65. Older adults who have not yet retired but expect to do so someday are, on average, 70 years old and plan to retire in three years.

Retirees and older adults who have yet to retire are strikingly similar in terms of their demographic characteristics and the way they see themselves and their lives.

For example, virtually identical shares of men (89%) and women (87%) say they are retired, as do roughly similar shares of whites (88%) and blacks (93%), while 82% of Hispanics say they are retired.

Similarly, about a third of all retirees and about as many older non-retirees report that they are “very satisfied” with their financial situation. Nearly equal proportions also say they are generally “very happy” with their lives (30% for retirees vs. 28% for non-retirees). And when respondents were asked whether they are experiencing any of nine potential age-related problems addressed in the survey, the results are the same for both groups: 38% of retirees and 40% of non-retirees report no problems, while fewer than one-in-ten have in each group report encountering five or more age-related problems.

There is one modest exception to these findings: Adults 65 and older who are confident that they have enough income and assets to make it through their retirement years are somewhat more likely to be retired than are those who are not confident about their finances (90% vs. 81%).



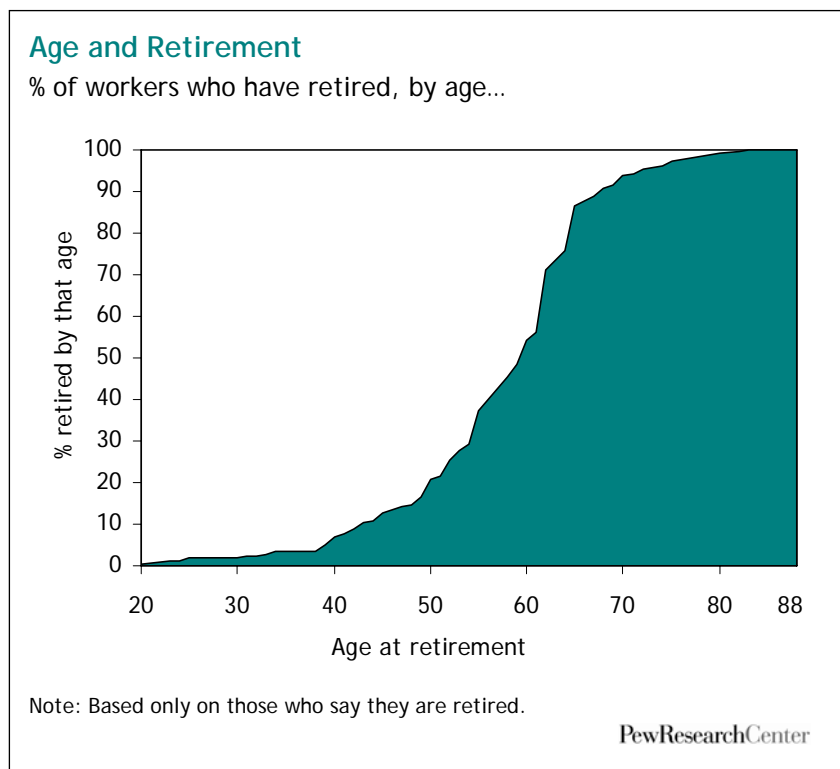
When Do People Retire?

Retirement is the great leveler—at least in terms of when Americans decide to retire. Encouraged by Medicare and Social Security or forced out of the labor force by mandatory retirement policies, the survey suggests that while individuals retire at different ages, there is overall little difference in the average retirement age of various demographic groups.

For example, retirees report they retired, on average, when they were 63.1 years old (men) or 61.5 (women). When these data are analyzed a slightly different way, one modest gender difference does emerge: Women are more likely than men to retire before age 60 (28% vs. 21%). But this gender gap is apparent only among these youngest retirees. For example, similar proportions of men and women retire when they are 75 or older (6% of men and 5% of women), while 57% of all men and 59% of women retire between the ages of 50 and 64.

Few differences emerge among other demographic groups. Whites retire on average when they are 62.3 years old, while blacks retire when they are 61.7 and Hispanics when they are 62.5. Even people with different educational backgrounds—a variable closely correlated with income and socioeconomic class—retire at roughly the same age: Those with a high school education report they retired when they were 61.8 years old, while college graduates say they entered retirement at 63.9.

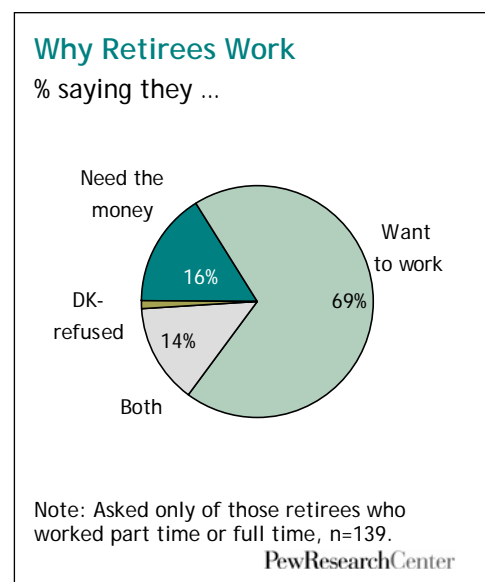
A majority of working adults 65 and older are uncertain about when—if at all—they will retire. About a third (33%) say they plan to retire someday, and these working older Americans say, on average, they plan to retire when they are 73. But an additional 31% plan to never stop working, and 27% say they aren't sure when, if ever, they will retire.



Why Do Some Retirees Work?

Most working retirees work because they want to, not because they have to. Slightly more than two-thirds of working retirees (69%) say they have part-time or full-time jobs because they want to work and not because they need a paycheck. That is more than double the proportion of seniors who say they work because they need the money (69% vs. 16%). But an additional 14% say they work both because they want to and because they need the money.

Older employed women are much more likely than older employed men to say they are working because they need the money. And survey respondents who are less satisfied with their financial situation or less confident that they have enough money for retirement also are more likely to say they work because they are financially pressed.



These results should be interpreted with caution. The question asking why respondents worked was asked only of survey respondents who said they are retired (n=139). When the sample of working retirees is broken down by other variables, the component subsamples are even smaller. For example, the sample of working retirees consisted of 65 men and 74 women, too small to say with certainty that the gender gap is real.

In addition, because working adults ages 65 and older who say they are not retired were not asked their reasons for staying on the job, it is impossible to characterize the views of all older working adults on these matters.

Recession and Retirees

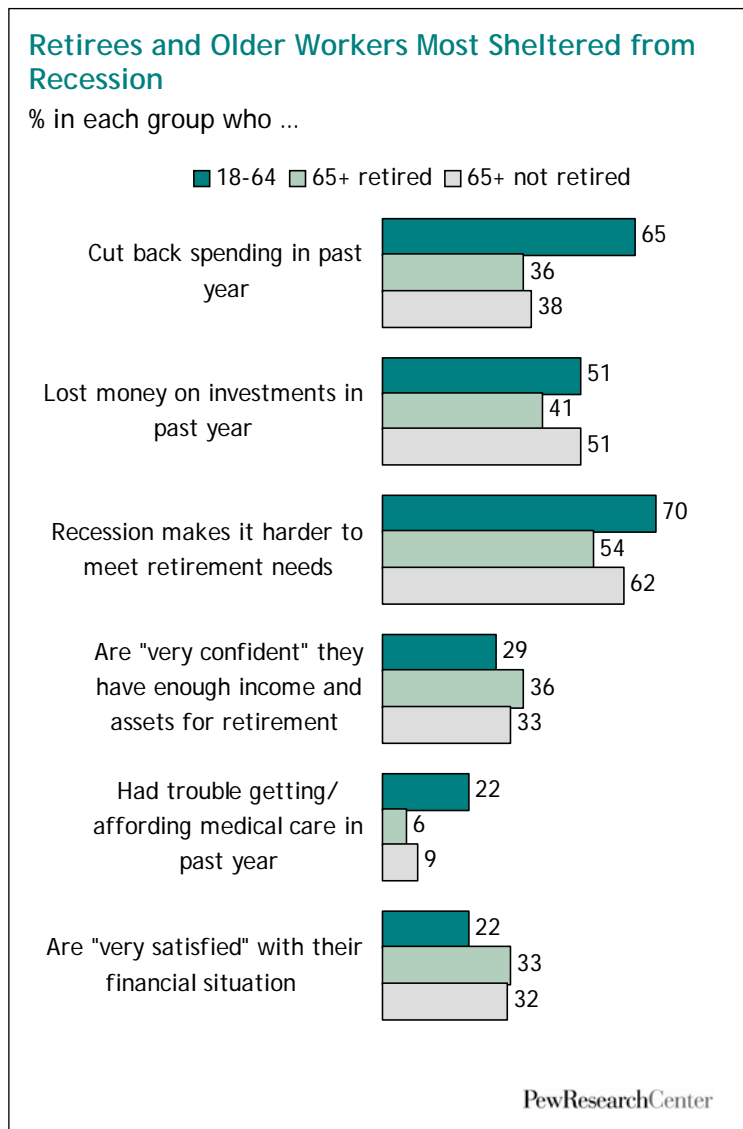
Adults ages 65 and older are faring relatively better than are younger adults in the current recession, a finding that generally holds for both retirees and older adults who have yet to retire. And on at least one key measure, retirees appear to be weathering the economic storm better than older adults who have yet to retire.

For example, a narrow majority of all retirees (54%) say the current recession will make it harder for them to meet their financial needs in retirement compared with 62% of all non-retirees 65 or older. Of adults ages 18-64, seven-in-ten worry about the impact of recession on their retirement, a concern shared by 62% of non-retirees 65 and older

Similarly, retirees appear to fare relatively better than older non-retirees on another measure of financial strain. About four-in-ten retirees (41%) report they have lost money in mutual funds, stocks or retirement funds such as 401(k) accounts in the past year, compared with 51% of older non-retirees.

Retirees also are less likely than those younger than 65 to report they have had to cut back on spending in the past year (36% vs. 65%), while 38% of non-retired older Americans report they had to trim expenses.

But on other measures, both retirees and older adults who have not yet retired appear to be faring equally well—and significantly better than other Americans. For example, just 6% of retirees and 9% of older non-retirees report they have had trouble getting or paying for medical care in the past year. In contrast, more than two-in-ten (22%) of adults ages 18-64 report having had trouble securing affordable medical care. And about a third of all retirees (33%) and non-retired adults 65 and older (32%) report being “very satisfied” with their financial situation, compared with 22% of adults younger than 65.



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Prepared by Princeton Survey Research Associates International
for the Pew Research Center, April 2009

SUMMARY

The Pew Social Trends Aging Survey, sponsored by the Pew Research Center, obtained telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of 2,969 adults living in the continental United States. The survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Interviews were done in English and Spanish by Princeton Data Source from February 23 to March 23, 2009. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is $\pm 2.6\%$.

Details on the design, execution and analysis of the survey are discussed below.

DESIGN AND DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

SAMPLE DESIGN

Four separate samples were used for data collection in order to obtain a representative sample that also oversampled older minority respondents.

