



# How Well Can Communities Support Aging at Home?

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research  
Funded by The SCAN Foundation

*Interview dates: June 10-14, 2021*

*Nationally representative sample of 1,071 adults, conducted using the AmeriSpeak® Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago*

*Margin of error: +/- 4.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level*

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

## How Well Can Communities Support Aging at Home?

**LTC1. If you needed personal support, how many trustworthy people outside of your household could you go to for help?**

**This would include asking for things like help when sick, emotional support, a ride to the airport, or for someone to watch your child in an emergency.**

AP-NORC	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
<b>Many/A few</b>	<b>82</b>
Many	21
A few	62
<b>Just one/None</b>	<b>18</b>
Just one	10
None	8
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

*If Many, A few, Just one in LTC1*

**LTC2. How would you classify the trustworthy [person/people] outside of your household that you could go to for help?**

*If Many, A few in LTC1: **Select all that apply***

AP-NORC	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
Family members	79
Close friends	76
Other community members / neighbors	17
Therapists, counselors, or members of support groups	11
Paid caregivers	6
Other paid professionals	6
Other, please specify:	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>993</i>

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*If Many, A few, Just one in LTC1*

**LTC3. Thinking about the most trusted person outside of your household that you could go to for help, how near or far away does that person live?**

AP-NORC	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
This person lives an hour or less away from you	81
This person lives more than an hour away from you	19
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	993

**LTC4. Would you say that the area where you currently live has a diverse population with regard to each of the following, or not?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021	Yes	No	DK	SKP/ REF
Race or ethnicity	67	32	*	1
Age	83	15	*	2
Religion	69	30	*	1
Economic background	72	26	*	2
Cultural background	66	32	*	2
Political affiliations	64	33	1	2
Sexual orientation	57	39	1	2

*N= 1,071*

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**LTC5. Do you think the area where you currently live does a good job, a poor job, or neither a good nor poor job of providing each of the following?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021	A good job	A poor job	Neither a good nor poor job	DK	SKP/ REF
Opportunities for residents of all ages and backgrounds to connect and discuss important civic issues that impact the community, either virtually or in person	37	20	40	1	3
Opportunities for residents of all ages and backgrounds to participate in decision-making bodies, such as community councils or committees, either virtually or in person	36	19	41	1	3

*N= 1,071*

**LTC6. Do you think the area where you currently live does a good job, a poor job, or neither a good nor poor job making each of the following accessible to people like you?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021	A good job	A poor job	Neither a good nor poor job	DK	SKP/ REF
Activities that are affordable for all residents	48	19	31	1	2
Continuing education classes or lifelong learning opportunities	47	16	35	*	2
High-quality health care	45	19	33	*	2
Places to meet and socialize with friends and neighbors	48	19	30	*	2
Places for pursuing new hobbies or interests	41	24	32	1	2
Affordable fitness activities	50	17	31	*	2
Outdoor recreation areas	61	13	23	*	2
High-quality and convenient grocery stores or supermarkets	66	13	20	*	2
Volunteer options	51	14	33	*	2
Places of worship	67	7	23	-	2
Community events like parades or music festivals	52	16	29	*	3
Public libraries	70	10	18	*	2
Places to access WiFi	49	19	29	1	2

*N= 1,071*

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**LTC7. In general, do you think the area where you currently live does a good job, a poor job, or neither a good nor poor job meeting the needs of older adults for...?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021	A good job	A poor job	Neither a good nor poor job	Not sure	SKP/ REF
Transportation	36	22	21	18	2
Healthy food and nutrition	43	16	19	19	3
Affordable housing	26	32	20	21	2
In-home services that support older adults living in their own homes	34	14	18	31	2
Health care	46	15	20	17	2
Social activities	38	17	22	21	2

*N= 1,071*

**LTC8. Do you think the area where you currently live does a good job, a poor job, or neither a good nor poor job of providing access to each of the following for older adults?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021	A good job	A poor job	Neither a good nor poor job	Not sure	SKP/ REF
Home health aides	37	11	16	34	2
Short-term physical rehabilitation centers	40	12	16	29	2
Urgent care	55	11	17	16	2
Pharmacies	69	7	12	10	2
Primary care doctors	55	11	15	17	2
Mental health care	30	21	17	30	2
Physical therapy	48	8	17	25	2
Dental care	54	11	16	17	2
Vision care	54	9	17	17	2

*N= 1,071*

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**LTC9. To the best of your knowledge, are each of the following services for older adults available in the area where you currently live, or not?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021	Yes	No	Not sure	SKP/ REF
Home-delivered meals	55	9	35	1
In-person safety and wellness checks at the homes of older adults	33	13	54	1
Grocery assistance or delivery	59	11	29	1
Discounted or free transportation	39	15	44	1
A crisis hotline for mental health support	38	9	51	2
Virtual care that connects providers with patients through the web or telephone	45	9	45	1
A government agency or community organization that helps older adults find the services they need	40	9	50	1
Employment opportunities	37	14	48	1

