



# The Current State of Retirement:

*A Compendium of Findings  
About American Retirees*

April 2016

**TRANSAMERICA CENTER**  
FOR RETIREMENT STUDIES®

# Table of Contents

	Page
• About the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies®	3
• About the Survey	4
• Methodology	5
• <b><i>A Compendium of Findings About American Retirees</i></b>	
– Introduction	7
– Life in Retirement	11
– How Retirement Happened	36
– Personal Finances in Retirement	49
– Looking Back on Retirement Preparations and Lessons Learned	96
– Retirees' Advice for Younger People	113
• Appendix: A Demographic Portrait of Retirees	114

# About the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies®

- The Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies® (TCRS) is a division of Transamerica Institute® (The Institute), a nonprofit, private foundation. TCRS is dedicated to educating the public on emerging trends surrounding retirement security in the United States. Its research emphasizes employer-sponsored retirement plans, including companies and their employees, unemployed and underemployed workers, and the implications of legislative and regulatory changes. For more information about TCRS, please refer to [www.transamericacenter.org](http://www.transamericacenter.org).
- The Institute is funded by contributions from Transamerica Life Insurance Company and its affiliates and may receive funds from unaffiliated third parties.
- TCRS and its representatives cannot give ERISA, tax, investment or legal advice. This material is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as ERISA, tax, investment or legal advice. Interested parties must consult and rely solely upon their own independent advisors regarding their particular situation and the concepts presented here.
- Although care has been taken in preparing this material and presenting it accurately, TCRS disclaims any express or implied warranty as to the accuracy of any material contained herein and any liability with respect to it.

# About the Survey

- Since 1998, the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies® has conducted national surveys of U.S. business employers and workers regarding their attitudes toward retirement. The overall goals for the study are to illuminate emerging trends, promote awareness, and help educate the public.
- Harris Poll was commissioned to conduct the Retiree Survey for Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies. Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies is not affiliated with Harris Poll.
- About Harris Poll: Over the last 5 decades, Harris Polls have become media staples. With comprehensive experience and precise technique in public opinion polling, along with a proven track record of uncovering consumers' motivations and behaviors, Harris Poll has gained strong brand recognition around the world. For more information, contact: [ConsumerInsightsNAInfo@Nielsen.com](mailto:ConsumerInsightsNAInfo@Nielsen.com).

# Retiree Survey Methodology

- A 24-minute, online survey was conducted between July 6 – 24, 2015 among a nationally representative sample of 2,012 retirees using the Harris Poll online panel. Retirees met the following criteria:
  - U.S. residents, age 50 or older
  - Consider themselves to be fully (N=1,741) or semi-retired (N=271)
  - Worked for a for-profit company employing 10 or more people for the majority of their career
- Data were weighted as follows:
  - Census data were referenced for education, age by gender, race/ethnicity, region, household income, and number of employees by company size. Results were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with the population of US residents age 50+, previously employed for a for-profit company with 10+ employees.
  - The weighting also adjusts for attitudinal and behavioral differences between those who are online versus those who are not, those who join online panels versus those who do not, and those who responded to this survey versus those who did not.
- Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.
- Percentages revised to total to 100% in charts when necessary.

# **The Current State of Retirement: A Compendium of Findings About American Retirees**

# Introduction

[\*The Current State of Retirement: A Compendium of Findings About American Retirees\*](#) is based on a 2015 survey of more than 2,000 American retirees by [Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies](#). It provides in-depth perspectives about retirees including their attitudes about life in retirement, time commitments, living arrangements, and personal finances.

Many retirees are still recovering from the Great Recession while managing their households with modest retirement incomes. The good news is that most retirees are enjoying life, but the concerning news is that many may be ill-equipped to deal with a financial shock such as the possible need for long-term care.

Although years have passed since the financial crisis known as the Great Recession, many retirees are still feeling its aftereffects. The survey found that only 45 percent of retirees say that they have either fully financially recovered or were not impacted. Thirty-five percent say they have somewhat recovered, eight percent have not yet begun to recover, and 12 percent feel they may never recover from it.

As a society, we frequently speak of the need for workers to save and prepare for retirement. Unfortunately, the conversation often ends once people stop working and retire, which is when it becomes even more critical for them to have a financial plan that can last their lifetimes.

## *Ten Important Facts About Today's Retirees*

The compendium offers more than 50 indicators of retirees' health and wealth by age range, including the following 10 facts:

1. **Just getting by and/or covering basic living expenses is the most frequently cited financial priority.** Retirees cite financial priorities including just getting by and/or covering basic living expenses (42 percent), paying healthcare expenses (37 percent), paying off mortgages (21 percent), and continuing to save for retirement (20 percent). An alarming 25 percent of retirees cite paying off credit card debt as a financial priority. Most retirees are living on a modest income. The annual household income among retirees is \$32,000 (estimated median); however, there is a sizeable gap between those who are married (\$48,000) and unmarried (\$19,000).

# Introduction

- 2. Social Security is the cornerstone of retirement income.** Social Security (89 percent), followed by other savings and investments (48 percent), company-funded pension plans (42 percent), and 401(k)/403(b)/IRAs (37 percent) are the most frequently cited current sources of income among retirees. Among those currently receiving income from Social Security, the median age they started collecting benefits was 62, despite major reductions to their monthly benefits. Only one percent waited until age 70, the age at which one can receive maximum monthly benefits.
- 3. Retirees' confidence about maintaining their lifestyle exceeds the size of their nest eggs.** Seventy-two percent of retirees are “somewhat” or “very” confident that they will be able to maintain a comfortable lifestyle during retirement. However, fewer than half (46 percent) agree that they have built a large enough retirement nest egg. Current household savings among retirees in all retirement accounts stands at \$119,000 (estimated median), with a wide disparity between retirees who are married (\$224,000) and unmarried (\$40,000).
- 4. Sixty percent of retirees retired sooner than planned.** Retirees in their fifties (79 percent) are far more likely to have retired sooner than planned, when compared to older retirees. Two-thirds (67 percent) of retirees in their sixties and 53 percent of age 70-plus retirees retired sooner than planned. Across age ranges, fewer than 10 percent retired later than planned.
- 5. Reasons for retiring sooner than planned range from employment-related reasons to health issues.** Among retirees who retired sooner than planned, two-thirds (66 percent) cite employment-related reasons for having done so. However, reasons for retiring sooner than planned vary by age range. Age 70-plus retirees (70 percent) were most likely to retire due to employment-related reasons, while retirees in their fifties (52 percent) were most likely to do so because of their own ill-health. Only 12 percent of retirees of all ages who retired sooner than planned say they did so because they saved enough money and could afford to retire.

# Introduction

6. **Retirees expect a long retirement and most say they are in good health.** Retirees expect to live 28 years (median) in retirement, and 41 percent expect a retirement of more than 30 years. Most retirees (70 percent) believe that they are in good or excellent health with one notable exception: retirees in their fifties. Only 55 percent of retirees in their fifties consider themselves in good or excellent health. Moreover, 45 percent of retirees in their fifties say they are in fair or poor health, a finding that is much higher than retirees aged 60 and older.
7. **Most retirees are happy and enjoying life.** The vast majority of retirees say that they are a generally happy person (94 percent), are enjoying life (90 percent), and have a strong sense of purpose (84 percent). However, some say that everyday activities are becoming more difficult for them (31 percent) and/or that they are having difficulties making ends meet (28 percent). Eleven percent feel isolated and lonely.
8. **Retirees spend their time in a wide variety of activities.** Retirees most frequently cite spending more time with family and friends (53 percent), pursuing hobbies (40 percent), and traveling (33 percent) as ways they are spending their time in retirement. Twenty-four percent are doing volunteer work and 11 percent are taking care of their grandchildren. Retirees under age 65 are more likely than older retirees to say they are traveling (72 percent vs 62 percent, respectively) and pursuing hobbies (54 percent vs 42 percent, respectively). In contrast, retirees age 65 and older are more likely to be doing volunteer work.
9. **Retirees' fears evolve with their age and stage in life.** Retirees most frequently cite declining health that requires long-term care (44 percent) and a reduction in or elimination of Social Security (44 percent) as their greatest retirement fears, closely followed by outliving their savings and investments (41 percent). Notably, more age 60-plus retirees cite declining health that requires long-term care as a fear. In contrast, more retirees in their fifties fear difficulties in finding meaningful ways to spend their time, not being able to meet the basic needs of their families, and/or feeling isolated and alone.

