

AARP & NORC Foresight 50+ Omnibus Survey: Cyberstalking

*Interview Dates:
October 14, 2021 – October 18, 2021*

Nationally representative sample of 1,011 English-speaking adults age 50 and over, conducted using the Foresight 50+ Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. Of the 1,011 respondents, 98 completed the survey by phone and 913 via web.

The self-funded poll was conducted during a monthly Omnibus survey. It included 1,011 interviews with a nationally representative sample of adults age 50 and older (margin of error +/- 4.1 percent points). Funded and operated by NORC at the University of Chicago, Foresight 50+ is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population age 50 or older. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were 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% coverage of all U.S. addresses, and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, or field interviewers (face to face). Households were screened for having at least one adult age 50 and older. The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box-only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings population. The panel also excludes people who live in some institutional types of 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.

Have you ever experienced any of the following online, including email, text, social media, or another online platform, without your consent or upfront knowledge?

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=1,011)	
Ever	63
Attempted to deceive me into sending money or providing personal information about myself including romance scams	40
Used or attempted to use my personal information for a fraudulent purpose, including identity theft	29
Sent me threatening, frightening, harassing or aggressive messages using email, text, or social media	17
Gained access to my financial accounts, including bank accounts, Venmo, or PayPal to monitor, defraud, or impersonate me	12
Exposed my name, address, contact information, social media profiles, or location to other people	12
Accessed any of my online accounts or social media, without my permission or knowledge	11
Tracked my location, monitored, or spied on me using technology	8
Damaged, or tried to damage, my reputation by posting false, negative, or private information about me	7
Checked my phone, text, and email histories without my permission	4
Shared a doctored or altered image, video, or audio recording of me without my consent	4

I have not experienced any of the above	36
DK	-
SKP	1
REF	-

Who was the person(s) that committed this cyber abuse against you?

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=636)	
Stranger(s)	59
Someone you met online	6
Current or past spouse/partner	5
Family member(s)	4
Friend(s)	3
Someone you met in person	3
Co-worker(s) or former colleagues	2
DK	34
SKP	-
REF	-

Did any of these people threaten to do any of the following to you?

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=636)	
---	--

Harm me financially	37
Harm my reputation	19
Harm me physically	5
Find me in person or send someone to find me in person	4
Destroy my property	4
Harm my family or friends	1
DK	3
SKP	41
REF	2

Did you take any of the following actions in response to the cyber abuse?

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=636)	
Changed passwords, email address, phone number, or privacy or location settings	65
Changed my financial accounts or froze my credit	33
Took a break from, deactivated, or deleted my social media accounts	20
Changed or avoided my usual activities and social interactions	17
Purchased new technology, device, or security systems	14
DK	1
SKP	12

REF	1
-----	---

DEMOGRAPHICS

RESPONDENT GENDER

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=1,011)	
Male	47
Female	53

AGE

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=1,011)	
50-64	53
65+	47

COMBINED RACE/ETHNICITY

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=1,011)	
White, non-Hispanic	71
Black, non-Hispanic	11
Other, non-Hispanic	3
Hispanic	12
2+, non-Hispanic	3
Asian, non-Hispanic	1

EDUCATION

Foresight 50+	
---------------	--

10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=1,011)	
No HS diploma	10
HS graduate or equivalent	30
Vocational/ tech school/ some college/ associate	25
Bachelor’s degree	17
Postgrad study/professional degree	18

MARITAL STATUS

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=1,011)	
Married	57
Divorced	16
Widowed	7
Separated	6
Never married	11
Living with partner	2

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=1,011)	
Working – as a paid employee	34
Working – self-employed	10
Not working – on a temporary layoff from a job	1
Not working – looking for work	2
Not working – retired	39
Not working – disabled	10
Not working – other	4

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021	
--	--

(N=1,011)	
Less than \$30,000	25
\$30,000 to less than \$60,000	25
\$60,000 to less than \$100,000	27
\$100,000 and more	22

REGION

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=1,011)	
Northeast	18
Midwest	21
South	38
West	23

SURVEY MODE

Foresight 50+ 10/14/2021–10/18/2021 (N=1,011)	
Phone Interview	10
Web Interview	90