


The MetLife Survey of American Attitudes Towards Retirement

**Conducted by
Zogby International
2001**

Mature Market Institute

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I. Survey Overview

America's Baby Boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, number over 78 million. As they move into their middle years, what are their expectations and concerns about retirement and how are they planning for their later years?

The MetLife Mature Market Institute commissioned Zogby International, a polling and market research firm, to conduct a nationwide opinion poll to address these questions. The 46 questions covered the following:

- ◆ Attitudes
- ◆ Relocation
- ◆ Employment
- ◆ Lifestyle
- ◆ Concerns
- ◆ Savings and Income
- ◆ Retirement Planning and Old Age
- ◆ Long-Term Care
- ◆ Financing Long-Term Care

A description of the methodology and sample, an executive summary of the main findings and a narrative analysis of the questions follow.

II. Methodology and Sample Characteristics

Zogby International conducted nationwide interviews of 1,208 adults between the ages of 38 and 55 selected at random. All calls were made from Zogby International headquarters in Utica, N.Y. in mid-2001. The margin of error is +/- 3.0%. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion and gender to more accurately reflect the U.S. population. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Sample Characteristics	Frequency	Valid Percent*
Sample size	1,208	100
East	302	25
South	321	27
Central/Great Lakes	333	28
West	253	21
38-46	571	47
47-55	637	53
Less than high school	36	3
High school graduate	222	18
Some college	347	29
College graduate+	602	50
<i>Did not answer education</i>	—	—
White	913	76
Hispanic	96	8
African American	144	12
Asian/Pacific	12	1
Other/mixed	36	3
<i>Did not answer race</i>	6	—
Live in large city	295	24
Small city	294	24
Suburbs	271	23
Rural	341	28
<i>Did not answer location</i>	6	—
Married	800	66
Single, never married	171	14
Divorced/Widowed/Separated	183	15
Living together	55	5

Sample Characteristics (Continued)	Frequency	Valid Percent*
Less than \$15,000	67	6
\$15,000-\$24,999	86	8
\$25,000-\$34,999	112	10
\$35,000-\$49,999	217	20
\$50,000-\$74,999	270	25
\$75,000 or more	349	32
<i>Did not answer income</i>	107	—
Male	582	48
Female	626	52
Works outside home for wages	457	73
Does not work for wages	167	27
<i>Did not answer wages</i>	584	—

* Numbers are rounded to the nearest percent and might not equal 100.

III. Executive Summary

Half of the respondents in this nationwide poll say they look forward to retirement. Married respondents are the most likely to look forward to it, as are those in the highest income group.

Forty-two percent of respondents say good health is their primary consideration for satisfaction in later life. Their greatest concerns about retirement are becoming sick (31%) and becoming dependent on others (24%).

Two-thirds of respondents do not plan to move when they retire, but of the ones who do, three-quarters plan to move more than 25 miles from their current location. The most common reason given for moving is climate (32%).

Half of all respondents plan to work past the traditional retirement age, and one-third of those who plan to continue working, expect to work until age 70. More than two-thirds of this group say they will work part time. Interestingly, half of the respondents say their ideal retirement age is between 55 and 64. However, at least half of all respondents also say that they prefer to retire later with more money.

Three-fifths (60%) of respondents expect their lifestyles to remain the same after retirement, and 27% think it will improve. Overall, three-quarters (77%) feel that they are saving at a rate that will enable them to maintain their current lifestyle. However, considerably fewer respondents in the lowest income group (29%) than those in the highest group (90%) express confidence that they are saving adequately.

Almost no respondents are counting on an inheritance to fund their retirement. They appear to be fairly evenly divided among personal savings/investments (27%), employer-sponsored pensions (26%), and 401(k) plans (25%), as their primary source of retirement income. Not surprisingly, more than half of those with annual incomes of less than \$15,000 say that Social Security will provide the bulk of their retirement funds.

More than half of the respondents say they are less frugal than their parents. Two-thirds of them also believe that they will have more money available than the previous generation during retirement.

About as many respondents think it is unlikely that they will spend less during retirement in order to leave more money to their families. Respondents are evenly divided in feeling that they either care more, less, or the same as their parents about passing money on to their children.