# Introduction

- 10. Few retirees have a written financial plan for their retirement.** More than half of retirees (54 percent) indicate that they have a retirement strategy, but only 10 percent have it in writing. Among retirees with a retirement strategy, most factor Social Security and Medicare benefits (88 percent) into their current strategy – and many include ongoing living expenses (71 percent), healthcare costs (60 percent), a budget for basic living expenses (60 percent), total savings and income needs (60 percent), and investment returns (56 percent). However, relatively few consider important factors such as pursuing retirement dreams (31 percent), inflation (30 percent), estate planning (26 percent), tax planning (25 percent), and long-term care insurance (23 percent). Only seven percent have contingency plans for retiring sooner than expected and/or savings shortfalls.

Today's retirees are facing formidable challenges in ensuring that they have adequate income to last their lifetimes. As Baby Boomers retire, Social Security and other benefit programs will likely be under even greater strain. It's imperative that policymakers, employers, industry, individuals and families work together to find solutions so that the retirees of today and tomorrow can have a comfortable retirement.

We hope that you find this compendium to be a helpful source of retirement-related research and that you will join me in raising awareness about the need to help improve the financial security among retirees. Working together, we can make a difference.

Catherine Collinson

President, Transamerica Institute® and Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies®

*This compendium serves as a follow-up to the December 2015 report, [The Current State of Retirement: Pre-Retiree Expectations and Retiree Realities](#), which compares and contrasts the retirement outlook of age 50+ workers with the actual experiences of retirees. Please visit [www.transamericacenter.org](http://www.transamericacenter.org) to more information, infographics, and materials from the [Survey of Retirees](#) and [16<sup>th</sup> Annual Retirement Survey](#). Follow TCRS on Twitter [@TCRStudies](#).*

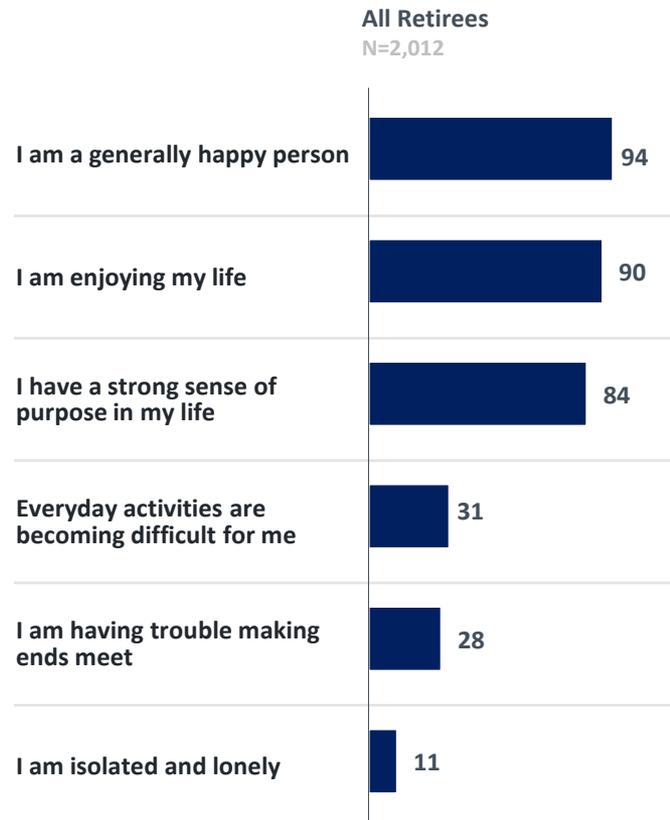
# Life In Retirement

*Detailed Findings*

# Life in Retirement

Most retirees agree that they are generally happy people (94 percent), enjoying life (90 percent), and have a strong purpose in life (84 percent). Some are finding that everyday activities are becoming difficult (31 percent), having trouble making ends meet (28 percent), or feeling isolated and lonely (11 percent).

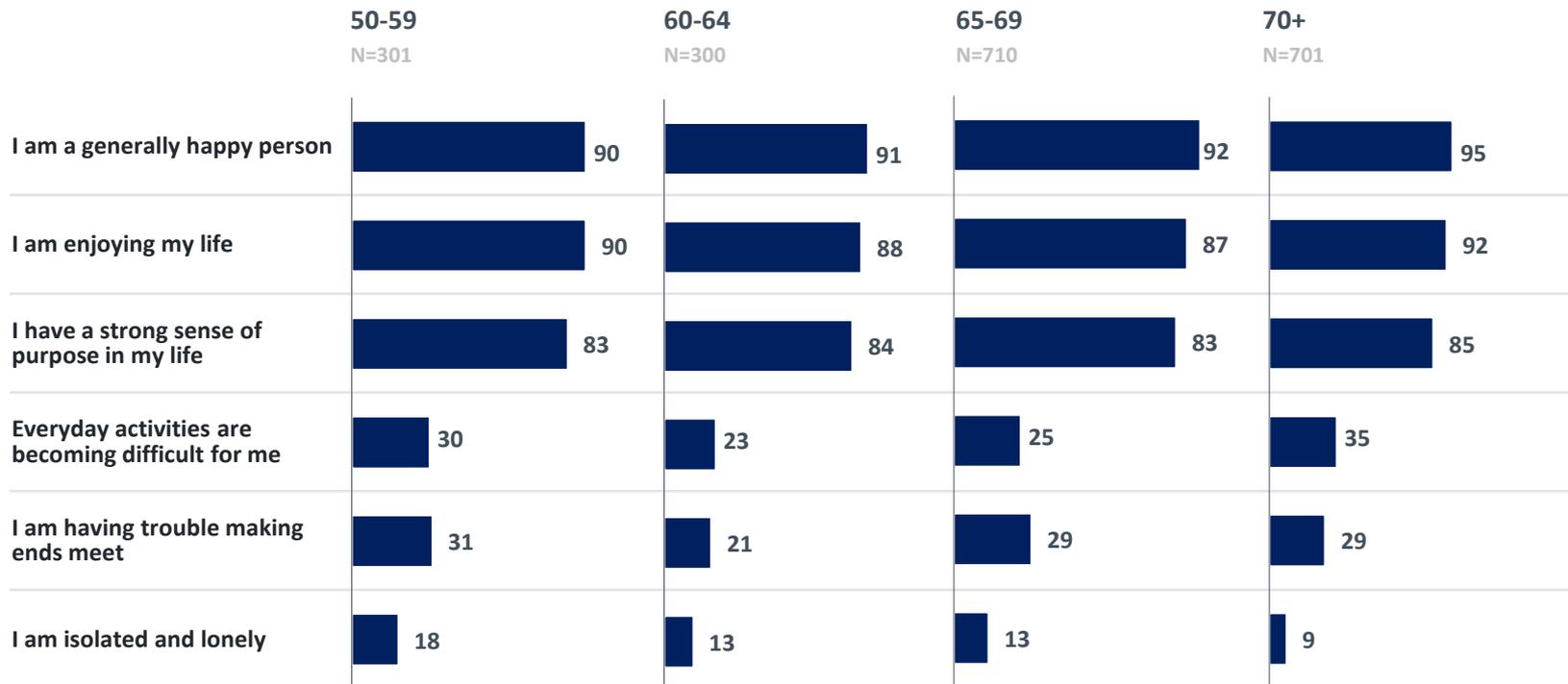
## Attitudes and Experiences in Retirement Top Two Box: Strongly/Somewhat Agree (%)



# Life in Retirement

While most retirees agree that they are generally happy and are enjoying their life with a strong sense of purpose, more retirees in their fifties than older retirees say that they are having trouble making ends meet (31 percent) or are feeling isolated and lonely (18 percent). Thirty percent of retirees in their fifties find that everyday activities are becoming difficult for them, a finding that is higher than for retirees in their sixties.

