

AARP & NORC Foresight 50+ Omnibus Survey: Generational Views

Interview Dates:
12/9/2021–12/13/2021

A nationally representative sample of 1,011 English-speaking adults, age 50 and over, conducted using the Foresight 50+ panel, a probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago and AARP.

Of the 1,011 respondents, 58 completed the survey by phone and 952 via web.

This self-funded poll was conducted via Foresight 50+ during a monthly Omnibus survey that included 1,011 interviews with a nationally representative sample of adults age 50 and older (margin of error +/- 4.23 percentage points). Funded and operated by NORC at the University of Chicago, Foresight 50+ is a probability-based panel designed to represent the 50-and-older U.S. household population. During the initial panel recruitment phase, randomly selected U.S. households are sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame or a secondary national address frame, both with over 97 percent coverage of all U.S. addresses. NORC contacts selected households using the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), email, telephone, or via field interviews (face to face). Households are screened for having at least one adult 50 or older. People with post office box-only addresses, addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and those in newly constructed dwellings, are excluded from the sample. The panel also excludes some people who live in institutional settings, such as nursing facilities or nursing homes, depending on how addresses are listed for the facility. For more information, email foresight50-bd@norc.org.

NOTE: All results show percentages among respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Generally speaking, how do you think each of the following is going these days? Would you say it is...

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	Going well	Neither	Going poorly
Advancements in technology	69	21	8
Arts and culture including music and movies	32	41	25
Economic opportunity	32	26	42
Health and well-being	32	29	39
The environment including climate	22	28	50
Income inequality	17	35	48
Race relations	11	23	64
Wars or conflicts between countries	9	26	64
Political polarization	6	19	72
Crime and violence	6	11	82

Generally speaking, would you say your generation made each of the following better, worse, or neither better nor worse for future generations?

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	Better	Neither	Worse
Advancements in technology	74	19	6
Arts and culture including music and movies	45	41	13
Economic opportunity	41	34	24
Health and well-being	50	33	16
The environment including climate	22	32	45
Income inequality	29	40	31
Race relations	34	30	33
Wars or conflicts between countries	16	47	34
Political polarization	13	32	54
Crime and violence	19	31	48

Generally speaking, do you expect each of the following to improve, to get worse, or to stay the same for future generations?

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	Improve	Stay the same	Get worse
Advancements in technology	76	17	5
Arts and culture including music and movies	34	47	19
Economic opportunity	42	27	30
Health and well-being	48	26	25
The environment including climate	31	32	36
Income inequality	35	37	27
Race relations	35	27	36
Wars or conflicts between countries	14	36	47
Political polarization	15	28	54
Crime and violence	16	21	61

Would you say each of the following characteristics best describes younger generations or best describes older generations?

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	Younger generations	Older generations
Moral and ethical	14	85
Hard-working	6	93
Respectful of others	9	91
Inclusive and accepting of people and groups that are not like them	71	28
Speak up for what's fair and just	51	48
Empathetic	29	69
Creative	66	33
Technologically savvy	92	7
Curious about the world	72	27
Willing to change ideas or positions	70	29
Charitable and willing to help others	16	83

How connected do you feel to people in your life who are ...

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	Extremely connected	Somewhat connected	Not at all connected
Younger than you	36	44	20
Your same age	58	34	8
Older than you	52	35	12

How connected do you feel to ...

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	Extremely connected	Somewhat connected	Not at all connected
Your coworkers	28	34	33
Your friends	64	26	9
Your neighbors	26	40	33
Teenagers or young adults in your life	36	39	24
Young children in your life	44	29	26
Older people in your life	55	34	11

DEMOGRAPHICS

RESPONDENT GENDER

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	
Male	47
Female	53

AGE

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	
50–64	53
65+	47

COMBINED RACE/ETHNICITY

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	
White, non-Hispanic	71
Black, non-Hispanic	11
Other, non-Hispanic	1
Hispanic	12
2+, non-Hispanic	1
Asian, non-Hispanic	4

EDUCATION

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	
No high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	30
Vocational/ tech school/ some college/ associate degree	25
Bachelor’s degree	17
Postgraduate study/professional degree	17

MARITAL STATUS

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	
Married	59
Divorced	15
Widowed	9
Separated	6
Never married	8
Living with partner	2

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	
Working – as a paid employee	32
Working – self-employed	6
Not working – temporarily laid off from a job	2
Not working – looking for work	3
Not working – retired	42
Not working – disabled	12
Not working – other	4

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	
Less than \$30,000	28
\$30,000 to less than \$60,000	23
\$60,000 to less than \$100,000	26
\$100,000 and more	23

REGION

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	
Northeast	18
Midwest	21
South	38
West	23

SURVEY MODE

Foresight 50+ 12/9/2021–12/13/2021 (N=1,011)	
Phone interview	6
Web interview	94