One-third of respondents overall report spending an average amount of time planning for retirement.

Sixty-six percent of adults say they have discussed retirement plans with their spouse or partner, and 95% of those who have talked about it agree with their partner about their plans.

Almost all (95%) respondents think that planning for retirement also includes planning for old age. Three-quarters are concerned about becoming unable to function independently because of physical limitations, and half are concerned that dementia will interfere with independent functioning.

Almost two-thirds do not feel that they have adequate savings to pay for long-term care.

Although respondents overall are almost equally divided between those who expect to live part of their later lives without a spouse or partner and those who do not, women (61%) are far more likely than men (39%) to think that they will be without a partner in later life.

Overall, half of respondents expect to reside at home at the end of their lives. Only one-third expect to spend time in a nursing home. Two-thirds feel that they can count on family members to care for their long-term needs if they become unable to care for themselves. Those in higher income groups have more confidence than those in the lower income brackets in the likelihood of a family member providing care.

Respondents are evenly divided about whether they are likely to move in with their children. However, African Americans (53%) are much more likely than Hispanics (17%) to think moving in with their children is likely. African Americans are also the most likely to feel that their children would *wish* to have them move in.

The vast majority of respondents (85%) disagree that they can rely on the government to pay for their long-term care. About one-quarter of respondents across all demographic sub-groups plan to rely on Medicare to finance their long-term care needs. Almost two-thirds (63%) do not feel that they have adequate savings to cover this expense.

More than half of respondents estimate that nursing home or assisted-living residence costs will be between \$30,000 and \$74,999 annually. Respondents are evenly divided (44%) as to whether they are likely to purchase long-term care insurance. Only 10% of respondents have already purchased such a policy.

IV. Narrative Analysis

1. Is retirement something you look forward to, something you worry about, or would you say it is something you do not think about?

Look forward to	49%
Worry about	19
Don't think about it	29

Overall, half of the respondents (49%) look forward to retirement. In the eastern U.S., 56% of respondents are anticipating retirement.

Among respondents in the 47-55 year old age group, 56% look forward to retirement, compared to 41% of those 38-46 years old.

Married respondents (53%) are much more likely than single respondents (39%) to look forward to retirement. Perhaps more significantly, respondents who are widowed/divorced/separated are far more likely (31%) than married or single respondents (18% average) to worry about retirement

Those in the \$75,000+ bracket look forward to retirement most (58%), in contrast to 36% of those in the \$15,000-\$24,999 bracket. On the other hand, 46% of those in the \$25,000-\$34,999 bracket say they are unlikely to think about it.

2. Which of the following do you consider the primary consideration for satisfaction in later life?

Being healthy	42%
Knowing your children/ family are financially secure	20
Spiritual fulfillment	18
Financial independence	13
Other	4

Health is the overwhelming concern for respondents across all demographic groups. Most adults choose either child/family financial security or spiritual fulfillment as their number two choices. One exception is single adults, who place financial independence second (22%).

3. *When you eventually retire, which of the following activities are you looking forward to the most?*

Having more time to do the things I want (reading, hobbies, sports, volunteering, etc.)	42%
Spending time with family/friends/grandchildren	26
Traveling	22
Working or consulting on my own terms	6
Other	4

Respondents look forward most to being able to spend their time as they wish. This is true across almost all sub-groups, with 64% of single respondents choosing this option, compared to 39% of married respondents.

African Americans, however, say they look forward to spending time with family, friends or grandchildren first (37%), and second, having more time to do the things they want (32%).

4. *Do you plan to move when you retire?*

Yes	27%
No	64

The majority of respondents do not plan to move when they retire. Rural dwellers are most content, with 75% planning to stay where they are.

Two-thirds (68%) of older respondents, ages 47-55, are less likely than younger respondents, ages 38-46 (60%), to consider moving.

5. *Will you stay within 25 miles of where you are living now?*

Yes	17%
No	76

Among respondents who do plan to move, most of them plan to move more than 25 miles from their current locations. Those who live in the Central Great Lakes region are somewhat more likely than those from other regions to stay within 25 miles (29%). Only 8% of respondents from the West say they will remain within 25 miles.