The majority of the interviews ($n=1,602$) came from disproportionately-stratified RDD sample. This sample was designed to generalize to the U.S. adult population in telephone households while at the same time oversample African-American and Hispanic respondents. This design used list-assisted random-digit dialing (RDD) methods, where telephone numbers were drawn disproportionately from area code-exchange combinations with higher than average densities of African-American and Hispanic households. While this method increased the proportion of respondents in these target groups, special weighting adjustments restore the overall representativeness of the sample.

The second sample yielded 689 interviews with people 65 year and older. Like the main sample, this was disproportionately stratified RDD sample designed to increase contact with minority households. The third sample was RDD cell sample which yielded 552 interviews with adults. The final sample included callback interviews with 72 African-American and 54 Latino seniors who participated in recent PSRAI surveys.

The landline and cellular RDD samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC (SSI) according to PSRAI specifications. The landline samples were drawn using standard *list-assisted random digit dialing* (RDD) methodology. *Active blocks* of telephone numbers (area code + exchange + two-digit block number) that contained three or more residential directory listings were included in the sampling frame; after selection two more digits were added randomly to complete the phone numbers. This method guarantees coverage of every assigned phone number regardless of whether that number is directory listed, purposely unlisted, or too new to be listed. After selection, the numbers were compared against business directories and matching numbers purged. The cellular sample was not list-assisted, but was drawn through a systematic sampling from dedicated wireless 100-blocks and shared service 100-blocks with no directory-listed landline numbers.

QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING

The questionnaire was developed by the Pew Research Center with support from PSRAI. In order to improve the quality of the data, the questionnaire was pretested twice with a small number of respondents using RDD telephone numbers. The monitored pretest interviews were conducted using experienced interviewers who could best judge the quality of the answers given and the degree to which respondents understood the questions. Some final changes were made to the questionnaire based on the monitored pretest interviews.

CONTACT PROCEDURES

Interviews were conducted from February 23 to March 23, 2009. As many as 10 attempts were made to contact every sampled telephone number. Sample was released for interviewing in replicates, which are representative subsamples of the larger sample. Using replicates to control the release of sample ensures that complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. Calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chance of making contact with potential respondents. Each phone number received at least one daytime call.

The introduction and screening procedures differed depending on the sample. For each contacted household in the main sample, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest male currently at home. If no male was available, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest female at home. This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender. For the cell sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone once interviewers confirmed that the person who answered the phone was an adult and was in a safe place to talk. All cell respondents were offered a \$10 reimbursement for any charges that they might incur from their carrier.

For the RDD sample used to screen for additional seniors, interviewers first asked the person who answered the phone if they were 65 years or older. If so, then they continued and tried to complete an interview with that person. If the person was not age-eligible, the interviewer asked if there were any 65 or older household residents. If there were any senior residents, an interview was conducted with one selected at random.

For the callback sample, interviewers first asked to speak to the target respondent who previously completed an interview. For the African-American callbacks, only the respondents' age was verified before continuing with the interview. For the Hispanic callbacks, interviewers verified both the respondents' age and Hispanic origin before continuing with the interview.

WEIGHTING AND ANALYSIS

Weighting is generally used in survey analysis to adjust for effects of the sample design and to compensate for patterns of nonresponse that might bias results. The weighting was accomplished in multiple stages to account for the different sample frames as well as the oversampling of certain groups. Weighting also balanced sample demographic distributions to match known population parameters.

The first stage of weighting corrected for the disproportionately-stratified RDD sample design of the main sample and the sample used to screen for additional senior. For these samples, telephone exchanges were divided into *strata* defined by the estimated African-American and Hispanic household densities associated with each exchange. The first-stage weight for each stratum is the approximate proportion of active blocks in each stratum divided by the proportion in our sample. The weighted distribution of cases contacted across strata will no longer show effects of the designed oversampling. Table 1 documents the active block and sample distributions across strata along with the weight adjustment

Table 1: Land Line RDD Sample Design Weight

Strata	Active Block	Sample Dist'n	Weight
1	53.4%	17.9%	2.98
2	25.1%	16.8%	1.49
3	5.3%	7.1%	0.75
4	5.4%	7.2%	0.75
5	5.0%	23.7%	0.21
6	4.4%	20.7%	0.21
7	1.4%	6.5%	0.21

The second stage of weighting corrected for the oversampling of screening through screening and callbacks. The weight for each group is the proportion of the group in the population divided by the proportion of the group in the combined sample. Table 2 outlines the computation of this weighting adjustment.

Table 2: Adjustment for 18-29 Oversampling

	Population	Sample Dist'n	Adjustment
18-64	83.8%	52.8%	1.588
65+ African-Americans	1.4%	4.8%	0.280
65+ Latinos	1.1%	3.0%	0.371
65+ Other	13.7%	39.4%	0.348

After the second stage of weighting, the demographic composition of each racial/ethnic group was weighted to match national parameters for sex by age, sex by education, age by education and region. The three groups were

defined as: [1] Hispanic; [2] African-American and not Hispanic; and [3] other race and not Hispanic. Those who refused to give their race were included in the third group.

This stage of weighting, which incorporated each respondent's initial weighting adjustments, was accomplished using Sample Balancing, a special iterative sample weighting program that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using a statistical technique called the *Deming Algorithm*. The third-stage weight adjusts for non-response that is related to particular demographic characteristics of the sample. This weight ensures that the demographic characteristics of each group closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the group's population.

After the three racial/ethnic groups were weighted to match population parameters, a final sample balancing was performed - by form - on the combined sample. This stage also used sample balancing and matched total sample distributions to population parameters for age, telephone usage, population density and race/ethnicity. The telephone usage parameter was derived from an analysis of the National Health Interview Survey data. The population density parameter is county-based and was derived from Census 2000 data. After this sample balancing we noticed that the region distribution was still a little off for senior Latinos and senior African-Americans. A final adjustment was made to force these distributions closer to population parameters. Tables 3 and 4 compare weighted and unweighted sample demographics to population parameters.

Table 3: Total Sample Demographics

	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	48%	44%	50%
Female	52%	56%	50%
<u>Age</u>			
18-24	13%	7%	12%
25-34	18%	10%	18%
35-44	19%	10%	18%
45-54	20%	14%	20%
55-64	14%	13%	15%
65-74	9%	23%	8%
75-84	6%	16%	6%
85+	2%	5%	2%
<u>Education</u>			
Less than HS grad.	15%	14%	13%
HS grad.	36%	31%	34%

Some college	23%	25%	24%
College grad.	26%	30%	28%

Region

Northeast	19%	15%	19%
Midwest	22%	19%	23%
South	36%	43%	36%
West	22%	24%	22%

Race/Ethnicity

White, not Hispanic	69%	56%	69%
African-American, not Hispanic	11%	21%	11%
Hispanic	13%	16%	12%
Other race, not Hispanic	6%	5%	6%

Population Density

1-Lowest	20%	21%	21%
2	20%	18%	20%
3	20%	18%	20%
4	20%	18%	19%
5-Highest	20%	24%	19%

Phone Use

LLO	16%	25%	16%
Dual, few/some cell	52%	53%	47%
Dual, most cell	15%	15%	20%
CPO	18%	7%	17%

Table 4: Subgroup Sample Demographics

	Hispanic <u>Parameter</u>	Hispanic <u>Unweighted</u>	Hispanic <u>Weighted</u>	African- <u>Parameter</u>	African- <u>Unweighted</u>	African- <u>Weighted</u>	White/ <u>Parameter</u>	White/ <u>Unweighted</u>	White/ <u>Weighted</u>
<u>Sex</u>									
Male	52%	44%	54%	45%	39%	45%	48%	46%	50%
Female	48%	56%	46%	55%	61%	55%	52%	54%	50%
<u>Age</u>									
18-24	17%	12%	17%	16%	8%	14%	12%	6%	12%
25-34	27%	15%	26%	20%	10%	21%	16%	9%	17%
35-44	23%	14%	21%	20%	7%	17%	18%	10%	17%
45-54	16%	14%	17%	20%	13%	21%	20%	14%	21%
55-64	9%	10%	10%	13%	13%	14%	16%	14%	16%
65-74	5%	21%	5%	7%	27%	7%	9%	22%	9%
75-84	3%	10%	3%	4%	14%	4%	7%	18%	7%
85+	1%	2%	1%	1%	4%	1%	2%	5%	2%
<u>Education</u>									
LT HS	39%	31%	36%	18%	17%	16%	11%	8%	9%
HS grad.	32%	28%	33%	41%	36%	40%	36%	30%	34%
Some college	18%	24%	18%	25%	25%	26%	23%	25%	24%
College+	11%	15%	11%	17%	22%	18%	30%	36%	32%
<u>Region</u>									
Northeast	14%	12%	14%	17%	16%	18%	20%	15%	20%
Midwest	8%	6%	9%	18%	22%	20%	25%	21%	26%
South	36%	36%	36%	56%	54%	53%	34%	41%	34%
West	41%	45%	40%	9%	8%	9%	21%	23%	21%

EFFECTS OF SAMPLE DESIGN ON STATISTICAL INFERENCE

Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. PSRAI calculates the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response. The total sample design effect for this survey is 2.13.

PSRAI calculates the composite design effect for a sample of size n , with each case having a weight, w_i as:

$$deff = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^n w_i \right)^2} \quad \text{formula 1}$$

In a wide range of situations, the adjusted *standard error* of a statistic should be calculated by multiplying the usual formula by the square root of the design effect (\sqrt{deff}). Thus, the formula for computing the 95% confidence interval around a percentage is:

$$\hat{p} \pm \left(\sqrt{deff} \times 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}} \right) \quad \text{formula 2}$$

where \hat{p} is the sample estimate

and n is the unweighted number of sample cases in the group being considered.

The survey's *margin of error* is the largest 95% confidence interval for any estimated proportion based on the total sample—the one around 50%. For example, the margin of error for the entire sample is $\pm 2.6\%$. This means that in 95 out every 100 samples drawn using the same methodology, estimated proportions based on the entire sample will be no more than 2.6 percentage points away from their true values in the population. It is important to remember that sampling fluctuations are only one possible source of error in a survey estimate. Other sources, such as respondent selection bias, questionnaire wording and reporting inaccuracy, may contribute additional error of greater or lesser magnitude. Table 5 shows design effects and margins of error for key subgroups.

Table 5: Design Effects and Margins of Sampling Error

	<u>Sample size</u>	<u>Design Effect</u>	<u>Margin of Error</u>
Total Sample	2,696	2.13	2.6 percentage points
White, not Hispanic	1,667	1.86	3.3 percentage points
African-American, not Hispanic	620	2.58	6.3 percentage points
Hispanic	467	2.35	7.0 percentage points
All 65+	1,305	1.87	3.7 percentage points
65+ African-Americans	293	1.66	7.4 percentage points
65+ Hispanics	161	1.77	10.3 percentage points
Form 1	1,481	2.17	3.7 percentage points
Form 2	1,488	2.09	3.7 percentage points

RESPONSE RATE

Tables 6-10 report the disposition of all sampled telephone numbers ever dialed from the original telephone number samples. The response rate estimates the fraction of all eligible sample that was ultimately interviewed. At PSRAI it is calculated by taking the product of three component rates:¹⁸

Contact rate – the proportion of working numbers where a request for interview was made¹⁹

Cooperation rate – the proportion of contacted numbers where a consent for interview was at least initially obtained, versus those refused

Completion rate – the proportion of initially cooperating and eligible interviews that were completed

¹⁸ PSRAI's disposition codes and reporting are consistent with the American Association for Public Opinion Research standards.

