



AGING IN AMERICA 2010

Preliminary Highlights of a CommonHealth ACTION National Survey

OVERVIEW

These initial findings are from an online national survey conducted in March 2010 by CommonHealth ACTION (CHA), with the support of BETAH Associates, Inc. CHA conducted a similar survey in 2005. The 2010 survey received almost twice the number of respondents as the 2005 survey and included additional questions about current issues, such as access to and use of the Internet to support aging.

The US population demographics that confirm a substantial increase in the number of older Americans living longer are raising serious questions about the resources necessary to support this population. CHA will publish a report analyzing these data and discussing the implications for state and federal policymakers. This report will be posted to the CHA Web site in August 2010.

RESULTS

- ✓ 1,020 Survey Web-based responses were compiled from individuals across almost every state
- ✓ 16% unprepared to provide for personal needs
- ✓ 47% somewhat prepared to provide for personal needs
- ✓ 27% felt that they were prepared to provide for their personal needs
- ✓ 6% very prepared to provide for personal needs
- ✓ 32% anticipate taking care of themselves
- ✓ 18% anticipate relying on spouse/partner to care for them
- ✓ 21% anticipate relying on children, friends or other relatives to care for them
- ✓ 11% anticipate paying for professionals to care for them
- ✓ 4% do not anticipate being able to afford any care
- ✓ 54% not confident at all that the federal government will support their needs
- ✓ 39% somewhat confident at all that the federal government will support their needs
- ✓ 62% plan to live in their own home if they need help to care for themselves after age 65
- ✓ 22% had no plan for where they would live if they need help to care for themselves after age 65

Demographics

79% female	<u>Race/ethnicity</u>	<u>Household Income (annual)</u>
21% male	2% Amer. Indian/AK Native	5% \$0 - \$9,000
59% married	3% Asian/Pacific Islander	14% \$10,000 - \$34,999
14% divorced	20% African American/Black	19% \$35,000 - \$49,999
18% single	7% Hispanic/Latino	27% \$50,000 - \$74,999
7% 18-29 yrs/age	67% White	18% \$75,000 - \$99,999
19% 30-40 yrs/age	2% Other	12% \$100,000 - \$149,999
63% 41-64 yrs/age		5% \$150,000+
9% 65+ yrs/age		

Public Policy Implications

Women appear much more concerned about aging preparedness. ■ Most of the respondents report taking steps to prevent/manage chronic disease through healthy living activities. ■ Twice as many respondents reported that they anticipate relying on themselves as reported relying on spouses or children. ■ The majority of 41-64 year-olds expressed concerns about prematurely losing independence due to a limitation. ■ Many felt that private organizations, state and local governments should be involved in building systems to support a population aging in place in communities. ■ Over 90% of respondents reported substantial Internet and social networking use, and anticipated using these tools as part of their aging support system. In addition, 55% anticipated using the Internet to support health and medical activities. ■