6. *What are the reasons you plan to move?*

Climate/location	32%
To be near family members	14
Downsizing/current home is too big	13
Won't be able to afford to stay/ cost of living cheaper elsewhere	10
Up-scaling (dream home)	9
Health reasons	6
Cashing the equity in my home	6
Other	8

Climate/location is consistently the number one reason chosen by respondents who plan to move when they retire. Those in the West, though, are more evenly divided among climate/location (19%), cost of living (17%), and moving to be near family members (18%).

7. *Do you plan to keep working beyond traditional retirement age?*

Yes	50%
No	43

Respondents are almost evenly split between those who do and those who do not plan to work after retirement.

Divorced, widowed or separated respondents are more likely (57%) than married respondents (47%) to continue working.

Those with a current annual income of \$25,000-\$34,999 are most likely to continue working (60%). Not surprisingly, respondents with a current annual income of \$75,000 or higher are least likely to continue working (40%).

8. *Do you expect to work full time or part time after traditional retirement age?*

Part time	71%
Full time	21

Nearly three-quarters of U.S. adults expect to work part time after their retirement. As many as 78% of those in the East, compared to 65% in the West, want to work part time.

Also planning on working part-time are those 38-46 (73%), and single adults (80%). African-Americans (79%) and whites (70%) are also more likely than Hispanics (65%) to continue working part time.

Those interested in full time employment live in the Great Lakes (28%) and are Hispanic (27%).

9. *Why do you plan on working?*

Will want to keep active and engaged	42%
Will need income to live on	19
Will want income to maintain lifestyle	17
Will want income to enjoy extras	17
Other	3

By far, a plurality of respondents (42%) who want to continue working feel it will help them remain active and engaged. More of those who are divorced, widowed or separated (25%) plan to continue working because they need the income, as opposed to 16% of married respondents who say they will need the money.

More than one-fourth (29%) of those with an annual income of less than \$15,000 will continue working because they need the money. It is no surprise that only 8% of respondents with an annual income of \$75,000 say the same.

10. *Approximately, at what age do you expect to still be working?*

Less than 60	4%
60-64	8
65-69	27
70-74	33
75-79	10
80+	12

Of respondents who plan to continue working past traditional retirement age, the plurality expects to retire between ages 70 and 74 (33%).

11. *At retirement, do you think your lifestyle will improve, remain about the same as now, or worsen?*

Remain about the same	60%
Improve	27
Worsen	11

Most respondents are not expecting big changes in lifestyle after retirement. About 63% of white respondents expect their lives to remain constant, while 23% expect improvement. African Americans are more optimistic, with 46% expecting their lives to improve.

12. Why do you think it will improve?

More free time	35%
Less stress	35
Improved finances/fewer expenses	25
Other	3

Respondents who expect their lifestyles to improve after retirement are evenly divided among the choices they were given. One-third say they expect either more free time or less stress than financial improvements. Hispanic respondents look forward to having more free time (44%) and expect less stress, (36%), while 14% think their finances will improve. African Americans put more emphasis on less stress (39%) than on free time (30%), while 23% expect financial improvement.

13. Why do you think it will worsen?

Reduced income	60%
Health problems	22
Boredom/loneliness	11
Other	4

Respondents who think their lifestyles will be worse after retirement overwhelmingly attribute that expectation to reduced income.

Women, especially, are more concerned than men, 66%-52%, about reduced income, as are those with less than \$15,000 of household income (70%).

14. What is your greatest concern about retirement?

Becoming sick	31%
Becoming dependent on others	24
Outliving your income	18
Being bored	12
Being alone	3
Other	8

Many respondents say they are most concerned about their health after retirement, with the fear of burdening others a close second response.

In the South, 26% are worried about health and 25% more concerned about becoming dependent. Hispanics are far more concerned about their health (45%) than becoming dependent (17%). Black and Hispanic respondents also are more concerned (20% and 27% respectively) than white respondents (9%) about the possibility of boredom. While men and women are equally concerned about sickness (31%), women (29%) say they are more worried than men (19%) about becoming dependent.

15. At what age do you estimate you will be able to retire with the income you will need?

35-44	2%
45-54	7
55-64	47
65-69	30
70+	6
Never	5

Many respondents (47%) expect to retire just shy of the traditional 65-year mark. Another one-third of respondents expect to be able to retire between 65 and 69.