¹⁹ PSRAI assumes that 75 percent of cases that result in a constant disposition of "No answer" or "Busy" are actually not working numbers.

Table 6: GP Sample Disposition

25357	T Total Numbers Dialed
679	OF Business/Government/Non-Residential
905	OF Fax/Modem
5	OF Cell phone
11806	OF Other not working
3008	UH Projected not working (No answer/Busy)
8955	Working numbers
35.3%	Working Rate
1003	UH Projected Non-Contact (No Answer/Busy)
1123	UO _{NC} Answering machine/Voice mail
16	UO _{NC} Other Non-Contact
6813	Contacted numbers
76.1%	Contact Rate
510	UO _R Callback
4352	UO _R Refusal
1951	Cooperating numbers
28.6%	Cooperation Rate
76	IN1 Language Barrier
1875	Eligible numbers
96.1%	Eligibility Rate
273	R Interrupted
1602	I Complete
85.4%	Completion Rate
18.6%	Response Rate

Table 7: Cell Sample Disposition

7599	T Total Numbers Dialed
63	OF Business/Government/Non-Residential
8	OF Fax/Modem
2549	OF Other not working
449	UH Projected not working (No answer/Busy)
4530	Working numbers
59.6%	Working Rate
150	UH Projected Non-Contact (No Answer/Busy)
851	UO _{NC} Answering machine/Voice mail
5	UO _{NC} Other Non-Contact
3524	Contacted numbers
77.8%	Contact Rate
342	UO _R Callback
2178	UO _R Refusal
1004	Cooperating numbers
28.5%	Cooperation Rate
38	IN1 Language Barrier
336	IN2 Child's cell phone
630	Eligible numbers
62.7%	Eligibility Rate
78	R Interrupted
552	I Complete
87.6%	Completion Rate
19.4%	Response Rate

Table 8: Oversample Disposition

40477	T Total Numbers Dialed
1127	OF Business/Government/Non-Residential
1488	OF Fax/Modem
3	OF Cell phone
19553	OF Other not working
4290	UH Projected not working (No answer/Busy)
14016	Working numbers
34.6%	Working Rate
1430	UH Projected Non-Contact (No Answer/Busy)
1891	UO _{NC} Answering machine/Voice mail
40	UO _{NC} Other Non-Contact
10655	Contacted numbers
76.0%	Contact Rate
736	UO _R Callback
6948	UO _R Refusal
2971	Cooperating numbers
27.9%	Cooperation Rate
87	IN1 Language Barrier
2035	IN2 Age ineligible
849	Eligible numbers
28.6%	Eligibility Rate
160	R Interrupted
689	I Complete
81.2%	Completion Rate
17.2%	Response Rate

Table 9: African-American Callback Sample Disposition

427	T Total Numbers Dialed
3	OF Fax/Modem
59	OF Other not working
70	UH Projected not working (No answer/Busy)
295	Working numbers
69.1%	Working Rate
23	UH Projected Non-Contact (No Answer/Busy)
56	UO _{NC} Answering machine/Voice mail
3	UO _{NC} Other Non-Contact
213	Contacted numbers
72.1%	Contact Rate
81	UO _R Callback
42	UO _R Refusal
90	Cooperating numbers
42.3%	Cooperation Rate
1	IN1 Language Barrier
4	IN2 Screenout
85	Eligible numbers
94.4%	Eligibility Rate
13	R Interrupted
72	I Complete
84.7%	Completion Rate
25.8%	Response Rate

Table 10: Hispanic Callback Sample Disposition

198	T Total Numbers Dialed
1	OF Business/ Government/ Non-Residential
14	OF Other not working
3	UH Projected not working (No answer/Busy)
180	Working numbers
90.9%	Working Rate
1	UH Projected Non-Contact (No Answer/Busy)
8	UO _{NC} Answering machine/Voice mail
1	UO _{NC} Other Non-Contact
170	Contacted numbers
94.4%	Contact Rate
22	UO _R Callback
64	UO _R Refusal
84	Cooperating numbers
49.4%	Cooperation Rate
3	IN1 Language Barrier
25	IN2 Screenout
56	Eligible numbers
66.7%	Eligibility Rate
2	R Interrupted
54	I Complete
96.4%	Completion Rate
45.0%	Response Rate

PEW SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS TOPLINE

Feb 23 - March 23, 2009 AGING SURVEY

TOTAL N=2,969

Age 65+ N=1,332

Adults with Parents age 65+ N=807

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN .5 % (INCLUDING ZERO) ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (*). COLUMNS/ROWS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING. ALL TRENDS REFERENCE SURVEYS FROM SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Q.1 Generally, how would you say things are these days in your life – would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>			
32	Very happy	37	34	27	32	28			
49	Pretty happy	53	50	48	44	43			
15	Not too happy	9	14	20	19	19			
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	5	5	11			
<u>Feb 2009</u>		<u>Oct 2008</u>	<u>June 2008</u>	<u>Sept 2006</u>	<u>Oct 2005</u>	<u>Late Mar 2003</u>	<u>Feb 2003</u>	<u>Sept 1996</u>	
32	Very happy	29	35	36	34	29	29	34	
49	Pretty happy	51	48	51	50	51	51	53	
15	Not too happy	17	14	12	15	16	17	11	
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3	1	1	4	3	2	

Q.2 Please tell me whether, on the whole, you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat Dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the following aspects of your life: (First/Next) **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS A thru E: items a-c always asked first and items d & e always last) (READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY: are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat Dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?)**

a. Your personal financial situation

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
23	Very satisfied	19	24	22	34	29
43	Somewhat satisfied	45	43	45	38	39
18	Somewhat dissatisfied	21	18	17	14	12
13	Very dissatisfied	14	14	14	11	10
*	Doesn't apply (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	1
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1	3	3	9

b. Your housing situation

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
56	Very satisfied	42	56	62	68	67
30	Somewhat satisfied	40	31	25	22	20
8	Somewhat dissatisfied	11	8	8	5	5
4	Very dissatisfied	5	4	4	2	4
*	Doesn't apply (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	*
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	3	5

Q.2 CONTINUED...

c. The number of friends you have

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
67	Very satisfied	69	71	61	66	63
24	Somewhat satisfied	23	21	30	24	22
4	Somewhat dissatisfied	4	3	3	6	6
2	Very dissatisfied	2	3	2	1	2
1	Doesn't apply (VOL.)	*	1	2	1	2
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	2	3	6

d. Your relationship with your children (BASED ON THOSE WITH CHILDREN: [N=2,298])

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
83	Very satisfied	91	86	80	79	82
11	Somewhat satisfied	5	11	13	14	12
2	Somewhat dissatisfied	1	2	3	3	1
1	Very dissatisfied	2	1	2	1	*
1	Doesn't apply (VOL.)	1	*	1	1	*
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	1	2	4

e. Your relationship with your parents (BASED ON THOSE WITH A LIVING PARENT: [N=1,388])

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
75	Very satisfied	74	75	76	71
16	Somewhat satisfied	18	19	9	6
3	Somewhat dissatisfied	4	3	1	1
2	Very dissatisfied	4	1	2	1
4	Doesn't apply (VOL.)	*	2	10	18
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1	2	2

TREND FOR Q.2b, Q.2d, Q.2e

	<u>Very satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very dissatisfied</u>	<u>Doesn't Apply (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/Ref (VOL.)</u>
b. Your housing situation						
February 2009	56	30	8	4	*	2
October 2005 ²⁰	63	25	6	5	*	1
January, 1999	61	28	6	4	--	1
December, 1996	56	31	7	5	--	1
d. Your relationship with your children						
February 2009	83	11	2	1	1	1
October 2005	82	13	2	2	1	*
e. Your relationship with your parents						
February 2009	75	16	3	2	4	1
October 2005	74	18	9	3	2	*

20

In previous years, the question wording was "Please tell me whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied, on the whole, with the following aspects of your life: (First/Next) [INSERT] (are you satisfied or dissatisfied?) REQUIRED PROBE: Would you say you are VERY (dis)satisfied or SOMEWHAT (dis)satisfied?"

Q.3 How would you rate your own health in general these days? Would you say your health is excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
31	Excellent	38	35	28	27	13
46	Good	46	48	45	44	46
17	Only fair	11	13	20	22	28
5	Poor	4	4	6	6	10
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	1	*	2

<u>Feb 2009</u>		<u>Jan 2008</u>	<u>Feb 2006</u>	<u>Oct 2005</u>	<u>June 2003</u>	<u>Mid-July 1990</u>
31	Excellent	30	29	30	28	27
46	Good	48	51	48	52	53
17	Only fair	17	15	17	15	15
5	Poor	5	5	5	5	5
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	*

On another subject...

Q.4 As I read from a list, please tell me if this is something you did or something that happened to you in the past 24 hours or not. (First,) in the past 24 hours, did you [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE], or not? Did you [INSERT NEXT ITEM], or not?

a. Talk with family or friends

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
93	Yes	95	94	92	94	86
7	No	5	6	8	6	13
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	1

b. Get some kind of physical exercise

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
72	Yes	71	72	75	76	66
27	No	28	28	25	24	33
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	1

c. Watch more than an hour of television

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
64	Yes	58	58	68	77	77
36	No	42	42	31	23	22
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	*

d. Pray

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
63	Yes	47	63	66	73	80
37	No	52	36	34	26	20
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	1	*

Q.4 CONTINUED...

e.	Spend time on a hobby					
<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
52	Yes	59	55	48	46	40
47	No	41	45	51	53	59
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	1	*
f.	Have trouble sleeping					
<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
25	Yes	21	30	26	20	24
74	No	79	70	73	80	75
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	1
g.	Take any prescription medication					
<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
46	Yes	20	36	61	80	88
53	No	80	64	38	20	12
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	*

ASK FORM 1 ONLY, N=1,481

h.F1	Go shopping					
<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
44	Yes	40	44	52	37	40
56	No	60	56	48	62	60
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	*
j.F1	Get into an argument with someone					
<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
10	Yes	21	11	4	3	5
89	No	79	89	95	97	95
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	*
k.F1	Read a book, magazine or newspaper					
<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
75	Yes	72	73	76	81	86
25	No	28	27	24	19	14
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	*

ASK FORM 2 ONLY, N=1,488

i.F2	Use the internet for any reason					
<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
61	Yes	75	69	60	40	16
39	No	25	31	40	60	82
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	2

Q.4 CONTINUED...

k.F2	Take a nap						
<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>	
34	Yes	33	35	31	36	43	
66	No	67	65	69	64	56	
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	*	
m.F2	Drive a car						
<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>	
78	Yes	73	83	85	74	57	
22	No	27	17	15	26	43	
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	*	

TREND FOR Q.4d, Q.4k²¹

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u> <u>(VOL.)</u>
d. Pray			
February 2009	63	37	*
May 2004	66	34	*
April 2002	66	34	*
February 1994	56	44	*
k. Take a nap			
February 2009	34	66	*
February 1994	26	74	*

IF YES IN Q.4b – EXERCISED IN PAST 24 HOURS – (Q.4B=1), ASK: [N=1,122]²²

Q.4new You mentioned getting exercise in the last 24 hours. Was that VIGOROUS exercise, such as jogging, biking, or working out at a gym, or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
47	Yes	64	54	36	35	26
53	No	36	46	64	62	74
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	2	*

²¹ In previous years, the question wording was "As I read from a list tell me if you did this yesterday or not. Yesterday did you..."
²² Field dates for Q.4new are March 12-March 23.