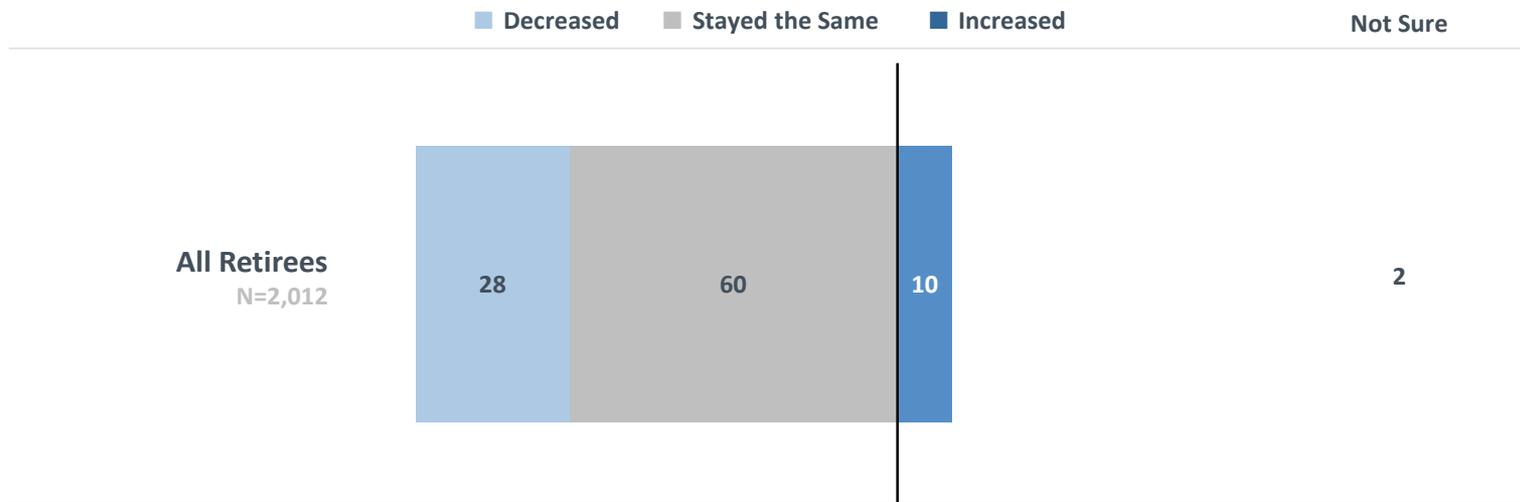
**Attitudes and Experiences in Retirement**  
**Top Two Box: Strongly/Somewhat Agree (%)**  
**By Age Range**



# Standard of Living in Retirement

Sixty percent of retirees indicate their standard of living has stayed the same since they retired while 28 percent say it has decreased. Only 10 percent say their standard of living has increased since they retired.

Change in Standard of Living in Retirement (%)



# Standard of Living in Retirement

More than half of all retirees, across age ranges, say that their standard of living has stayed the same since entering retirement. Retirees in their fifties (16 percent) are most likely to say that their standard of living has increased, while age 70+ retirees (30 percent) are most likely to say it has decreased.

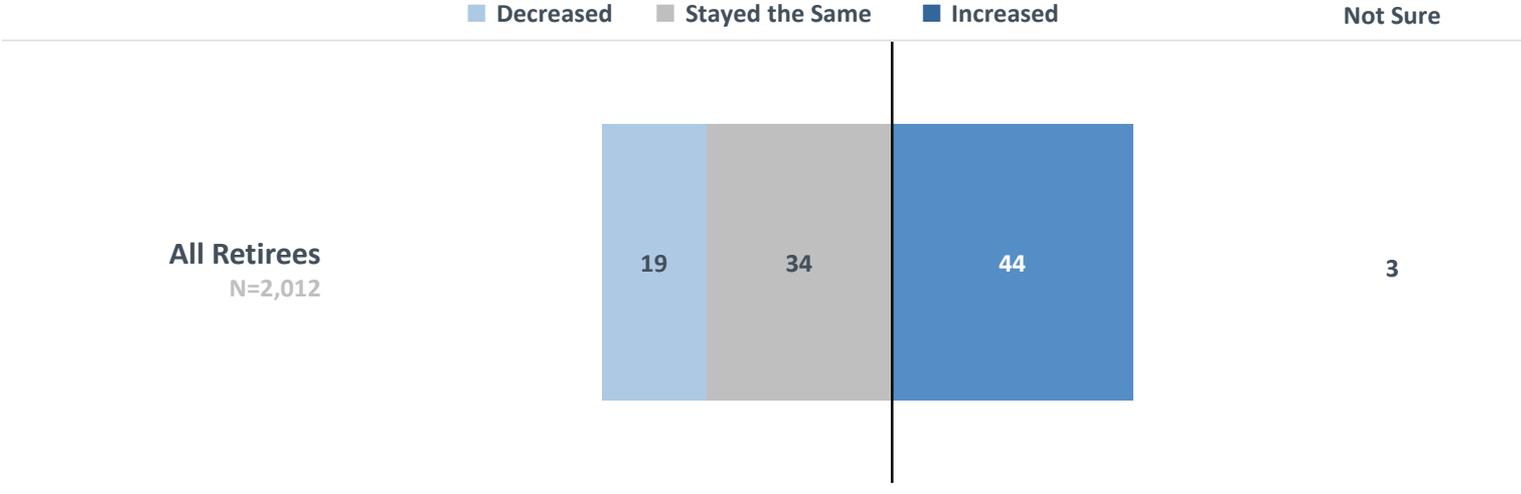
**Change in Standard of Living in Retirement (%)**  
By Age Range



# Enjoyment of Life in Retirement

Forty-four percent of retirees indicate that their enjoyment of life has increased since entering retirement, while 34 percent say it has stayed the same. Nineteen percent of retirees say their enjoyment of life has decreased since they retired.

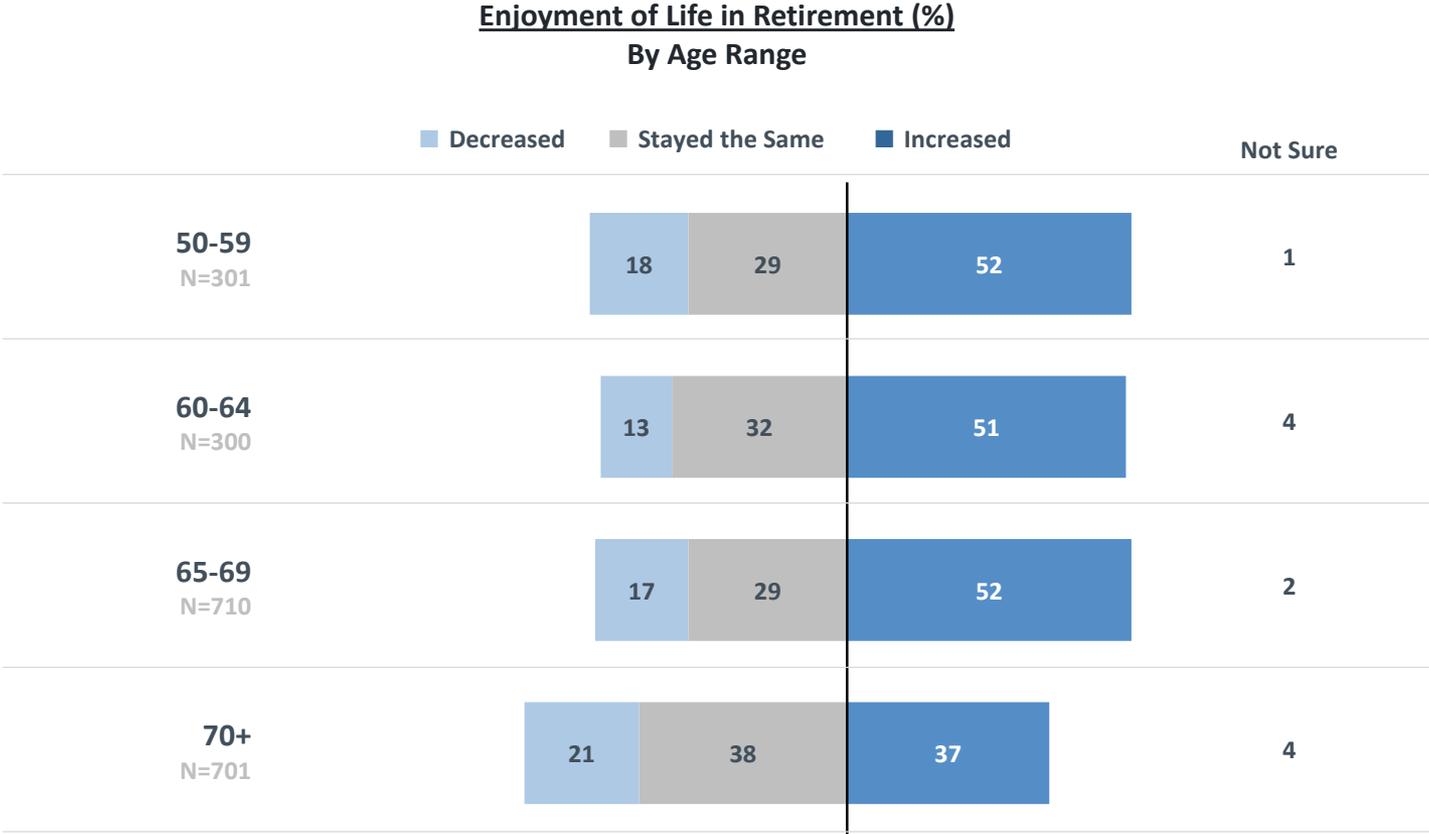
**Enjoyment of Life in Retirement (%)**



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS  
Q1500. Since entering retirement, has your enjoyment of life increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

# Enjoyment of Life in Retirement

Approximately half of retirees in their fifties and sixties indicate their enjoyment of life has increased since entering retirement compared to only 37 percent of age 70+ retirees. In contrast, age 70+ retirees (21 percent) are more likely than younger retirees to say their enjoyment of life has decreased.