*N= 1,071*

**LTC10. When it comes to your relationships with neighbors in the area where you live, would you say your relationships are stronger, weaker, or about the same as before the COVID-19 pandemic?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
<b>A lot/A little stronger</b>	<b>13</b>
A lot stronger	4
A little stronger	9
<b>About the same</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>A little/A lot weaker</b>	<b>17</b>
A little weaker	10
A lot weaker	6
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

*N=*

*1,071*

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**LTC11. What best describes how the area where you live is recovering from the pandemic? Would you say your area has...**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

AP-NORC	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
<b>Completely/Mostly recovered</b>	<b>53</b>
Completely recovered	5
Mostly recovered	48
<b>Recovered about half way</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Recovered only a little/Hasn't recovered at all</b>	<b>16</b>
Recovered only a little	12
Hasn't recovered at all	4
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

**LTC12. For each of the following, please rate how much it has recovered in the area where you live since the beginning of the pandemic.**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER; GRID ITEMS RANDMOZIED]**

AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021	<b>Completely /Mostly recovered</b>	Completely recovered	Mostly recovered	<b>Recovered about half way</b>	<b>Recovered only a little/ Hasn't recovered at all</b>	Recovered only a little	Hasn't recovered at all	DK	SKP /REF
Civic activities and organizations	<b>33</b>	5	28	<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>	19	7	1	3
Places of worship	<b>49</b>	10	39	<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>	13	7	*	3
Businesses in your neighborhood	<b>42</b>	6	37	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	16	3	*	2

*N=1,071*

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**LTC13. Do you have any health conditions, physical limitations, or mental health conditions that impact your daily life or limit your activities?**

AP-NORC	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
Yes	26
No	73
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

**RELIG. What is your present religion, if any?**

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
Protestant	30
Roman Catholic	16
Mormon	1
Orthodox	1
Jewish	1
Muslim	*
Buddhist	1
Hindu	1
Atheist	5
Agnostic	5
Nothing in particular	16
Just Christian	19
Unitarian	1
Something else	3
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

*If Religion is Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox, Christian, or something else:*

**BORN. Would you describe yourself as a 'born-again' or evangelical Christian, or not?**

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
Yes	42
No	58
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>719</i>



How Well Can Communities Support Aging at Home?

**PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?**

*If Democrat:*

**PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Democrat?**

*If Republican:*

**PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Republican?**

*If independent, none of these, don't know, skipped, or refused:*

**PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?**

**Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB.**

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>45</b>
Strong Democrat	18
Not so strong Democrat	15
Lean Democrat	11
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>37</b>
Lean Republican	12
Not so strong Republican	12
Strong Republican	14
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

**DM5. How would you describe the community you live in now?**

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
Urban	27
Suburban	49
Rural	24
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

**AGE**

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
18-29	19
30-39	18
40-59	33
60-64	9
65+	22
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

## How Well Can Communities Support Aging at Home?

### GENDER

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
Male	49
Female	51
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

### RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
White	63
Black or African American	13
Hispanic	16
Other	9
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

### MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
Married	54
Not married	46
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

### EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
Employed	54
Not employed	46
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

### EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
Less than a high school diploma	8
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	28
College graduate or above	23
Post grad study/professional degree	14
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,071</i>

## How Well Can Communities Support Aging at Home?

### INCOME

	AP-NORC 6/10-14/2021
Under \$10,000	7
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	12
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13
\$150,000 or more	9

*N*=

*1,071*

## How Well Can Communities Support Aging at Home?

### Study Methodology

This study, funded by [The SCAN Foundation](#), was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. 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 and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face to face). 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. Of note for this study, the panel would also exclude recipients of long-term care who live in some institutional types of settings, such as skilled nursing facilities or nursing homes, depending on how addresses are listed for the facility. Staff from NORC at the University of Chicago, The Associated Press, and The SCAN Foundation collaborated on all aspects of the study.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between June 10 and June 14, 2021, with adults age 18 and older representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,071 completed the survey—1,036 via the web and 35 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive (\$3) for completing the survey.

The final stage completion rate is 16.0%, the weighted household panel recruitment rate is 19.1%, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 75.0%, for a cumulative response rate of 2.3%. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level including the design effect.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2021 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

Topline data and reports are available at [www.longtermcarepoll.org](http://www.longtermcarepoll.org). For more information, email [info@apnorc.org](mailto:info@apnorc.org).

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### **About The SCAN Foundation**

The SCAN Foundation is an independent public charity dedicated to creating a society where older adults can access health and supportive services of their choosing to meet their needs. Our mission is to advance a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. For more information, visit [www.TheSCANFoundation.org](http://www.TheSCANFoundation.org).

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- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and non-partisan research institutions in the world. [www.norc.org](http://www.norc.org)

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

Learn more at [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org)