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about getting older...

Q.5 Some people talk about a generation gap. Do you think there is a major difference in the point of view of younger people and older people today?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
79	Yes	82	79	78	80	75
18	No	17	18	19	17	17
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	4	3	4	8

<u>Feb</u>		<i>CBS/New</i>	
<u>2009</u>		<i>York Times</i>	<i>Gallup</i>
		<u>July 1979²³</u>	<u>1969²⁴</u>
79	Yes	60	74
18	No	37	22
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	4

IF YES (Q.5=1), ASK: [N=2,358]

Q.5a In what ways do they differ most? (OPEN-END. ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES)

Based on all mentions:

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
47	(NET) VALUES	41	49	52	42	40
12	Morality/Ethics/Values/Beliefs/Religion	14	12	11	13	9
	Sense of entitlement/Want everything					
12	handed to them	3	13	19	11	14
9	Work ethic/Laziness	5	13	11	5	3
7	Respect/Manners (lack of)/Rude	4	9	8	8	6
6	Behavior/Lifestyle/Lack of discipline	8	6	5	7	7
	Views on family, childrearing, parenting/					
4	Relationships/Dating	8	3	2	2	3
3	Personal responsibility	2	4	4	3	1
	Tolerant/Open-minded/Less tolerant/ Set					
3	in their ways	6	3	1	1	1
27	(NET) GENERAL OUTLOOK	27	23	32	27	27
	Different outlook/See things differently/					
13	Different perspective/Different ideas	13	11	14	14	13
	Different likes and dislikes/Different way					
5	of talking/Cultural differences	5	3	6	3	7
	Priorities/What's important in life/					
3	Expectations	5	2	2	2	2
2	Attitude	1	2	4	2	3
2	Fast-paced/Busy/In a hurry	2	2	2	3	2
2	Communication	*	2	3	3	2
1	Carefree/Easy going/Not serious	1	1	2	2	*
9	(NET) EXPERIENCE/WISDOM	6	11	9	11	10
5	Experience/Maturity/Knowledge/Wisdom	4	7	4	6	4
	Don't understand what's going on in the					
3	world/Think they know it all	*	5	4	5	4
1	Education	2	1	1	1	2

²³ In July 1979, the question was worded "There's been a lot of talk about a 'generation gap.' Do you think....?"

²⁴ In 1969, the question was worded "As you know, there's a lot of talk about a 'generation gap.' Do you think....?"

Q.5a CONTINUED...

		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
9	(NET) POLITICS & POLICY VIEWS	13	10	6	6	7
5	Political outlook/Views on government	6	7	3	3	4
2	Political ideology/Liberal/Conservative	2	2	3	2	3
2	Views on social issues/Views on global issues	3	2	1	1	1
1	Racial attitudes	3	1	*	1	*
7	Views on money/Handling finances/Spending	7	8	5	9	8
6	Technology/Young rely more on technology	8	4	6	5	4
3	Just different/Everything	5	1	3	1	4
2	Physical health/Physically active/ Energetic/Old/Sick	2	1	1	2	2
1	Jobs/Employment	1	1	1	2	*
5	Other	4	4	3	9	8
5	Don't know/Refused	6	6	3	6	7

ASK ALL:

Q.6 Overall, would you say you feel old, or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
20	Yes	17	16	22	21	35
79	No	82	82	78	78	61
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	*	1	4

Q.6a If you had your choice, how long would you like to live? That is, until what age? (READ IF NECESSARY: Just your best guess is fine.)

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
7	70 and under	12	8	5	1	1
19	71-80	22	20	21	14	3
28	81-90	25	31	28	30	26
21	91-100	24	19	21	22	25
8	Over 100	10	8	7	5	6
17	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	14	18	28	41
89	Mean age	88	88	90	91	94

<u>Feb</u>		<u>AARP</u>	<u>AARP</u>	<u>AARP</u>	<u>AARP</u>
<u>2009</u>		<u>April 2004</u>	<u>April 2003</u>	<u>April 2002</u>	<u>April 1999</u>
89	Mean age	91.5	91.7	91.7	91.2

Q.7 At what age do you think the AVERAGE person becomes old?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
25	60 and under	54	23	14	6	6
26	61-70	25	32	25	17	15
22	71-80	11	24	30	23	23
7	Over 80	4	7	9	11	10
15	Depends on the individual (VOL.)	4	12	18	33	33
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3	6	9	13
68	Mean age	60	69	72	75	74

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

		<i>Men become old...</i>	<i>Women become old...</i>
		<i>AARP</i>	<i>AARP</i>
<u>Feb</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>April 1999</u> ²⁵	<u>Sept 1994</u> ²⁶
68	Mean age	69	63
			<i>AARP</i>
			<u>Sept 1994</u> ²⁷
			62

Q.8 Can you please tell me your age?

IF DK/Refused (Q.8=99), ASK: [N=52]

Q.8a Would you mind telling me if you are under age 65 or age 65 or older?

Q.8/Q.8a

23	18-29
35	30-49
25	50-64
16	65 and older
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
*	Under 65
*	65+
*	DK/Refused (VOL)

ASK ALL:

Q.9 How do you feel about your age? Do you feel younger than your age, older than your age, or would you say you feel about your age?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
50	Feel younger	23	56	61	61	57
9	Feel older	22	7	5	2	4
38	Feel about your age	54	35	31	32	31
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	2	3	5	8

<u>Feb</u>		<i>AARP</i>	<i>AARP</i>	<i>AARP</i>
<u>2009</u>		<u>April 2004</u>	<u>April 2003</u>	<u>April 2002</u>
50	Feel younger	53	51	51
				<u>Nov 1997</u> ²⁸
				57

²⁵ In 1999, the question wording was "In your opinion, at what age does a person become 'old'? At what age do you generally consider a person to be 'old'?"

²⁶ In Sept 1994, the question wording was "At what age do you think the average man becomes old? Just think about men, not women.

²⁷ In Sept 1994, the question wording was "At what age do you think the average woman becomes old? Just think about women, not men.

²⁸ Based on a survey conducted for Americans Discuss Social Security, formerly a project of the Pew Research Center.

9	Feel older	15	15	15	11
38	Feel about your age	32	32	33	30
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	2

IF YOUNGER OR OLDER (Q.9=1,2), ASK: [N=1,770]

Q.10 About how old do you feel?

Q.8/Q.9/Q.10:

BASED ON TOTAL. Results below show the age difference between Q.10 (felt age) and Q.8 (actual age). Respondents who answered "about my age" in Q.9 (Q.9=3) are included under "actual age."

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
7	20 or more years younger	*	3	11	16	14
23	10-19 years younger	1	26	37	34	24
18	1-9 years younger	22	25	10	6	9
39	Actual age	55	36	31	32	33
6	1-9 years older	17	3	1	1	2
2	10-19 years older	3	2	1	1	*
1	20 or more years older	2	1	1	*	*
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	4	7	11	18

ASK ALL:

Q.11 Looking back over your life so far, would you say overall it has turned out better than you expected, worse than you expected, or about the way you expected?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
41	Better than expected	39	44	39	40	45
14	Worse than expected	11	15	20	9	5
39	About as expected	47	36	36	43	39
2	No expectations (VOL.)	2	2	2	5	4
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3	3	3	7

Q.12 Now I'm going to read a series of statements about growing old. For each one, please tell me if you think a person is old when they reach this point or not. Generally speaking, would you say a person is old when [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE, WITH ITEMS k, l and m ALWAYS COMING LAST WITHIN FORM], or not? How about when [INSERT NEXT ITEM – READ ONLY IF NECESSARY: would you say a person is old when this happens or not?]

a. They have trouble walking up stairs

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
45	Yes	52	42	40	45	50
50	No	45	54	55	46	35
4	Depends on person/situation	2	3	3	7	10
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*	1	1	5

b. They can no longer drive a car

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
66	Yes	67	66	68	64	59
28	No	29	29	26	27	27
5	Depends on person/situation	3	5	5	7	10
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	2	4

c. They frequently forget familiar names

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
51	Yes	63	48	45	46	49
45	No	34	48	50	47	39
4	Depends on person/situation	3	4	3	5	7
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*	1	2	5

d. They can no longer live independently

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
76	Yes	74	78	77	80	67
18	No	21	19	17	13	18
5	Depends on person/situation	4	3	6	6	9
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	7

e. They retire from work

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
23	Yes	44	23	13	7	12
73	No	54	74	84	88	77
3	Depends on person/situation	2	2	2	4	7
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*	1	1	3

f. Their health starts to fail

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
47	Yes	49	45	45	48	50
46	No	45	50	48	41	35
6	Depends on person/situation	5	4	7	9	9
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	5

g. They have grandchildren

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
15	Yes	29	12	10	5	14
83	No	70	87	88	92	82
1	Depends on person/situation	1	1	1	1	2
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	1	2	2

ASK FORM A ONLY, N=958

h. They have trouble with bladder control

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
42	Yes	51	38	38	40	39
52	No	45	56	56	52	49
3	Depends on person/situation	*	3	6	6	7
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	3	*	2	5

k. They turn 65

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
32	Yes	60	32	18	9	14
64	No	36	65	77	88	75
3	Depends on person/situation	2	1	5	3	11
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1	*	*	*

Q.12 CONTINUED...

ASK FORM B ONLY, N=978

i. They are no longer sexually active

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
33	Yes	46	29	32	27	33
59	No	49	65	61	62	46
5	Depends on person/situation	3	3	5	9	10
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	3	3	2	11

l. They turn 75

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
62	Yes	80	69	59	30	25
32	No	16	27	35	59	56
5	Depends on person/situation	4	2	5	5	16
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1	1	5	3

ASK FORM C ONLY, N=1,006

j. Their hair turns gray

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
13	Yes	26	11	8	6	11
85	No	71	88	91	92	87
1	Depends on person/situation	2	*	1	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*	*	*	*

m. They turn 85

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
79	Yes	92	85	79	61	48
14	No	6	11	15	26	30
5	Depends on person/situation	2	4	5	7	16
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	1	5	6

Q.13 AND Q.14 ASK ONLY THOSE UNDER AGE 65 (Q.8<65 or Q.8a=1): [N=1,631]

Now thinking about the future...