16. At what age would you ideally like to retire?

35-44	7%
45-54	18
55-64	51
65-70	13
70+	4
Never	4

Again, the greatest number of respondents would like to retire between ages 55 and 64.

Respondents with an annual household income of less than \$15,000, up to 31%, foresee retiring between 65 and 70. The percentage of respondents hoping to retire in this age range does not exceed 18% for any other group.

17. Would you prefer to retire early with less money or would you prefer to retire later with more money?

Retire later	55%
Retire early	33
I plan to keep working indefinitely	7

A majority of respondents prefer to retire later with more money, rather than earlier with less money.

Those with an annual income of less than \$15,000 feel most strongly, with 78% opting for later retirement with more money, and only 11% saying they prefer an earlier retirement with less money.

18. Do you expect to maintain your current lifestyle in retirement, or will you need to scale back?

Maintain current lifestyle	65%
Will need to scale back somewhat	29
Will need to scale back a lot	5

Most respondents are confident they will be able to maintain their current lifestyles in retirement. Only a third expect to scale back at all, and only 5% expect a drastic change. Respondents with a current annual income of \$75,000+ are the most confident, with 77% expecting to maintain their current status.

19. Are you saving at a rate that would enable you to do this?

Yes	77%
No	20

Overall, three-fourths of respondents feel they are able to save at a rate that will enable them to maintain their current lifestyles after retirement. However, those between the ages of 47-55 (82%) than those 38-46 (72%) appear to be more optimistic about their savings.

College graduates are more confident (82%) than those who have only completed high school (70%) of their ability to save an adequate amount.

Again, respondents with an annual income of \$75,000 or more are overwhelmingly confident in their retirement savings plans (90%) versus those who have lower incomes. Less than half of respondents (46%) who have an income of \$15,000-\$24,000 are confident they will have enough money, and 54% of them are worried about their rate of saving.

This lack of confidence increases even more among respondents with an annual income of less than \$15,000, with 69% estimating they are unable to save adequately.

20. Are you counting on an inheritance from your parents to use for your retirement?

Yes	10%
No	90

The vast majority of respondents are not expecting an inheritance to use for retirement.

21. What will your primary source of income be in retirement?

Personal savings/investments	27%
Employer-sponsored pension	26
401(k) plan	25
Social Security	16
Other	5

The responses are equal, with about three quarters of respondents (78%) dependent on sources other than Social Security. Less than one-fifth (16%) say Social Security will be their primary income source.

Younger respondents, ages 38-46 (21%), are less likely than older respondents, ages 47-55 (31%), to be dependent on an employer-sponsored pension as their primary income source in retirement.

There is a large difference among income groups in the expected source of income during retirement. Those with an annual income of less than \$15,000 are mostly dependent on Social Security for retirement funds (61%). As annual income increases, the dependence on Social Security steadily decreases. Only 4% of those with an annual income of \$75,000 or more expect Social Security funds to be their primary source of income.

22. What percentage of your estimated retirement money is invested in your 401(k) plan?

0-25%	32%
25-50%	24
50-75%	19
75-100%	13
Not sure	11

About one-third of respondents say they have invested less than one-quarter of their estimated retirement money in their 401(k) plan.

Older respondents (31% of those 47-55) are more likely than 38-46 year olds (19%) to have 25%-50% of their retirement funds invested in 401(k) plans. An average 32% of both age groups say they have 0%-25% of their retirement money invested in 401(k) plans.

23. How large a portion of your total retirement income will Social Security be?

Less than half	42%
A negligible amount	24
Half	17
Majority	12

Only one group, 53% of those with an annual income of less than \$15,000, indicate heavy dependence on Social Security for retirement income. As income increases, dependence on Social Security is likely to decline, and includes only 2% of those with an annual income of \$75,000 or more.

Dependence on Social Security is also linked to education. One-fifth (21%) of high school graduates expect Social Security to provide the majority of retirement funds, compared to 6% of college graduates.

Between divorced, widowed or separated Hispanic and African American respondents, 19% say they are mostly dependent on Social Security for retirement. Among whites, the percentage falls to 10%, and to 9% for married respondents. There is no significant difference by gender.