# General Health Among Retirees

Seven in 10 retirees consider themselves to be in good or excellent health, a finding that is consistent across age ranges but with one major exception. Only 55 percent of retirees in their fifties consider themselves in good or excellent health. Moreover, 33 percent consider themselves to be in fair health and 12 percent in poor health, a finding that is much higher than found among retirees who are age 60 or older.

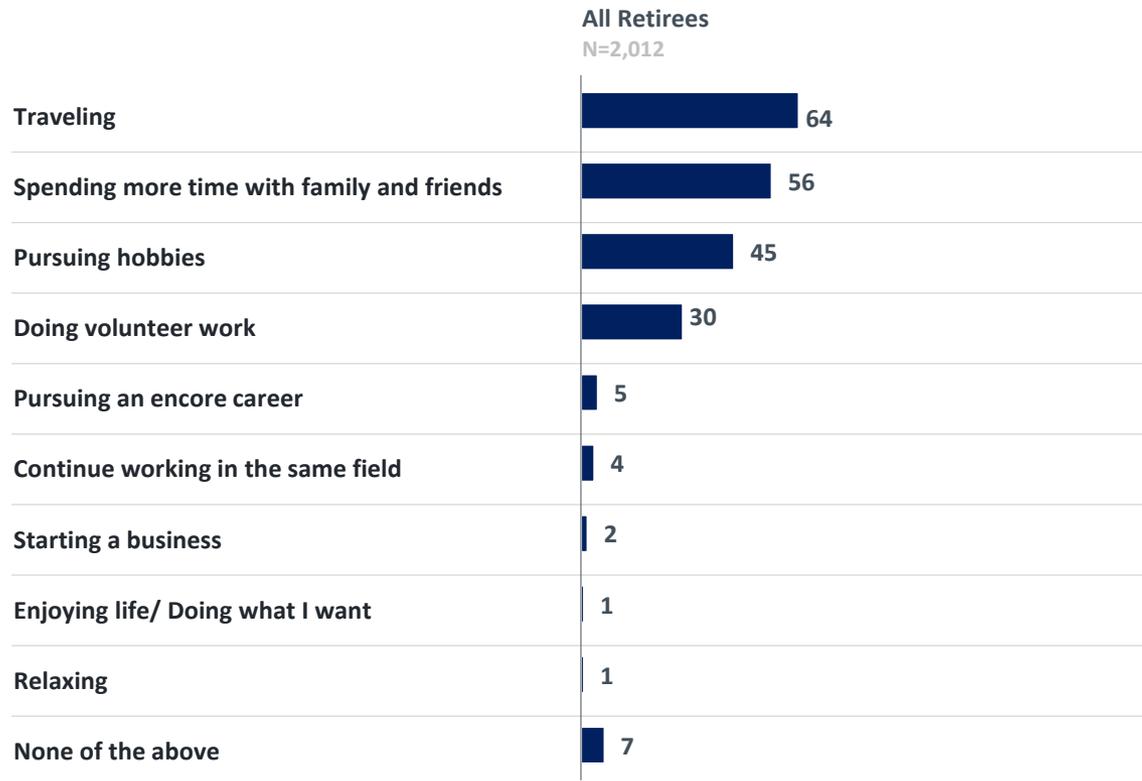
**Self-Described General Health (%)**



# Retirement Dreams

Retirees most frequently cite traveling (64 percent) as having been a retirement dream while they were still working, followed by spending time with family and friends (56 percent), and pursuing hobbies (45 percent). Thirty percent cite doing volunteer work as having been a retirement dream.

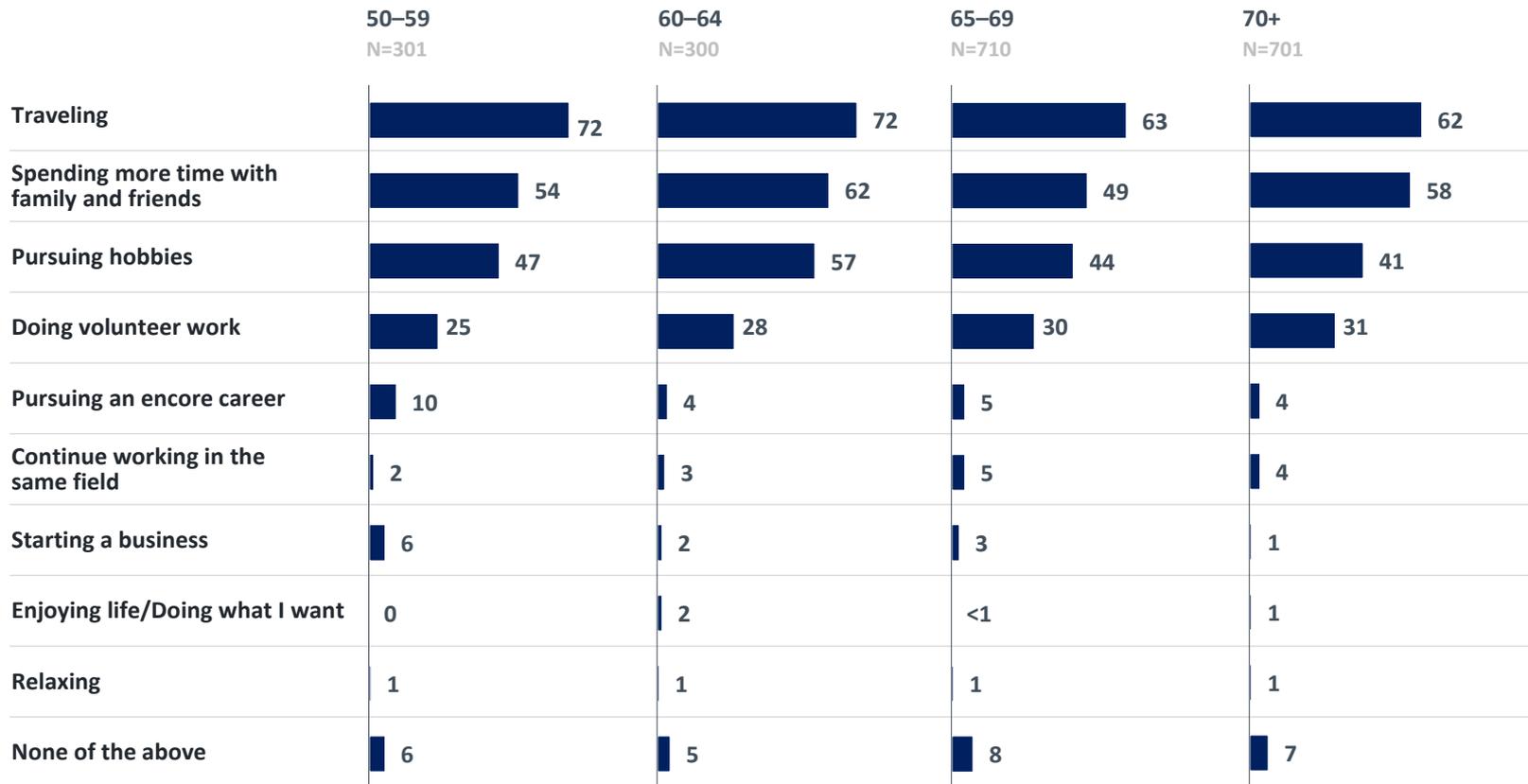
**Retirement Dreams (%)**



# Retirement Dreams

Retirees across age ranges most frequently cite travel (>61 percent) as having been a retirement dream while they were still working, followed by spending more time with family and friends (>48 percent), pursuing hobbies (>40 percent), and doing volunteer work (>24 percent). Retirees in their fifties are more likely to cite an encore career (10 percent) or starting a business (6 percent) compared to older retirees.