Q.13 Here are some good things about getting older. For each one, please tell me if this is something that you expect will happen to you when you are older or not. First, do you think you will [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] when you are older or not? How about [INSERT NEXT ITEM]? [READ ONLY IF NECESSARY: ...Do you think you will experience this when you are older, or not?]

a. Travel more for pleasure

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
77	Yes	79	81	68
22	No	19	18	29
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	3

b. Spend more time on hobbies and interests

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
87	Yes	87	89	85
11	No	12	10	13
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	2	2

c. Have less stress in your life

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
65	Yes	61	68	63
32	No	37	29	33
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3	4

d. Have more time with family

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
86	Yes	89	90	77
13	No	11	9	19
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	3

e. Do volunteer work or get involved in your community

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
80	Yes	79	82	78
18	No	20	16	19
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	3

f. Not have to work

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
58	Yes	56	58	61
38	No	42	37	35
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	5	4

g. Become more financially secure

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
67	Yes	83	69	49
29	No	14	26	46
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	5	6

Q.13 CONTINUED...

h. Start a new job or second career

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
39	Yes	54	33	33
59	No	43	65	64
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	3

i. Get more respect

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
56	Yes	73	56	41
40	No	25	40	54
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	4	5

Q.14 And here are some problems people sometimes face when they get older. For each one, please tell me if this is something that you expect will happen to you when you are older or not? First, [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] – do you think this will happen to you when you are older or not? How about [INSERT NEXT ITEM]? [READ ONLY IF NECESSARY: - do you think this will happen to you when you are older or not?]

a. A serious illness

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
42	Yes, will happen	41	38	48
47	No, will not happen	48	50	41
8	Maybe/It may happen (VOL.)	9	7	8
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	4	3

b. Memory loss

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
57	Yes, will happen	57	54	61
38	No, will not happen	40	39	33
4	Maybe/It may happen (VOL.)	2	5	5
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	2	2

c. Being a burden on others

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
24	Yes, will happen	27	23	24
72	No, will not happen	72	71	72
3	Maybe/It may happen (VOL.)	*	4	3
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	2

d. No longer sexually active

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
34	Yes, will happen	35	31	39
59	No, will not happen	61	63	50
4	Maybe/It may happen (VOL.)	3	3	5
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3	6

Q.14 CONTINUED...

e. Not able to drive a car

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
45	Yes, will happen	43	42	52
48	No, will not happen	53	51	40
5	Maybe/It may happen (VOL.)	4	5	5
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	3

f. Feeling that you are not needed by other people

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
29	Yes, will happen	30	27	30
68	No, will not happen	67	68	67
2	Maybe/It may happen (VOL.)	2	3	2
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	1

g. Having trouble paying your bills

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
24	Yes, will happen	19	23	31
70	No, will not happen	76	71	63
4	Maybe/It may happen (VOL.)	3	4	5
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	2

h. Often feeling sad or depressed

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
29	Yes, will happen	27	29	30
68	No, will not happen	70	68	66
3	Maybe/It may happen (VOL.)	3	2	3
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1

i. Loneliness

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>
29	Yes, will happen	26	27	37
66	No, will not happen	71	69	59
3	Maybe/It may happen (VOL.)	3	4	3
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1	1

ASK THOSE AGES 65 AND OLDER ONLY (Q.8= 65-97 or Q.8a=2): [N=1,332]

Q.15 Here are some good things about getting older. For each one, please tell me if this is something that you are experiencing as you get older or not. First, [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE], is this something that you are experiencing as you get older or not experiencing? How about [INSERT NEXT ITEM – READ ONLY IF NECESSARY]: is this something that you are experiencing as you get older or not?]

a. Traveling more for pleasure

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
52	Yes	55	49
47	No	44	50
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

b. Spending more time on hobbies and interests

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
65	Yes	70	61
33	No	29	36
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3

c. Having less stress in your life

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
59	Yes	61	57
35	No	35	35
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	8

d. Having more time with family

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
70	Yes	70	70
27	No	28	26
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	4

e. Doing volunteer work or get involved in your community

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
52	Yes	59	45
46	No	40	52
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2

f. Not having to work

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
66	Yes	69	64
30	No	29	31
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	5

g. Being financially secure

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
64	Yes	65	63
31	No	32	30
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	7

Q.15 CONTINUED...

h. Starting a new job or second career

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
14	Yes	18	11
84	No	80	87
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2

i. Getting more respect

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
59	Yes	56	62
32	No	37	27
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	10

j. Spending time with grandchildren

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
64	Yes	69	60
32	No	28	35
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	5

IF YES TO TWO OR MORE ITEMS IN Q.15, ASK: [N=1,269]

Q.16 Which one of these things do you VALUE the most? (IF NECESSARY READ BACK RESPONSES THEY ANSWERED 'YES' TO IN Q.15; ACCEPT UP TO TWO ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE.)

Based on all mentions:

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
28	Having more time with family	30	27
25	Spending time with grandchildren	26	25
14	Being financially secure	13	16
9	Having less stress in your life	10	7
8	Traveling more for pleasure	6	9
7	Spending more time on hobbies and interests	7	7
7	Not having to work	7	7
7	Doing volunteer work or get involved in your community	7	6
5	Getting more respect	3	6
1	Starting a new job or second career	1	1
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	8

ASK THOSE AGES 65 AND OLDER: [N=1,332]

Q.17 And here are some problems older people sometimes face. For each one, please tell me if this is a problem for YOU or not? First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, is this a problem for you or not? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **[READ ONLY IF NECESSARY: – is this a problem for you or not?]**

a. A serious illness

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
21	Yes, is a problem	22	21
78	No, is not a problem	78	77
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	2

b. Memory loss

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
25	Yes, is a problem	20	31
73	No, is not a problem	80	67
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2

c. Being a burden on others

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
10	Yes, is a problem	7	12
89	No, is not a problem	92	87
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

d. No longer sexually active

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
21	Yes, is a problem	19	24
73	No, is not a problem	78	69
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	8

e. Not able to drive a car

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
14	Yes, is a problem	10	19
85	No, is not a problem	90	79
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	2

f. Feeling that you are not needed by other people

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
9	Yes, is a problem	10	9
89	No, is not a problem	90	88
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	3

g. Having trouble paying your bills

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
16	Yes, is a problem	16	15
84	No, is not a problem	84	84
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1

Q.17 CONTINUED...

h. Often feeling sad or depressed

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
20	Yes, is a problem	18	22
79	No, is not a problem	82	77
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1

i. Loneliness

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
17	Yes, is a problem	15	18
83	No, is not a problem	84	82
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*

ASK ALL:

Now, on a different subject...

M.1 Are you currently married, living with a partner, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married? (IF R SAYS "SINGLE," PROBE TO DETERMINE WHICH CATEGORY IS APPROPRIATE)

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
52	Married	25	63	64	58	35
6	Living with a partner	12	7	2	2	1
12	Divorced/Separated	4	12	19	14	6
8	Widowed	*	1	6	21	52
22	Never been married	58	16	9	5	5
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*	*	*	*

ASK ONLY THOSE AGES 65 AND OLDER: [N=1,332]

Q.18 Which family member do you have the MOST contact with (IF M.1=1 and SEX=1: OTHER than your wife/ IF M.1=1 and SEX=2: OTHER than your husband/ IF M.1=2: OTHER than your partner)? (OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "CHILD," PROBE WITH: "Would that be your son or your daughter?" ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE)

Based on all mentions:

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
*	Father	*	*
1	Mother	3	*
34	Son	31	36
47	Daughter	44	49
10	Brother, sister (INCLUDE Half-brother, Half-sister)	14	7
*	Grandparent, Grandmother, Grandfather	*	*
5	Grandchild	5	5
4	Other relative, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin	4	4
1	In-law	1	1
3	Other SPECIFY/RECORD VERBATIM)	2	4
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	5

ASK ALL:

Q.19 How many brothers and sisters do you have, if any?

INTERVIEWER: RECORD ONLY LIVING SIBLINGS, INCLUDING STEPBROTHERS/STEPSISTERS AND HALF BROTHERS/HALF SISTERS IF VOLUNTEERED

All

9 None
24 One
20 Two
17 Three
30 Four or more
* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

F.1 Is your mother living?

All

64 Yes
36 No
* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

F.2 Is your father living?

All

50 Yes
49 No
1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

F.3 Do you have any living stepparents who play an important role in your life?

All

14 Yes
86 No
* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF YES (F.3=1), ASK: [N=249]

F.3a Would that be a stepmother, a stepfather or both?

Based on those with step-parent(s)

All

28 Stepmother
40 Stepfather
33 Both stepmother and stepfather
* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK F.4 AND F.5 ONLY IF BOTH PARENTS ARE LIVING (F.1=1 AND F.2=1): [N=769]

F.4 Do your mother and father live together?

All

62 Yes
38 No
* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

F.5 With which parent do you have the most contact?

All

57 Mother

13 Father

30 Neither/Both same

* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK F.6 IF MOTHER (F.1=1) OR STEPMOTHER (F.1=2,9 & F.3a=1,3) IS LIVING:

F.6 How old is your (mother; stepmother)? (READ IF NECESSARY: Just your best guess is fine.)

(RECORD EXACT AGE)

ASK F.7 IF FATHER (F.2=1) OR STEPFATHER (F.2=2,9 & F.3a=2,3) IS LIVING:

F.7 How old is your (IF F.2=1: father/ IF: stepfather)? (READ IF NECESSARY: Just your best guess is fine.)

(RECORD EXACT AGE)

F.6/F.7:

**BASED ON THOSE WITH MOTHER
OR STEPMOTHER LIVING [N=1,239]**

55	<65
19	65-74
17	75-84
6	85+
3	Don't know/Refused

MEAN age of MOTHER = 63

**BASED ON THOSE WITH FATHER
OF STEPFATHER LIVING [N=868]**

54	<65
22	65-74
15	75-84
4	85+
5	Don't know/Refused

MEAN age of FATHER = 63

----- ADULTS WITH PARENTS AGES 65 AND OLDER-----

Questions 21 through 35a are asked of respondents with one or more living parents or stepparents age 65 or older (N=807). Respondents with no living parents or stepparents ages 65 or older skip ahead to Question 36. The following instructions indicate the referent in Q.21-35a given the respondent's situation.

RESPONDENT'S SITUATION

ASK Q.21-Q.35a ABOUT RESPONDENT'S...

Both parents live together	Parents
Parents live separately and more contact with mother	Mother
Parents live separately and more contact with father	Father
Parents live separately and equal contact	FORM 1: Mother / FORM 2: Father
Only mother living	Mother
Only father living	Father
No parents living and stepmother played important role	Stepmother
No parents living and stepfather played important role	Stepfather
No parents living and important stepmother and stepfather	FORM 1: Stepmother / FORM 2: Stepfather

- Q.21 Now thinking about your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/stepfather... How would you rate the overall quality of your (parents' lives/mother's life/father's life/stepmother's life/stepfather's) life? Would you say it is excellent, good, only fair or poor?

**BASED ON THOSE WITH A LIVING PARENT OR IMPORTANT STEPPARENT AGE 65 OR OLDER
[N=807]:**

<u>All</u>		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
33	Excellent	36	30
43	Good	39	45
17	Only fair	17	18
6	Poor	5	6
*	Better for one parent than the other (VOL.)	*	1
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	*

- Q.22 I'm going to read a list of some problems older people sometimes face. For each one, please tell me whether this is a problem for (either of your parents/your mother/your father/your stepmother/your stepfather) now or not? (First,)
[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN IF NECESSARY: – is this a problem for
(either of your parents/your mother/your father/your stepmother/your stepfather) now or not?]