24. Which of the following circumstances might cause you to dip into your retirement savings before you retire?

For health care needs	25%
I would never invade my retirement savings	19
For long-term care	14
For children's/grandchildren's education	12
Job loss	11
Need extra income to live on	7
Housing or home improvements	5
To pay off debt	5
Other	3

A plurality of respondents (25%) in all sub-groups feel they might dip into retirement savings to pay for health care needs. Combining health care needs with long term care (14%), those who expect to dip into their retirement savings is 39%.

Those in the East and West feel slightly more strongly (23% average) than those in the South and Central Great Lakes regions (15%) that they will never withdraw their retirement savings. That determination increases as income increases (from 5% to 24%).

25. *How likely is it that you will spend less money in your retirement years in order to leave more money for your children/grandchildren or other family members?*

Very likely	9%	>	Likely	32%
Somewhat likely	23			
Somewhat unlikely	24	>	Unlikely	66%
Very unlikely	42			
Not sure	2			

Two-thirds of respondents (66%) say they are unlikely to spend less in retirement in order to leave something for family members.

While 31% of African Americans are very likely to spend less now, only 3% of Hispanics are very likely to spend less now.

Nearly twice as many singles (61%) as married people (37%), say they are *very* unlikely to adjust retirement spending in order to leave money for family members.

26-28. *Compared to your parents' generation, do you think you are more frugal or less frugal? Do you care more or care less about passing money on to your children? Do you have more money or less money available to you in retirement?*

Table 1. Generational Money Issues

Compared to your parents' generation:		%
More frugal or less frugal?	Less frugal	56
	More frugal	26
	The same	16
Passing money on to your children?	Care less	30
	The same	29
	Care more	27
Money available in retirement?	More money	64
	Less money	23
	The same	9

A majority of respondents (56%) feel that they are *less frugal* than their parents.

Whites are more likely than African Americans (49%) to feel that they are more frugal than their parents. Those with greater income (two-thirds) are more likely than those in the lowest income (one-third) to believe they are less frugal than their parents.

The respondents are evenly divided on whether they care more, less, or the same than their parents about *passing money on to their children*.

However, 33% of the younger age group, compared to 23% of the older age group, think they *care more* about passing on money than their parents' generation. African Americans (56%) are the most likely to feel that they care more about passing money on to their children. Adults with greater income (45%) appear to care less than those with less income (22%) about leaving money to their children.

Almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents believe that they have *more retirement money available than their parents' generation*.

Those who agree they have more retirement money increases with income, from 41% of those earning less than \$15,000, to 77% of those earning more than \$75,000. Married persons and singles (67% average) are more likely than divorced, widowed, or separated people (48%) to feel they have more retirement money than their parents.

29. On a scale of 1 to 5, with one being no time at all and five being very much time, how much time have you spent planning for your retirement?

1. No time at all	19%
2.	23
3. Average	34
4.	13
5. Very much time	11

One-third of respondents overall report spending an average amount of time (3) planning for retirement.

More than one-third (36%) of the younger group, compared to 32% of the older respondents, have spent an average amount of time in planning. Hispanics are more likely than whites, 39% to 21%, to report that they have spent more time (4 or 5).

More than one-third (36%) of those whose incomes are less than \$15,000 have spent no time at all planning for retirement, versus 12% of those with incomes above \$75,000.

30. *Have you discussed retirement plans with your spouse/partner?*

Yes	66%
No	17
No spouse/partner	17

Two-thirds (66%) of respondents overall have discussed their retirement plans with their spouse or partner. Whites are more likely (70%) than African Americans (46%) to discuss these plans.

Only 15% of respondents with incomes less than \$15,000, compared to 85% of those earning over \$75,000, also are likely to say they have discussed retirement plans.

31. *Is your spouse/partner in agreement with your plans?*

Yes	95%
No	3

The responses to this question are overwhelmingly positive. Fewer divorced, widowed, and separated adults (72%) answered yes.

32. *How old do you expect to be when you die?*

Under 65	5%
65-75	12
75-80	20
80-85	17
85-90	14
90+	21
Not sure	11

One-fifth of respondents expect to die between 75 and 80, and another one-fifth say 90+. There is little variance between the sub-groups.