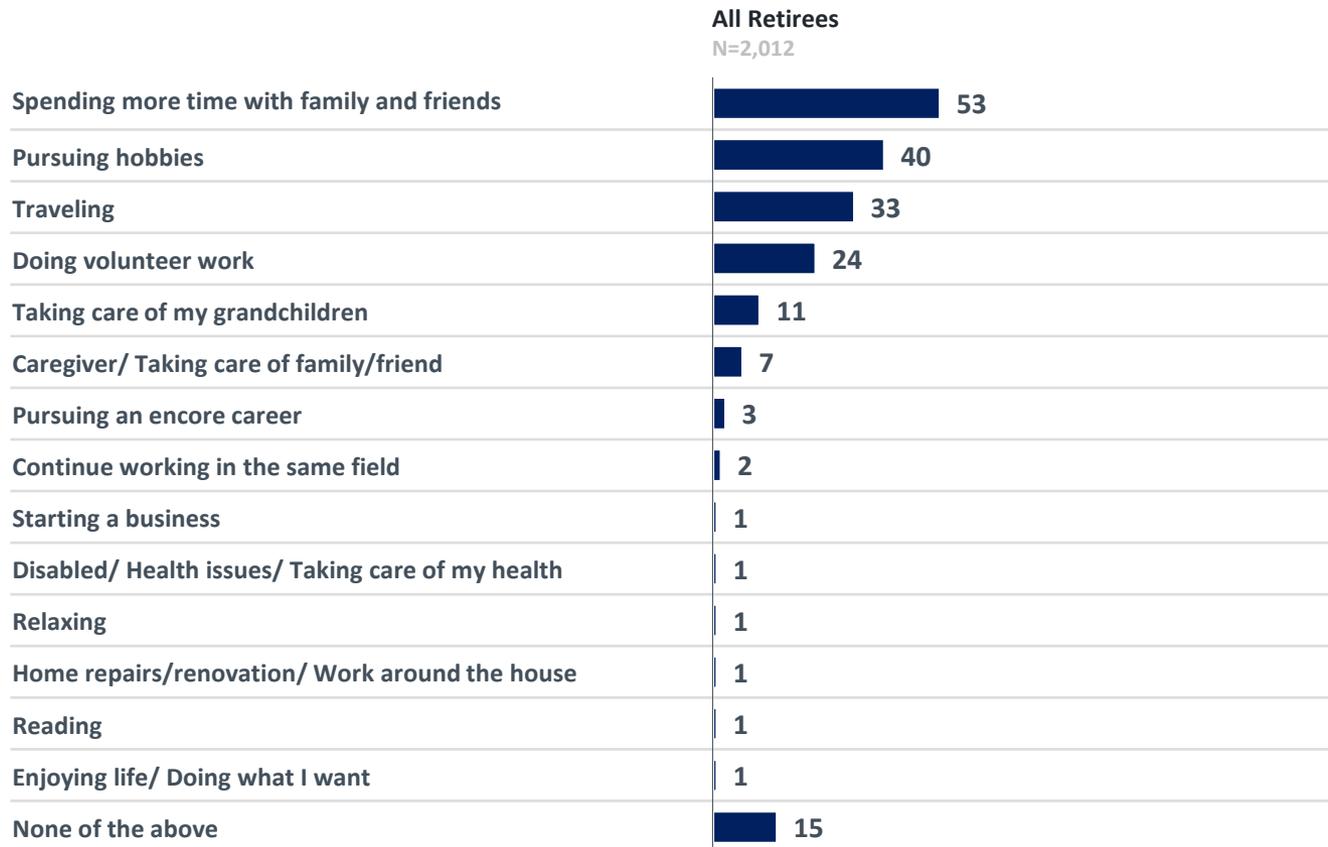
**Retirement Dreams (%)**  
By Age Range



# How Retirees Are Spending Their Time

When asked about how they are spending their time in retirement, retirees cite a wide variety of activities. Retirees most frequently cite spending more time with family and friends (53 percent), pursuing hobbies (40 percent), and traveling (33 percent). Twenty-four percent are doing volunteer work and 11 percent are taking care of their grandchildren.

**How Retirees Are Spending Their Time (%)**



“Other-specify” responses greater than/equal to 1% based on total included in chart

BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q1419. Now that you are retired, how are you spending your time? Please select all that apply.

# How Retirees Are Spending Their Time

Retirees most frequently cite spending more time with family and friends and pursuing hobbies as how they spend their time in retirement. Retirees in their fifties are more likely than those 70+ to cite pursuing hobbies or an encore career as how they are spending their time.

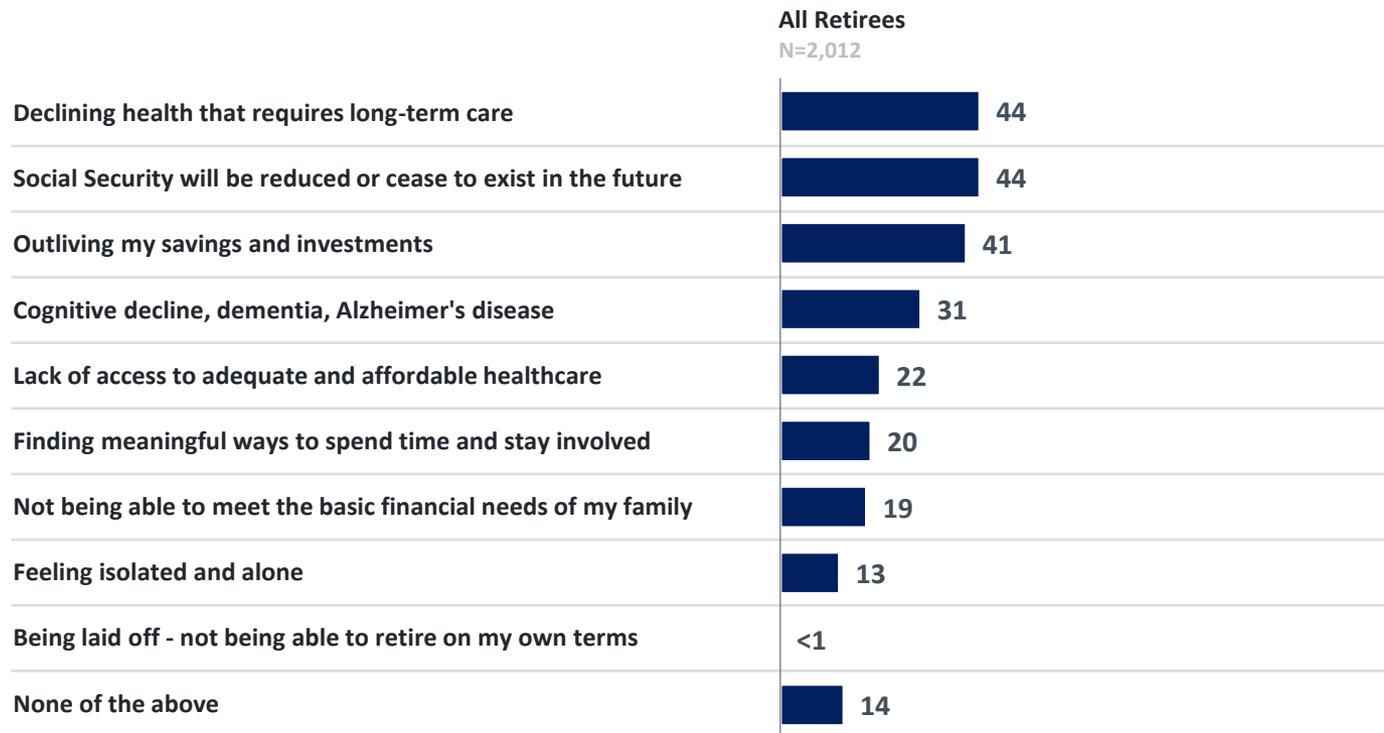
**How Retirees Are Spending Their Time (%)**  
By Age Range

	50–59 N=301	60–64 N=300	65–69 N=710	70+ N=701
Spending more time with family and friends	55	52	50	54
Pursuing hobbies	51	47	41	36
Traveling	41	41	36	29
Doing volunteer work	19	17	23	27
Taking care of my grandchildren	9	19	14	8
Caregiver/ Taking care of family/friend	12	9	7	6
Pursuing an encore career	8	3	5	2
Continue working in the same field	1	3	2	1
Starting a business	2	1	1	<1
Disabled/ Health issues/ Taking care of my health	2	<1	1	1
Relaxing	<1	1	1	1
Home repairs/renovation/ Work around the house	1	1	1	<1
Reading	0	1	<1	1
Enjoying life/ Doing what I want	0	1	<1	1
None of the above	12	13	16	16

# Greatest Retirement Fears

Retirees most frequently cite declining health that requires long-term care (44 percent) and a reduction in or elimination of Social Security (44 percent) as their greatest retirement fears, closely followed by outliving their savings and investments (41 percent).