- a. A serious illness

<u>All</u>		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
27	Yes, this is a problem	23	30
72	No, this is not a problem	76	69
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

- b. Memory loss

<u>All</u>		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
29	Yes, this is a problem	18	39
69	No, this is not a problem	79	61
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	*

Q.22 CONTINUED...

c. Being a burden on others

		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
14	Yes, this is a problem	9	18
85	No, this is not a problem	90	81
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

d. Not able to drive a car

		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
22	Yes, this is a problem	14	29
77	No, this is not a problem	85	70
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

e. Not feeling needed by other people

		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
15	Yes, this is a problem	11	18
81	No, this is not a problem	87	77
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	5

f. Having trouble paying bills

		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
12	Yes, this is a problem	14	10
87	No, this is not a problem	84	89
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1

g. Often feeling sad or depressed

		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
31	Yes, this is a problem	26	34
66	No, this is not a problem	70	63
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	3

h. Loneliness

		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
28	Yes, this is a problem	25	31
68	No, this is not a problem	72	64
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	5

Q.23 Where (do your parents/does your mother/does your father/does your stepmother/does your stepfather) currently live ... **[READ]**?

<u>All</u>		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
87	In (their/her/his) own home or apartment	93	82
3	In your household	1	4
5	With another family member	4	6
1	In an assisted living facility where (they receive) / (she/he receives) some help	*	2
3	In a nursing home	*	5
1	[DO NOT READ] One parent is living independently, one is in a nursing home or assisted living facility	*	2
*	[DO NOT READ] Some other (SPECIFY)	*	*
*	[DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused	*	*

Q.24 Overall, how satisfied are you with (their/her/his) current living arrangements – would you say you are... **[READ]**?

<u>All</u>		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
68	Very satisfied	73	65
22	Somewhat satisfied	19	25
6	Not too satisfied	4	7
2	Not at all satisfied	3	2
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*

Q.25 (Do either of your parents/Does your mother/Does your father/Does your stepmother/Does your stepfather) need help to handle (their/her/his) affairs or care for (themselves/herself/himself), OR can (they/she/he) handle these things on (their/her/his) own?

<u>All</u>		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
21	Need help	8	31
77	Can handle on own	90	67
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2

IF NEEDS HELP (Q.25=1): [N=217]

Q.26 Who provides MOST of this help – is it you, someone else in your family, paid help, or do you have some other arrangement for providing MOST of this help?

28	You
44	Someone else in your family
11	Paid help
14	Other (SPECIFY)
1	My spouse (VOL.)
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF NOT 'YOU' (Q.26=2-9), ASK: [N=145]

Q.27 Do you provide any of this assistance, or not?

65	Yes
34	No
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF NEEDS HELP: [N=217]

Q.28 Do you and other family members mostly agree or mostly disagree over how to provide this help?

88	Mostly agree
5	Mostly disagree
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF RESPONDENT HAS SIBLINGS/STEPSIBLINGS (Q.19=1-15), ASK: [N=769]

Q.29 Thinking specifically about your siblings, would you say you and your siblings are equally involved in caring for your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/stepfather), or do some siblings provide more care than others?

37	All are equally involved
54	Some provide more help than others
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF SOME PROVIDE MORE CARE THAN OTHERS (Q.29=2), ASK: [N=437]

Q.30 And does this cause any tension between you and your siblings, or not?

17	Yes, causes tension
83	No, does not
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL WITH A LIVING PARENT OR IMPORTANT STEPPARENT AGE 65 OR OLDER: [Q.31-Q35a, N=807]

Q.31 About how often are you in contact with your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/stepfather) either by seeing (them/her/him) in person, talking to (them/her/him) on the phone or communicating by email? Is it...? (READ)

<u>All</u>		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
36	Every day	33	39
50	Once a week or more	54	48
7	Once a month or more	4	9
3	Several times a year	3	2
1	Once a year	2	*
1	Less often than that	3	*
*	[DO NOT READ] Never	*	*
1	[DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused	1	*

ROTATE ORDER OF Q.32/Q.32aa WITH Q.33/Q.33aa

Q.32 (Now I'd like to ask about /And how about) the kinds of things (your parents/your mother/your father/your stepmother/your stepfather may or may not have done for you DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS. (Have they/Has she/Has he)... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**?

<u>All</u>		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
	a. Given any money		
25	Yes	24	26
74	No	76	73
*	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	*
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1
	b. Given you any help with childcare		
17	Yes	24	12
77	No	68	83
6	Not applicable (VOL.)	7	6
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*
	c. Given you any help with errands, housework or home repairs		
19	Yes	24	16
80	No	75	83
1	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	1
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*

IF YES TO Q.32a (Q.32a=1), ASK: [N=191]

Q.32aa Was the money **[READ IN ORDER]** or not? Was it **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]** or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref (VOL.)</u>
a. For help with ONGOING expenses	32	67	*
b. For help with a major purchase or expense	27	73	*
c. Just a small gift	79	21	*

Q.33 (Now I'd like to ask about/And how about) the kinds of things you may or may not have done for (your parents/your mother/your father/your stepmother/your stepfather) DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS. Did you ... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**?

<u>All</u>		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
	a. Give any financial help		
21	Yes	20	22
78	No	80	76
*	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	1
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*
	b. Give any help with errands or getting to and from appointments		
46	Yes	36	53
53	No	62	45
1	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	1
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1

Q.33 CONTINUED...

	c. Give any help with housework or home repairs		
46	Yes	40	51
52	No	59	46
2	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	2
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*
	d. Give any help with bill paying, filling out insurance forms or other paperwork		
25	Yes	15	33
74	No	84	67
*	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	1
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*

IF YES TO Q.33a, (Q.33a=1), ASK: [N=224]

Q.33aa Was the financial help given for special circumstances OR was it for ongoing expenses?

44	Special circumstances
47	Ongoing expenses
3	Both (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.34 I'd like to ask about some things you may or may not have talked about with (your parents/your mother/your father/your stepmother/your stepfather). Have you ever talked with (your parents/your mother/your father/your stepmother/your stepfather) about [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE], or not?

		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
<u>All</u>	a. What to do if (they/she/he) can no longer live independently [ONLY THOSE WHOSE PARENT IS LIVING IN THEIR OWN HOME (Q.23=1), N=661]		
58	Yes	47	67
41	No	51	32
*	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	*
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*
	b. Whether (they have/she has/he has) a will and what to do with family belongings		
71	Yes	61	79
28	No	37	20
*	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	1
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	*
	c. How to handle (their/her/his) medical care if (they/she/he) can no longer make (their/her/his) own decisions		
57	Yes	47	65
42	No	52	34
*	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	*
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

IF YES TO ONE OR MORE ITEMS IN Q.34, ASK: [N=617]

Q.35 Generally, who raised these issues, was it you or your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/stepfather)?

25	Respondent initiated
52	Parents initiated
1	Some one else initiated (VOL.)
20	Both equally (VOL.)
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.35a Thinking more generally about your relationship with (your parents/your mother/your father/your stepmother/your stepfather)... Would you say **(READ)**

<i>All</i>		<i>Age of Oldest Parent</i>	
		<i>65-74</i>	<i>75+</i>
8	You rely more on (your parents/your mother/your father/your stepmother/your stepfather) for assistance	15	4
19	Your (parents rely/mother relies/father relies/stepmother relies/stepfather relies) more on you for assistance	10	26
63	You and your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/stepfather) generally do not rely on each other for assistance	66	61
8	[DO NOT READ] Rely on each other equally	9	7
*	[DO NOT READ] Depends on which parent/Rely on one parent but not the other	*	*
1	[DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused	*	2

-----END SERIES FOR ADULTS WITH PARENTS AGES 65 AND OLDER-----

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

F.8 Do you have any children or stepchildren, under age 18?

35	Yes
65	No
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

F.8a Do you have any ADULT children or stepchildren, age 18 or older?

45	Yes
55	No
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF RESPONDENT HAS ANY CHILDREN (F.8=1 or F.8a=1), ASK: [N=2,298]

F.9 Altogether, how many children do you have?

19	One
35	Two
23	Three
13	Four
11	Five or More
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF ONLY ONE CHILD (F.9=1), ASK: [N=372]

F.10 Is that a son or a daughter?

53	Son
46	Daughter
1	Stepson (VOL.)
*	Stepdaughter (VOL.)
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF ANY CHILDREN, ASK: [N=2,298]

F.11 Do you have any grandchildren?

44	Yes
56	No
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ROTATE F.12 AND F.13**IF RESPONDENT HAS ANY CHILDREN, ASK: [N=2,298]**

F.12 Overall, how would you rate the job you have done or are doing as a PARENT – would you say excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
32	Excellent	41	33	31	25	25
36	Very good	39	37	33	39	39
24	Good	13	22	26	27	29
6	Only fair	6	5	6	6	5
1	Poor	1	1	2	1	1
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1	2	1	2

Based on Respondents who have children and GRANDCHILDREN [N=1,490]:

<u>All</u>		<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
28	Excellent	27	25	25
34	Very good	31	40	38
29	Good	31	28	30
7	Only fair	8	6	5
*	Poor	*	*	1
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	1	2

Note: The age group of 30-49 is not reported due to small sample size (N=93)

IF RESPONDENT HAS GRANDCHILDREN (F.11=1), ASK: [N=1,490]

F.13 Overall, how would you rate the job you have done or are doing as a GRANDPARENT – would you say excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

<u>All</u>		<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
31	Excellent	36	30	22
29	Very good	27	34	32
27	Good	28	28	29
6	Only fair	4	7	8
3	Poor	2	1	2
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	6

-----ADULTS AGES 65 AND OLDER-----

Questions 36 through 51a are asked only of respondents ages 65 and older[N=1,332]. Respondents who are under age 65 or refused to give their age skip to E.1. The following instructions indicate the referent in Q.40 and Q.45-48a.

<u>RESPONDENT'S SITUATION</u>	<u>ASK Q.40 & Q.45-48a ABOUT RESPONDENT'S...</u>
Only has one child – a son	Son
Only has one child – a daughter	Daughter
Only has one child – a stepson	Stepson
Only has one child – a stepdaughter	Stepdaughter
Has more than one child	Children

Q.36 Where do you currently live – Are you living ... [READ]?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
92	In your own home or apartment	95	88
2	In your child's home	1	3
1	In the home of another family member/in the home of a family member	1	1
4	In an assisted living facility	2	7
1	[DO NOT READ] Some other [SPECIFY]	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1

IF LIVING IN THEIR OWN HOME (Q.36=1), ASK: [N=1,230]

Q.37 Is your home in a community that is specifically for people over a certain age, or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
10	Yes, home is in an age-restricted community	6	13
89	No, it is not	93	85
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2

Q.36/Q.37

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
92	In your own home or apartment	95	88
9	Yes, home is in an age-restricted community	6	11
82	No, it is not	89	75
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1
2	In your child's home [If have children or stepchildren, n=XX]	1	3
1	In the home of another family member/in the home of a family member	1	1
4	In an assisted living facility	2	7
1	[DO NOT READ] Some other [SPECIFY]	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1

IF NOT LIVING WITH CHILDREN OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS (Q.36=1,4,6,9), ASK: [N=1,285]

Q.38 Do you live alone, or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
42	Yes, live alone	30	54
57	No, don't live alone	69	46
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

ASK ALL AGES 65 AND OLDER: [N=1,332]

Q.39 Do you ever need help to handle your affairs or care for yourself, or can you handle these things on your own?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
12	Need help	8	17
87	Can handle on own	92	83
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

ASK THOSE WHO ARE AGE 65 OR OLDER AND MARRIED (M.1=1): [N=575]

Q.39a And what about your spouse? Does (she/he) ever need help to handle (her/his) affairs or care for (herself/himself), or can (she/he) handle these things on (her/his) own?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
14	Need help	9	21
86	Can handle on own	90	78
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

IF MARRIED AND 'NEEDS HELP' IN Q.39 OR Q.39a, ASK: [N=108]

Q.39b Generally speaking, do you provide more care to your spouse or does your spouse provide more care to you, or is it about equal?