33. *What is your perception of long-term care?*

- Nursing home (196)
- Assisted living (111)
- Have money/funds (50)
- All of the above (49)
- Bad, deplorable, depressing, horrible, sad, scary, terrible (41)
- Don't think about it (35)
- Time frame (27)
- Children/family take care of me (25)
- Stinks (23)
- Lack of Finances (22)

Not good/negative (21)
 Hope he/she never needs it (18)
 Unable to care for him/herself (15)
 Long-term (15)
 Expensive (15)
 Good (15)
 Retirement homes (13)
 Doesn't want it (12)
 Necessary (12)
 Travel (6)
 Dislikes it (5)
 Medical costs (5)
 Stay in own home (5)
 Rest homes (4)
 Don't need/want it (4)
 Disabled (3)
 Self care (3)
 Health care (3)
 Something to be avoided (2)
 Be independent/on your own (2)
 Last resort (2)
 Laying on the beach (2)
 Insurance (1)
 Not sure (100)

34. Do you agree or disagree that planning for retirement includes planning for old age?

Agree	95%
Disagree	4

U.S. adults overwhelmingly agree (95%) that planning for retirement includes planning for old age. There is little difference in responses among the various age, economic, racial, or other groups.

35. How concerned are you that at some point you will be unable to function independently because of physical limitations?

Somewhat concerned	49%
Not concerned	26
Very concerned	24

About half (49%) of respondents are somewhat concerned about the inability to function independently due to physical limitations.

More women (29%) than men (19%) described themselves as very concerned.

36. *How concerned are you that at some point you will be unable to function independently because of dementia?*

Not concerned	43%
Somewhat concerned	40
Very concerned	13

Overall, a majority of respondents (53%) are very or somewhat concerned about the inability to function because of dementia.

More women than men, 17% to 9%, say they are *very* concerned.

37. *Do you expect to live part of your later life without a spouse/partner?*

Yes	51%
No	42
Not sure	7

Half of respondents expect to live part of their later lives alone.

Whites (53%) are more likely than African Americans (41%) or Hispanics (37%) to say yes. Women (61%) and those in the lowest income bracket (64%) are much more likely than men (39%) and those with the highest income (41%) to expect to live without a spouse.

Also, a much larger percentage of single, and divorced, widowed, or separated people (76% average) than married people (40%) expect to live alone.

38. *At the end of your life, where will you be living?*

In your current residence/home	51%
In a retirement community	16
With other family members	10
In an assisted living facility	8
In a nursing home	3
Not sure	11

Overall, half of respondents expect to reside at home at the end of their lives, but the responses vary according to geography. Sixty-two percent of Southern residents expect to remain at home, compared to 44% of Westerners.

Rural residents (62%) are much more likely than suburbanites (44%) to believe home will be their final abode. Those with higher incomes (46%) are less likely than those with lower incomes (59%) to think they will remain at home.

39. *How likely is it that you might spend some time in a nursing home during later life?*

Very likely	8%	>	Likely	34%
Somewhat likely	26			
Somewhat unlikely	25	>	Unlikely	61%
Very unlikely	36			

Considerably more people think it is unlikely (61%) than likely (34%) that they will spend some time in a nursing home.

More Hispanics (39%) and whites (35%) than African Americans (22%) say the possibility is *somewhat* likely. Women (38%) are more apt than men (28%) to think a nursing home stay is somewhat likely.

40. *Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement: I can rely on my spouse, children, other family members to take care of my long-term care needs if I can't take care of myself?*

Strongly agree	39%	>	Agree	68%
Somewhat agree	29			
Somewhat disagree	11	>	Disagree	30%
Strongly disagree	19			

Twice as many respondents agree than disagree that they can count on family members to care for them.

African Americans (42%) and whites (40%) are much more likely than Hispanics (15%) to say that they *strongly* agree that they can count on family members.

More married respondents (78%) *agree* that family members will care for them, compared to divorced, widowed, or separated persons (55%), or singles (36%).

Nearly three-quarters of respondents (71%) with incomes above \$75,000 agree that they expect to rely on family for care, compared to 42% of those with incomes below \$15,000.