## Greatest Fears About Retirement (%)



# Greatest Retirement Fears

Retirees across age ranges share relatively similar retirement fears. However, the survey findings yield some interesting differences which are likely a function of age and stage in life. Age 60+ retirees are more likely to cite declining health that requires long-term when compared to younger retirees. Age 70+ retirees are more likely to reference outliving their savings and investments. When compared to older retirees, fears among retirees in their fifties are more likely to include finding meaningful ways to spend their time, not being about to meet the basic needs of their families, and feeling isolated and alone.

**Greatest Fears About Retirement (%)**  
By Age Range

	50-59 N=301	60-64 N=300	65-69 N=710	70+ N=701
Declining health that requires long-term care	38	44	44	45
Social Security will be reduced or cease to exist in the future	44	40	44	44
Outliving my savings and investments	39	37	38	44
Cognitive decline, dementia, Alzheimer's disease	27	29	36	31
Lack of access to adequate and affordable healthcare	27	25	23	21
Finding meaningful ways to spend time and stay involved	29	20	22	18
Not being able to meet the basic financial needs of my family	25	22	21	16
Feeling isolated and alone	19	12	15	12
Being laid off - not being able to retire on my own terms	<1	1	<1	0
None of the above	15	18	13	14

# What Age Are You Planning to Live To?

When asked what age they are planning to live to, many retirees (43 percent) responded that they are not sure. However, 24 percent plan to live into their nineties and 14 percent to 100 or older. Ironically, retirees in their fifties were both the most optimistic and most pessimistic about their longevity: 11 percent of retirees plan to live only into their seventies, the highest response rate across age ranges; and 20 percent plan to live to 100 or older, also the highest response rate across age ranges.

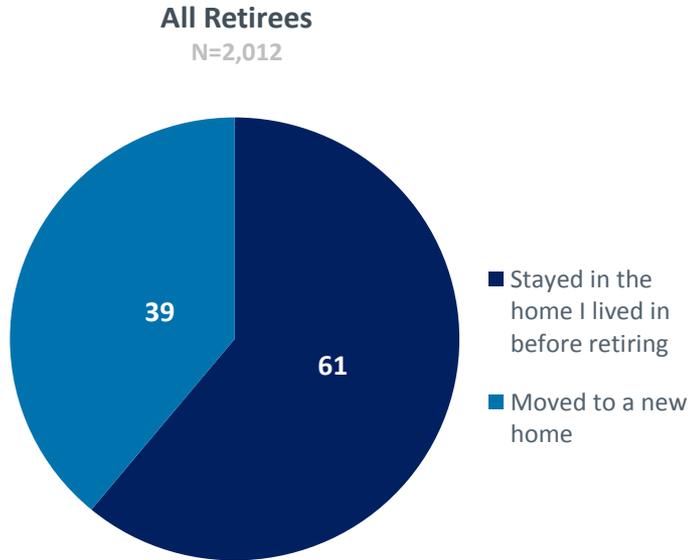
Planning to Live to Age (%)

	All Retirees N=2,012	50-59 N=301	60-64 N=300	65-69 N=710	70+ N=701
Age Planning to Live to					
50 – 59	<1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
60 – 69	<1	1	1	<1	N/A
70 – 79	3	11	5	6	1
80 – 89	16	17	23	19	13
90 – 99	24	21	22	22	26
100 – 109	11	18	11	11	11
110+	3	2	3	2	3
Not Sure	43	29	35	40	46

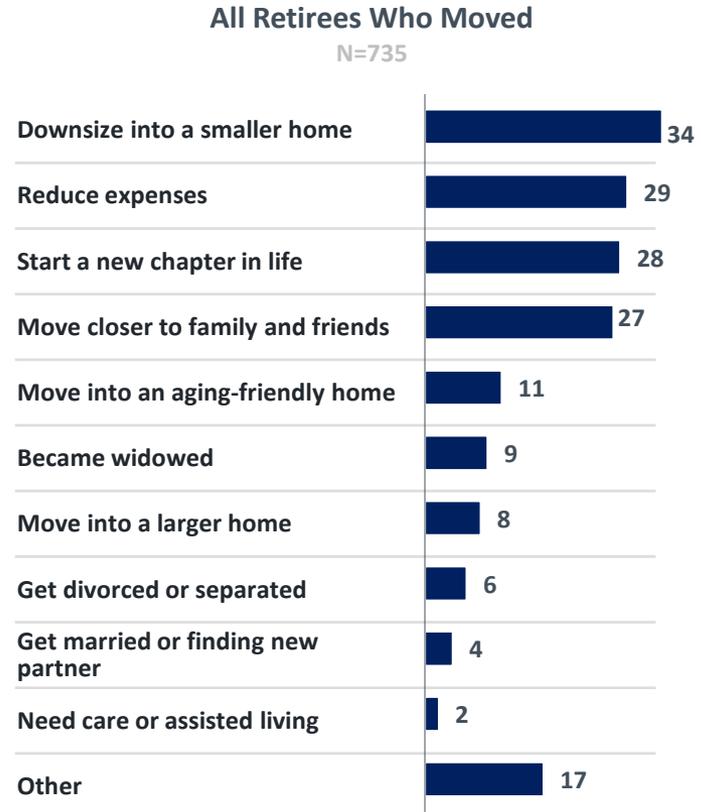
# Living Arrangements in Retirement

Since entering retirement, 61 percent of retirees have stayed in the home that they lived in before retirement. Among those who have moved, frequently cited reasons include downsizing (34 percent), reducing expenses (29 percent), starting a new chapter in life (28 percent), and moving closer to family and friends (27 percent).

**Living Arrangements in Retirement (%)**



**Reasons for Moving (%)**



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q2705. How have your living arrangements changed since entering retirement?

BASE: MOVED TO A NEW HOME

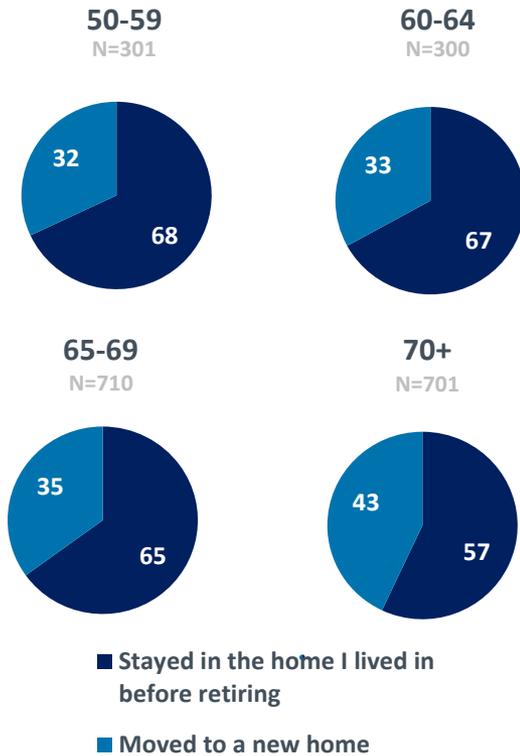
Q2708. What were your reasons for moving? Please select all that apply?

# Living Arrangements in Retirement

Age 70+ retirees (43 percent) are more likely to have moved since retiring compared to younger retirees; retirees in their fifties (32 percent) are least likely to have moved. Among those who have moved, age 70+ retirees most frequently cite downsizing (36 percent) as a reason, while retirees in their fifties most frequently cite starting a new chapter in life (48 percent).