<u>All</u>	
56	Respondent provides more help to spouse
4	Spouse provides more help to respondent
38	About equal
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.40-48, ASK ONLY THOSE WITH AT LEAST ONE LIVING CHILD/STEPCHILD {(Q.8= 65-97 OR Q.8a=2) AND (F.8=1 or F.8a=1)}: [N=1,149]

Q.40 Do you ever worry that you might become a burden to your (son/daughter/stepson/stepdaughter/children) or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
38	Yes	41	36
59	No	56	61
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3

ASK Q.41 & Q.43 ONLY OF THOSE WHO HAVE MORE THAN ONE LIVING CHILD (F.9=2-98): [N=1,001]

Q.41 Now I'd like you to think about the child that you have the most contact with. Is that a son or a daughter?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
35	Son	36	34
51	Daughter	49	53
*	Stepson (VOL.)	1	*
1	Stepdaughter (VOL.)	1	1
12	Equal contact with two or more (VOL.)	13	11
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	2

NO Q.42

ASK IF Q41 = 1-4: [N=838]

Q.43 Is (he/she) your oldest child, your youngest child, or is (he/she) somewhere in the middle?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
35	Oldest	34	36
37	Youngest	41	33
27	Somewhere in the middle	23	31
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1

ASK ONLY THOSE WITH ONE LIVING CHILD/STEPCHILD OR THOSE WHO CAN NAME THE ONE CHILD/STEPCHILD THEY HAVE THE MOST CONTACT WITH (Q.41=1-4): [N=985]

Q.44 About how often are you in contact with your (son/daughter/stepson/ stepdaughter) either by seeing (him/her) in person, talking on the phone or communicating by email? Is it...? [READ]?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
54	Every day	51	57
40	Once a week or more	43	37
4	Once a month or more	4	4
1	Several times a year	*	1
*	Once a year	*	*
1	Less often than that	1	*
*	Never (VOL.)	*	*
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1

ROTATE ORDER OF Q.45/Q.45aanew WITH Q.46/Q46.aanew. ASK ONLY IF AGE=65 AND OLDER AND HAS CHILDREN: [N=1,149]**IF RESPONDENT HAS MORE THAN ONE CHILD, ADD THE FOLLOWING INTRO:**

Now, thinking about all of your children...

Q.45 (I'd like to ask about/ And how about) the kinds of things your (son/daughter/stepson/stepdaughter/children) may or may not have done for you DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS. (Have they/Has she/Has he)... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
	a. Give you any financial help		
14	Yes	13	16
86	No	87	84
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*
	b. Give you any help with errands or getting to and from appointments		
42	Yes	32	51
58	No	68	49
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*
	c. Give any help with housework or home repairs		
36	Yes	32	40
64	No	68	60
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*
	d. Give any help with bill paying, filling out insurance forms or other paperwork		
19	Yes	9	27
81	No	90	72
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1

IF YES TO Q.45a (Q.45a=1), ASK: [N=166]

Q.45aanew

Was the financial help given for special circumstances OR was it for ongoing expenses?

36	Special circumstances
43	Ongoing expenses
4	Both (VOL.)
17	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.46 (I'd like to ask about/And how about) the kinds of things you may or may not have done for your (son/daughter/stepson/stepdaughter/children) DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS. Did you ... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
	a. Give any money		
51	Yes	54	47
48	No	45	51
*	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	*
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2
	b. Give any help with errands, housework or home repairs		
32	Yes	40	24
67	No	59	74
1	Not applicable (VOL.)	2	1
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1
	c. Give any help with childcare		
36	Yes	46	26
61	No	51	72
3	Not applicable (VOL.)	3	2
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1

IF YES TO Q.46a (Q.46a=1), ASK: [N=501]

Q.46aanew

Was the money **[READ IN ORDER]** or not? Was it **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]** or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	DK/Ref (VOL.)
a. For help with ONGOING expenses	50	47	4
b. For help with a major purchase or expense	34	63	3
c. Just a small gift	67	28	5

ASK ALL WITH AT LEAST ONE LIVING CHILD/STEPCHILD: [N=1,149]

Q.47 I'd like to ask about some things you may or may not have talked about with your (IF F.10=1: son/IF F.10=2: daughter/IF F.10=3: stepson/IF F.10=4: stepdaughter/IF F.9= 2-98: children). Have you talked with your (IF F.10=1: son/IF F.10=2: daughter/IF F.10=3: stepson/IF F.10=4: stepdaughter/IF F.9= 2-98: children) about **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
	a. What to do if you can no longer live independently		
55	Yes	53	56
44	No	46	42
*	Not applicable (VOL.)	*	*
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1
	b. Whether you have a will and what to do with family belongings		
76	Yes	74	77
23	No	24	22
1	Not applicable (VOL.)	1	1
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*
	c. How to handle your medical care if you can no longer make your own decisions		
63	Yes	61	65
35	No	37	34
1	Not applicable (VOL.)	1	1
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

IF YES TO ONE OR MORE ITEMS IN Q.47, ASK: [N=933]

Q.48 Generally who raised these issues, was it you or your (son/daughter/stepson/stepdaughter/children)?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
70	Respondent initiated	76	65
8	Child/children initiated	5	11
2	Some one else initiated (VOL.)	1	2
12	Both equally (VOL.)	14	11
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	10

ASK ALL WITH AT LEAST ONE LIVING CHILD/STEPCHILD: [N=1,149]

Q.48a Thinking more generally about your relationship with your (son/daughter/stepson/stepdaughter/children) ... would you say (READ)?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
12	You rely more on (them/him/her/him/her) for assistance	8	15
14	Your (children rely/son relies/daughter relies/stepson relies/stepdaughter relies) more on you for assistance	21	8
58	You and your (children/son/daughter/stepson/stepdaughter) generally do not rely on each other for assistance	57	58
13	Rely on each other equally (VOL.)	13	13
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	6

ASK ALL AGES 65 AND OLDER: [N=1,332]

Q.49 Aside from your family, are there people around you who you can rely on [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE], or not? How about... [INSERT NEXT ITEM], are there people other than your family who you can rely on for this, or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
	a. For social activities and companionship		
81	Yes	83	80
16	No	15	18
1	Not applicable (VOL.)	1	*
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2
	b. To talk to you when you have a personal problem		
74	Yes	72	75
22	No	23	22
3	Not applicable (VOL.)	4	3
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1
	c. To help you with errands, appointments and other daily activities		
61	Yes	63	60
29	No	30	27
7	Not applicable (VOL.)	5	9
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	4

Q.50 How often do YOU help out other people your age or older who need assistance? Do you do this often, sometimes, hardly ever or never?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
29	Often	32	26
35	Sometimes	38	33
19	Hardly ever	18	20
12	Never (VOL.)	10	15
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	6

IF RESPONDENT IS LIVING IN THEIR OWN HOME (Q.36=1), ASK: [N=1,230]

Q.51 If there came a time when you could no longer live on your own, what would you do? Would you... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
38	Stay in your home but have an aide or family member there to care for you	41	35
12	Move in with (one of your children/your son/your daughter/your stepson/your stepdaughter) or another family member	10	13
*	Move in with a friend	*	*
23	Move into an assisted living facility	25	21
7	Move into a nursing home	6	9
2	[DO NOT READ] Some other arrangement [SPECIFY]	1	2
7	[DO NOT READ] Haven't thought about this	6	7
12	[DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused	11	12

-----END SERIES FOR ADULTS AGES 65 AND OLDER-----

E1 Are you currently retired?

- 22 Yes
 3 Yes, semi-retired or “still do some type of work” (VOL.)
 75 No
 * Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)

E2 Are you now enrolled in school, either full or part-time, or not?

- 9 Yes, full-time student
 7 Yes, part-time
 84 No
 * Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)

E3 (Some people who have retired do some type of work for pay.../Some students also do some type of work for pay...)
 Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
48	Full-time	44	65	55	11	2
15	Part-time	26	12	12	15	6
37	Not employed	30	23	33	73	91
*	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	1	1	1

IF NOT EMPLOYED (E3=3), ASK: [N=1,559]

E4 Are you currently looking for work or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
27	Yes, looking for work	41	4
72	No, not looking for work	58	96
1	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*

IF EMPLOYED OR LOOKING FOR WORK AND NEVER RETIRED {E1=3 AND (E3=1,2 OR E4=1)}, ASK: [N=1,340]

E5 At what age do you expect to retire and not work?

- 20 Before age 60
 18 60-64
 25 65-69
 18 70 or older
 11 Never plan to retire
 8 Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)

 63 Mean age

TREND FOR COMPARISON:²⁹

	<u>Gallup</u> <u>April</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>Gallup</u> <u>April</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Gallup</u> <u>April</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>Gallup</u> <u>April</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>Gallup</u> <u>April</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>Gallup</u> <u>April</u> <u>2003</u>	<u>Gallup</u> <u>April</u> <u>2002</u>	<u>Gallup</u> <u>April</u> <u>1989</u>
Mean age	64	64	65	64	64	63	63	62

²⁹ Trend numbers are from the Gallup Poll. The question wording was “At what age do you expect to retire?” The question was asked of all non-retired respondents through telephone interviews with a national adult sample. The 1989 Gallup Poll was based on a mail survey.

IF RETIRED AND NOT WORKING (E1=1 AND E3=3), ASK: [N=1,186]

E6 At what age did you retire?

- 15 Before age 50
- 29 50-59
- 25 60-64
- 15 65-69
- 8 70 or older
- 9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

- 58 Mean age

TREND FOR COMPARISON:³⁰

	<i>Gallup</i> <u>April</u> <u>2008</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>April</u> <u>2007</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>April</u> <u>2006</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>April</u> <u>2005</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>April</u> <u>2004</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>April</u> <u>2003</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>April</u> <u>2002</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>April</u> <u>1993</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>April</u> <u>1992</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>May</u> <u>1991</u>
Mean age	60	60	60	60	60	59	59	57	58	57

IF RETIRED AND WORKING (E1=1,2 AND E3=1,2), ASK: [N=214]

E7 At what age do you expect to stop working completely?