41. *If you were unable to take care of yourself, how likely would you be to move in with your children?*

Very likely	13%	>	Likely	37%
Somewhat likely	24			
Somewhat unlikely	15	>	Unlikely	42%
Very unlikely	27			
I don't have children	18			

There is not a significant difference overall between respondents who say it is at least somewhat likely or somewhat unlikely that they would move in with their children if unable to care for themselves.

However, those in the Central/Great Lakes region (42%) significantly exceed those in the West (29%) who think they might move in with their children. African Americans (53%) are the most likely, while Hispanics (17%) are the least likely to do so.

Half of respondents with \$25,000-\$34,999 income also say that they are likely to move in with their children.

42. *How likely do you think it is that your children would wish to have you move in?*

Very likely	26%	>	Likely	61%
Somewhat likely	35			
Somewhat unlikely	14	>	Unlikely	33%
Very unlikely	19			

Almost two-thirds of respondents (61%) think that it is likely that their children would wish to have them move in. This belief is strongest among African Americans (77%). Fifty-nine percent of whites and 51% of Hispanics agree.

43. *Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: I can rely on the government to pay the costs of my long-term care needs?*

Strongly agree	5%	>	Agree	15%
Somewhat agree	10			
Somewhat disagree	19	>	Disagree	85%
Strongly disagree	66			

The vast majority disagrees (85%) that they can rely on the government to pay for their long-term care.

However, 28% of respondents whose income is less than \$15,000 *agree* that they can count on government assistance.

44. *If you live through a period when you cannot function independently, do you think your personal savings will adequately cover your long-term care needs?*

Yes	31%
No	63
Not sure	7

Almost two-thirds do not feel that they have adequate savings to pay for long-term care. African Americans (72%) are the least likely to have what they consider sufficient funds.

Couples living together but not married (42%) are more likely than married people (33%), singles (26%), or divorced, widowed or separated people (23%) to think they have enough money saved for long-term care.

Those in the highest income group are evenly split between having and not having enough saved (46% average). A majority (70%) of those in the lowest income group report insufficient funds.

45. *How do you plan to finance your long-term care needs?*

Medicare	27%
Health insurance	19
Medicaid	18
Long-term care insurance	15
Assistance of family	10
Friends	5
Other	3
Not sure	4

About one-quarter of respondents plan to rely on Medicare for their long-term care. This percentage does not vary dramatically among the regions, races or income groups.

About 15% overall expect to pay for their care with long-term insurance. The respondents counting on long-term insurance to finance their care increases from 5% of those with less than \$15,000 income to 19% of those with \$75,000 or more.

46. *If you have to live in a nursing home, how much do you estimate the average annual cost will be in today's dollars?*

Less than \$30,000	5%
\$30,000-\$49,999	32
\$50,000-\$74,999	28
\$75,000-\$99,999	10
\$100,000 or more	11
Not sure	14

One-third of U.S. adults estimate the average annual nursing home cost to be between \$30,000 and \$49,999. Another fourth think it runs between \$50,000 and \$74,999. The estimates do not vary by gender, race, or geography.

Respondents in the less than \$15,000 income group (42%) are most likely to say nursing home costs are in the \$30,000 to \$49,999 range. The \$75,000 and over group (33%) is more likely to chose the \$50,000 to \$74,999 range.

47. *If you decide to move into an assisted living residence, how much do you estimate the average annual cost will be in today's dollars?*

Less than \$30,000	11%
\$30,000-\$49,999	32
\$50,000-\$74,999	24
\$75,000-\$99,999	9
\$100,000 or more	8
Not sure	16

One-third of respondents estimate annual assisted living facility costs to be in the \$30,000 to \$49,999 range. The next most common choice is the \$50,000 to \$74,999 range.

48. *How likely are you or your spouse/partner to purchase long-term care insurance?*

Very likely	18%	>	Likely	44%
Somewhat likely	26			
Somewhat unlikely	18	>	Unlikely	44%
Very unlikely	26			
Already purchased it	10			

Respondents are evenly split (44%) on the likelihood of purchasing long-term care insurance.

Twice as many Hispanics (44%) as African Americans (22%) and whites (15%) say they are *very* likely to purchase such insurance. Only 10% of respondents have already purchased such a policy.

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