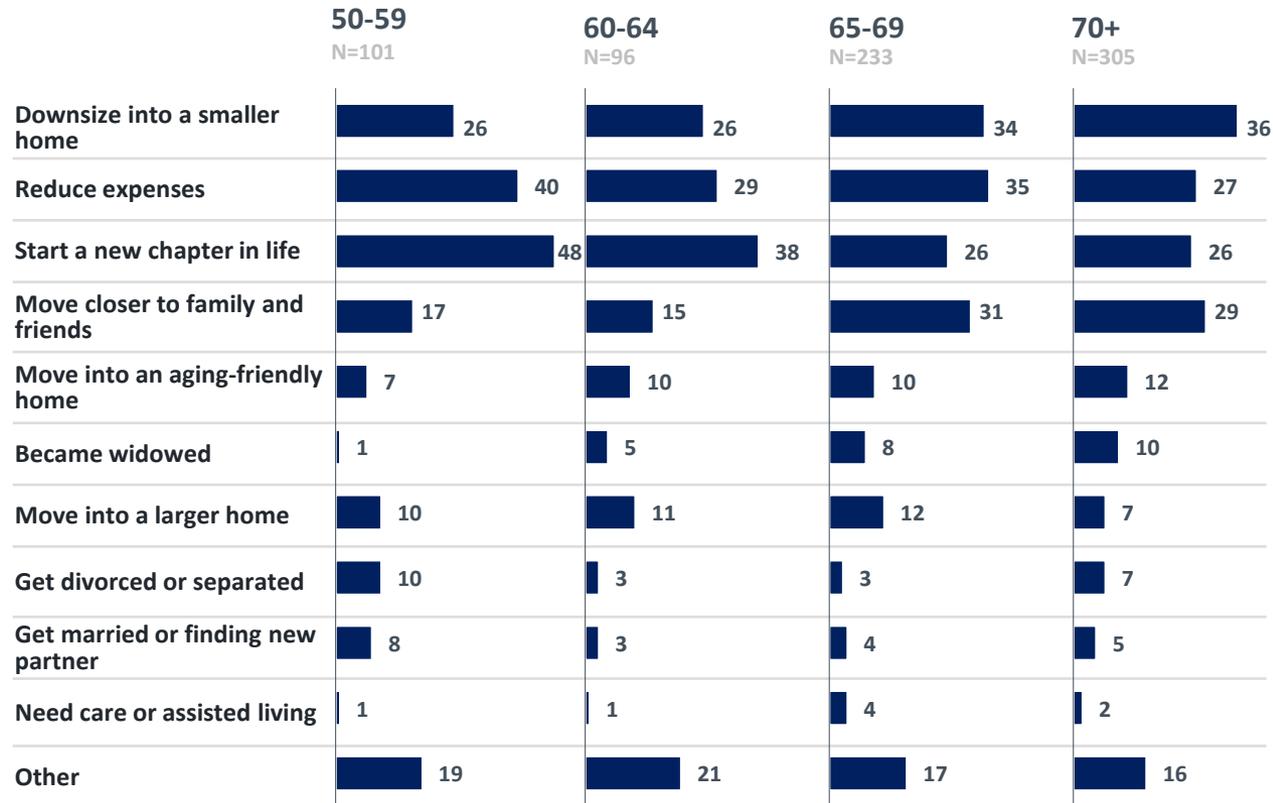
## Living Arrangements in Retirement

### By Age Range



## Reasons for Moving (%)

### By Age Range



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q2705. How have your living arrangements changed since entering retirement?

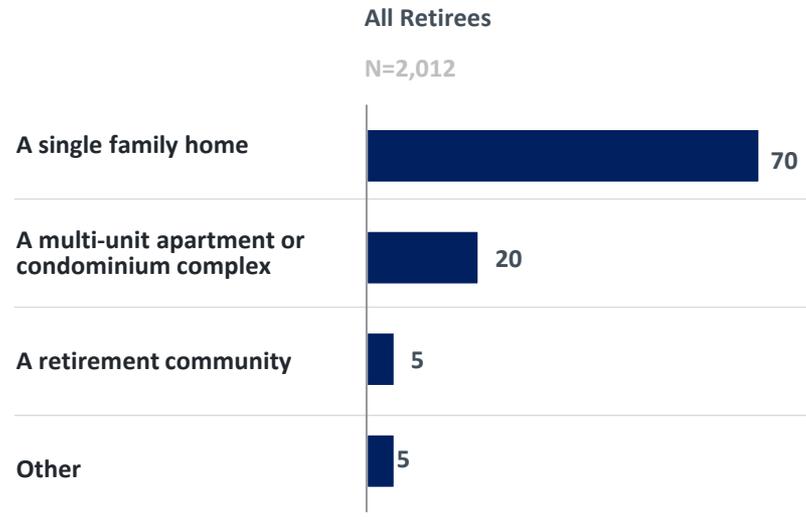
BASE: MOVED TO A NEW HOME

Q2708. What were your reasons for moving? Please select all that apply?

# Type of Home for Retirement

The majority of retirees (70 percent) live in a single family home during retirement and one in five (20 percent) live in a multi-unit apartment or condo. Only five percent live in a retirement community.

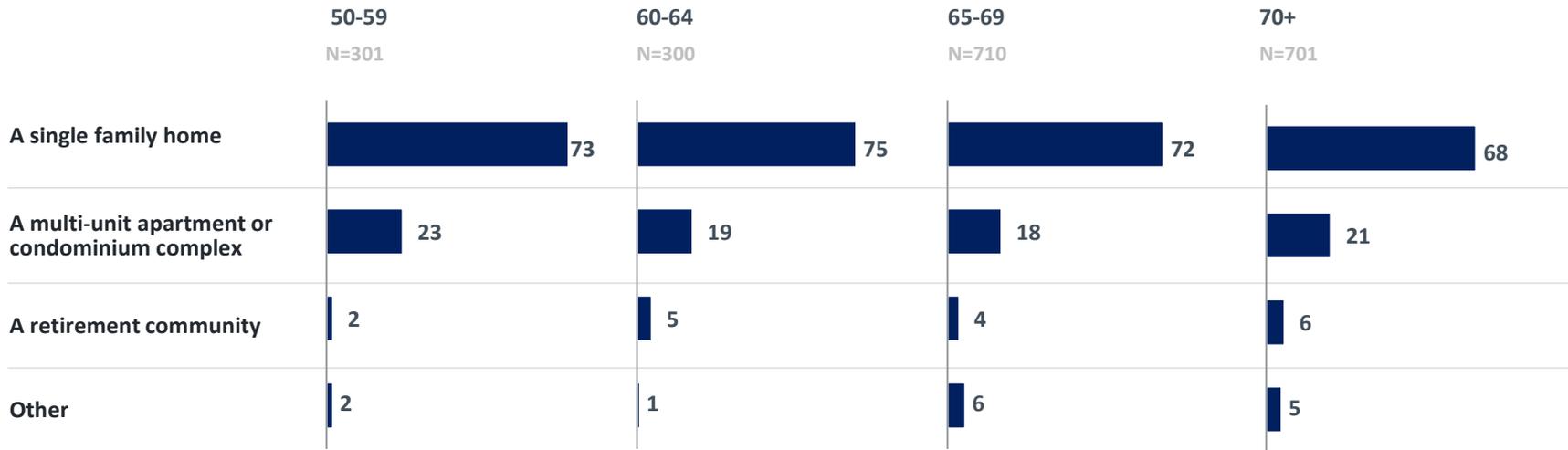
**Type of Home Living in During Retirement (%)**



# Type of Home for Retirement

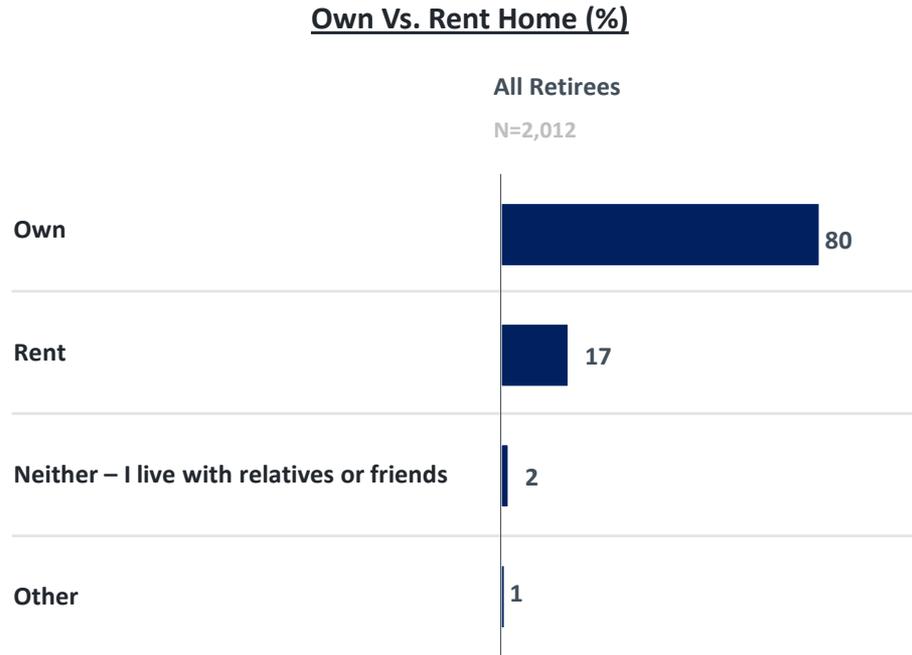
Approximately seven in 10 retirees live in a single family home, a finding that is consistent across age ranges. Approximately one in five live in a multi-unit apartment or condominium complex. Few retirees live in a retirement community. Age 70+ retirees (6 percent) are most likely to live in a retirement community and retirees in their fifties (2 percent) are least likely.