- 15 50-59
- 5 60-64
- 14 65-69
- 21 70 or older
- 30 Never plan (VOL.)
- 15 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF RETIRED AND WORKING, ASK: [N=214]

E8 Are you currently working because you need the money or because you want to work? {new}

- 22 Need the money
- 54 Want to work
- 21 Both (VOL.)
- 3 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF ONE OR BOTH PARENTS ARE LIVING AND AGE 65 OR OLDER OR IF NO PARENT LIVING/DK AND HAVE IMPORTANT STEPPARENT AGE 65 OR OLDER: [N=807]

Q.52 How confident are you that your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/stepfather) will have enough income and assets to last for the rest of (their lives/her life/his life) – would you say you're very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident?

- 61 Very confident
- 26 Somewhat confident
- 7 Not too confident
- 4 Not at all confident
- 2 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

³⁰

Trend numbers are from the Gallup Poll and are based on all retired adults.

ASK ALL:

Q.53 Overall, how confident are you that YOU (and your spouse) will have enough income and assets to last throughout your retirement years? Are you **[READ LIST]**?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
30	Very confident	36	27	26	34	36
41	Somewhat confident	40	45	39	41	34
16	Not too confident	15	15	20	14	12
9	Not at all confident	8	10	11	6	5
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	3	5	12

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not so confident</u>	<u>Not confident at all</u>	<u>Retired (VOL.)</u>	<u>No opinion (VOL.)</u>
Feb 2009 ³¹						
ABC News/Washington Post	14	35	25	23	3	*
Dec 2008						
ABC News/Washington Post	15	31	22	26	6	*
Oct 2008						
ABC News/Washington Post	10	34	25	24	7	1
Oct 2005						
ABC News/USA today	30	39	16	13	2	*
July 2002						
ABC News/Washington Post	18	37	21	18	5	n/a
July 2001 ABC News	33	35	10	12	7	2
July 1996 ABC News	16	29	25	21	7	1

Q.54 Do you think the nation's current economic problems will make it harder for you to take care of your financial needs in retirement, or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
67	Yes	66	68	75	62	50
28	No	32	28	20	28	37
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	4	5	10	13

Q.55 For each of the following, please tell me whether or not it is something that happened to you in the past year....Have you **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**?

a. Had trouble getting or paying for medical care for yourself or your family

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
20	Yes	27	20	21	8	5
80	No	72	80	79	91	94
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	1	1

31

For all ABC News trends, the question wording was "How confident are you that you will retire with enough income and assets to last for the rest of your life – would you say you're very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?"

Q.55 CONTINUED...

b. Had to cut back your household spending because money was tight

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
60	Yes	66	69	59	38	34
39	No	33	31	41	61	64
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*	*	1	3

c. Considered delaying your retirement [ONLY IF NOT COMPLETELY RETIRED (E1=2-9), n=1,652]

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
33	Yes	22	35	46	33	17
64	No	76	63	50	63	68
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3	4	4	15

TREND FOR Q55a, Q55b

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u> <u>(VOL.)</u>
a. Had trouble getting or paying for medical care for yourself or your family			
Feb 2009	20	80	*
January 2008	23	76	1
b. Had to cut back your household spending because money was tight			
Feb 2009	60	39	1
January 2008	55	45	*

Q.56 During the past 12 months, have you (IF M1=1: or your spouse) lost money in mutual funds, individual stocks, or retirement accounts, such as a 401(k), or not?

IF YES (Q.56=1), ASK:

Q.56a Roughly how much money have you lost – would you say you have lost less than 20% of your total investments, 20-40%, or have you lost more than 40% of your total savings and investments?

BASED ON TOTAL:

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
49	Yes, have lost money	29	54	66	50	35
15	Less than 20%	13	14	18	17	9
22	20%-40%	8	27	29	21	15
9	More than 40%	7	9	14	6	4
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	3	5	6	8
48	No, have not lost money	69	43	33	48	59
1	Do not have these types of savings (VOL.)	2	1	1	1	3
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	2	1	*	3

ASK THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED (E1=1,2): [N=1,433]

Q.57 Has your retirement income declined during the past 12 months because of falling interest rates or declines in the stock market or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
26	Yes	26	26	26
71	No	73	72	70
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	5

ASK ONLY THOSE AGE 65 OR OLDER WITH CHILDREN: [N=1,149]

Q.58 Do you plan to leave any money or property to your children or other family members when you die, or not?

IF YES (Q.58=1), ASK:

Q.59 Do you think the money or property you leave your children or other family members will be worth less than \$10,000 or more than \$10,000?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
77	Yes, plan to leave money/property	80	74
7	Less than \$10,000	5	9
61	More than \$10,000	68	54
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	11
14	No, do not plan to leave money/property	12	17
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	10

ASK ALL AGE 65 OR OLDER WITH CHILDREN: [N=1,149]

Q.60 Do you think the recent downturn in the economy will have an impact on how much money or property you will leave for your children or other family members, or not?

<u>All</u>		<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
56	Yes	60	52
30	No	29	32
14	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	16

ASK IF ONE OR BOTH PARENTS ARE LIVING AND AGE 65 OR OLDER OR IF NO PARENT LIVING/DK AND HAVE IMPORTANT STEPPARENT AGE 65 OR OLDER: [N=807]

Q.61 Do you expect your (parents/mother/father/stepmother/stepfather) to leave you any money or property when (they die/she dies/he dies), or not?

IF YES (Q.61=1), ASK:

Q.62 Do you think the money or property you inherit will be worth less than \$10,000 or more than \$10,000?

43	Yes, expect to inherit money/property
6	Less than \$10,000
36	More than \$10,000
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
48	No, do not expect to inherit money/property
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

We're almost done, I just have a few more questions...

Q.63 How important is religion in your life – would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
56	Very important	44	54	61	62	70
25	Somewhat important	29	28	20	23	17
9	Not too important	15	8	9	5	6
9	Not at all important	11	9	9	8	6
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	*	1	2	2

Q.64 As you have gotten older, would you say your religious faith has become more important in your life, less important, or has it stayed about as important as it has always been?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
38	More important	36	42	35	34	34
9	Less important	14	8	8	5	4
53	As important as it has always been	48	49	56	59	60
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	2	2

ATTEND

Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
15	More than once a week	15	12	15	16	17
24	Once a week	18	23	26	33	34
14	Once or twice a month	15	16	13	12	9
19	A few times a year	23	22	17	11	10
16	Seldom	16	17	15	16	12
11	Never	12	8	13	10	14
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	2	4

IF ATTENDS CHURCH (ATTEND=1-5), ASK: [N=2,683]

CONGREG

Aside from attending religious services, how involved are you in activities at your church or house of worship? Would you say you are [READ]?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
16	Very involved	12	14	18	19	20
25	Somewhat involved	22	25	24	30	27
25	Not too involved	28	27	22	19	22
34	Not at all involved	38	33	34	30	27
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	1	2	5

INTERNET1

Do you use the internet, at least occasionally?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
75	Yes	90	82	74	55	29
24	No	10	17	26	44	69
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	2

INTERNET2

Do you send or receive email, at least occasionally?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
69	Yes	79	77	69	51	29
30	No	20	23	31	48	69
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	*	*	2

ASK ALL WITH CELL PHONES: [N=2,224]

L.3 Do you ever use your cell phone to send or receive text messages?

<u>All</u>		<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>
58	Yes	87	68	38	12	9
42	No	13	32	62	88	90
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	*

Appendix I

Explaining the Regression Analyses: What Are the Strongest Predictors of Happiness among Older Americans?

A regression analysis is a statistical technique designed to show the relative importance of each of a number of independent variables in predicting a phenomenon of interest – in this case, the likelihood that a respondent is very happy.

We conducted a logistic regression analysis to identify the strongest predictors of happiness among older Americans (those 65 and older). We constructed the regression model with the following factors included: gender, race, ethnicity, age (75 and older compared with those ages 65 to 74), educational achievement, party identification, marital status, family income, emotional well-being, church attendance, health status, satisfaction with the number of one's friends, and confidence in retirement assets. Predicted probabilities have been computed by varying a given independent variable from its minimum to its maximum value, while holding all other variables in the equation constant (at their mean or modal value).

The analysis found:

- An older adult with excellent health is 25 percentage points more likely to be very happy than an older adult with poor health, once all other variables in this model are held equal.
- Those who are very confident they will have enough income and assets to last throughout their retirement years are 24 percentage points more likely to be very happy than those not at all confident they will have enough retirement assets, if all else is held equal.
- Those who are very satisfied with the number of friends they have are 23 percentage points more likely to be very happy than those dissatisfied with the number of friends they have, if all else is held equal.
- Those who attend religious services more than once a week are 15 percentage points more likely to be very happy than those who never attend religious services, if all else is held equal.
- Those who do not report feeling sad, depressed or lonely are 11 percentage points more likely to be very happy than those who experience feelings of either sadness, depression, loneliness, or not feeling needed by others, if all else is held equal.
- Gender, race, ethnicity, being age 75 and older, educational attainment, party identification, being married, and family income have no significant impact on the probability that someone is very happy, once all the other variables in this equation have been controlled.

Appendix II

Explaining the Regression Analyses: Are the Predictors of Happiness the Same for Older Adults and Younger Adults?

For the purposes of this analysis, we conducted two logistic regression analyses—one for older adults (ages 65 and older) and one for younger adults (ages 18 to 64). Each regression model included the following factors: gender, race, ethnicity, age (either 75 and older compared with those ages 65 to 74 or ages 18 to 29 compared with those ages 30 to 64), educational achievement, party identification, marital status, family income, church attendance, health status, satisfaction with the number of one's friends, and satisfaction with personal finances. As before, predicted probabilities have been computed by varying a given independent variable from its minimum to its maximum value, while holding all other variables in the equation constant (at their mean or modal value).

The analysis found:

- Among older adults, those who are very satisfied with their personal financial situation are 32 percentage points more likely to be very happy than those who are very dissatisfied with their personal financial situation, if all else is held equal. For younger adults, the difference in predicted probability is 34% points.
- Among older adults, those with excellent health are 24 percentage points more likely to be very happy than those with poor health, if all else is held equal. For younger adults, the difference in predicted probability is 13% points.
- Among both older and younger adults, those who are very satisfied with the number of friends they have are 18 percentage points more likely to be very happy than those dissatisfied with the number of friends they have, if all else is held equal.
- Among older adults, those who attend religious services more than once a week are 12 percentage points more likely to be very happy than those who never attend religious services, if all else is held equal. Among younger adults, church attendance did not reach statistical significance as a predictor of happiness.
- Among younger adults, those who are married are 8 percentage points more likely to be very happy than those who are not married, if all else is held equal. Among older adults, marital status did not reach statistical significance as a predictor of happiness.
- For older adults, gender, race, ethnicity, being age 75 and older, educational attainment, party identification, and family income have no significant impact on the probability that someone is very happy, once all the other variables in the equation have been controlled.

For younger adults, gender, ethnicity, educational attainment and family income have no significant impact on the probability that someone is very happy, once all the other variables in the equation have been controlled. A Republican is 6 percentage points more likely to be very happy than a Democrat, once all other variables in this model are held equal. Those ages 18 to 29 being are 8 percentage points more likely to be very happy than those

ages 30 to 64, if all else is held equal. Black respondents are 7 percentage points more likely to be very happy than white and other non-black respondents, if all else is held equal.

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