

Retirement Survey

At the request of the NAIC, ICR was commissioned to conduct a study about retirement. Respondents answering these questions were 377 men and women ages 44 to 62.

Eligibility for Medicare

Respondents were asked if they knew at what age they would be eligible for Medicare. Most say it is either age 62 (21%) or 65 (36%); however, 28% say they are not sure what age it is.

- Younger respondents (ages 44 to 54) are significantly more unsure of at what age they are eligible than older groups (32% vs. 20% ages 55 to 62).

Fewer believe the eligible age is 59 ½ (6%) or 67 (10%).

Familiarity with Medicare Benefits and Coverage Options

Respondents were asked how familiar they are with the benefits provided by Medicare. A four-point scale was used: very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not at all familiar.

The majority of respondents are only somewhat familiar, at best, with the benefits provided by Medicare: 32% are somewhat familiar, 26% said they are not very familiar and 31% said they are not at all familiar. Only 11% of respondents said they are very familiar with Medicare benefits.

- Significantly more older respondents are very familiar (19% vs. 6% ages 44 to 54).
- Significantly more respondents with low income are very familiar (23% <\$25K vs. 6% \$25K+).

Respondents were also asked how familiar they are with the coverage options they will need to consider when they are eligible for Medicare. Again, a four-point scale was used: very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not at all familiar.

Similar to familiarity with Medicare benefits, most respondents are only somewhat familiar, at best, with the coverage options they will have to consider: 26% somewhat familiar, 23% not very familiar, and 42% not at all familiar.

- Younger respondents are significantly more not at all familiar compared to older respondents. (49% vs. 30% ages 55 to 62).

Importance of Medicare Eligibility Relative to Decision to Retire

Respondents were asked if Medicare eligibility is an important factor in determining when they will retire. Most respondents (58%) said it is either not an important factor (53%) or they are not sure if they would consider it an important factor (5%).

- Significantly more men do not consider this important in their decision about when to retire (62% vs. 43% women).
- This is also unimportant to significantly more with a college degree or higher (65% vs. 45% high school education or less).

Importance of Access to Healthcare in Terms of a Retirement Date

Respondents were asked how important it is to have access to healthcare insurance when choosing a retirement date. The majority (84%) said it is important, with most saying it is extremely important (62%).

- Significantly more women feel it is extremely important (72% vs. 51% men).
- Significantly more with some college education or less feel it is extremely important (66% vs. 49% college+).

Medicare as Primary Source of Healthcare for Retirement

About one-half of respondents (48%) said they expect to use Medicare as their primary source of healthcare after they retire.

- Medicare is expected by respondents to be the primary source for significantly more ages 55 to 62 (57% vs. 43% ages 44 to 54) and for more with household income <\$50K (62% vs. 37% \$50K+).

Level of Concern about Future Medicare Funding

Respondents were asked how concerned they are about the reports that future funding for Medicare might not be sufficient to provide the healthcare services they need throughout their retirement. The majority of respondents are concerned (82%), with more than half (55%) saying they are very concerned about this issue.

- Significantly more women are very concerned (68% vs. 43% men).

This study was conducted in ICR's *EXCEL* Omnibus. *EXCEL* is a national, twice-weekly telephone omnibus service designed to meet the standards of quality associated with custom research studies. The *EXCEL* survey consists of a standard set of introductory and demographic questions supplemented by a changing series of questions on various topics as contracted by participating companies.

Sample Design

Each *EXCEL* survey consists of a minimum of 1,000 interviews, with 50% men and 50% women. *EXCEL* uses a fully-replicated, stratified, single-stage random-digit-dialing (RDD) sample of telephone households. Sample telephone numbers are computer-generated and loaded into on-line sample files accessed directly by the CRT system. Within each sample household, one adult respondent is randomly selected using a computerized procedure based on the "Most Recent Birthday Method".

Weighting

EXCEL is weighted to provide nationally representative and projectable estimates of the population ages 18+. The weighting process takes into account the disproportionate probabilities of household selection due to the number of separate telephone lines and the probability associated with the random selection of an individual household member. Following application of the above weights, the sample is post-stratified and balanced by key demographics such as age, sex, region, and education.

Margin of Error

Because this is a sample, and not an actual population, an associated margin of error applies. At a 95% level of confidence, the margin of error for this sample of 377 is +/- 5.1%. This essentially means that we can be 95% certain that, for any percentage result for the total sample, the "true" percentage is within 5.1 percentage points of that which is actually reported.

Significant Differences

Within this report, significant differences are reported at the 95% level of confidence.