**Type of Home Living in During Retirement (%)**  
By Age Range



# Owning vs. Renting Home

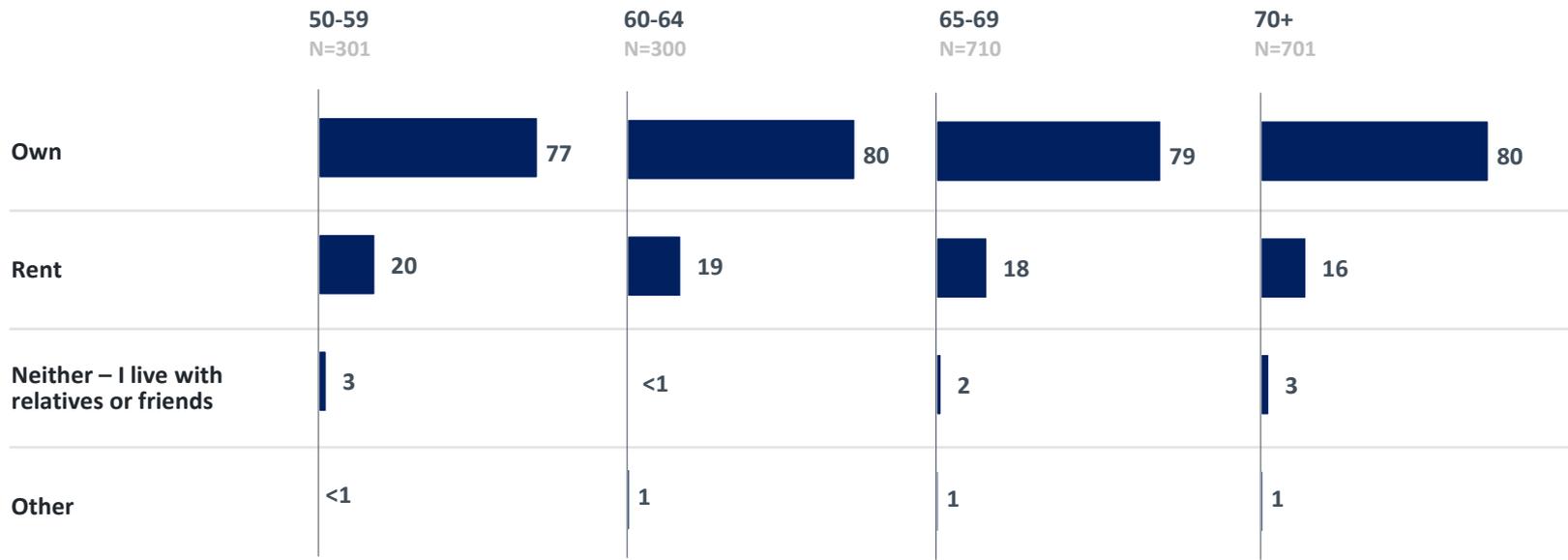
A large majority (80 percent) of retirees own their current home. Seventeen percent rent their home and two percent live with relatives or friends.



# Owning vs. Renting Home

Approximately eight in 10 retirees own their own home, a finding that is consistent across retirees' age ranges. Age 70+ retirees (16 percent) are slightly less likely to rent than younger retirees.

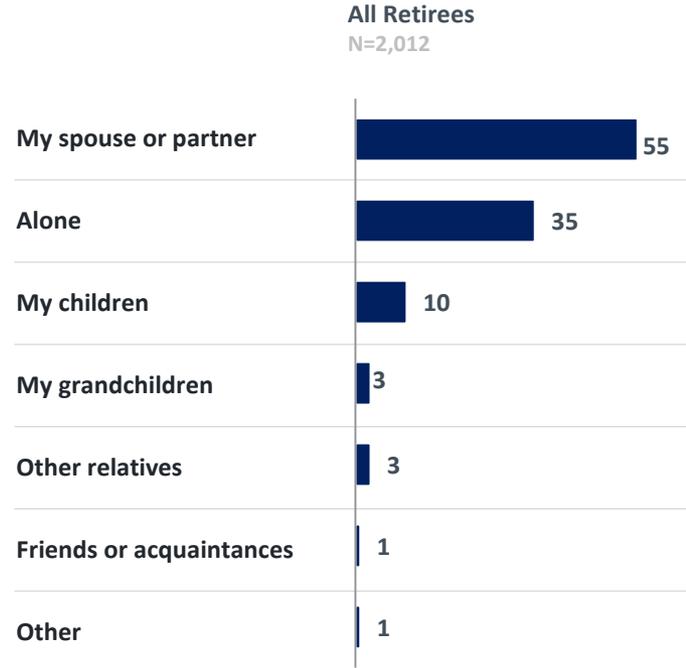
**Own Vs. Rent Home (%)**  
By Age Range



# Household Composition

Fifty-five percent of retirees live with their spouse/partner in retirement. Thirty-five percent live alone. Ten percent live in the same household with their children and three percent with their grandchildren.

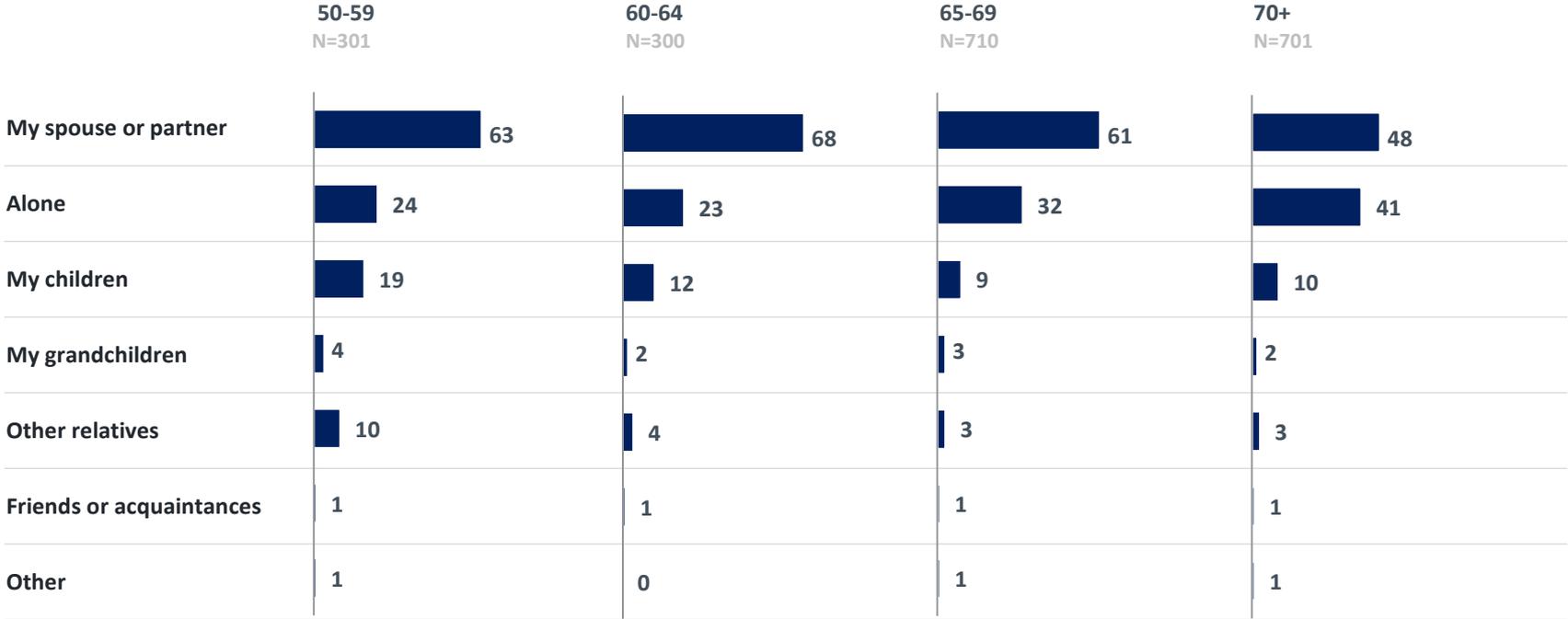
## Who do you currently live with in your household? (%)



# Household Composition

Retirees' living arrangements vary across age ranges. More than 60 percent of retirees under age 70 live with a spouse/partner compared to only 48 percent of age 70+ retirees. When comparing findings across age ranges, age 70+ retirees are more likely to live alone (41 percent) and retirees in their fifties are more likely to live in the same household with their children (19 percent) and/or other relatives (10 percent).

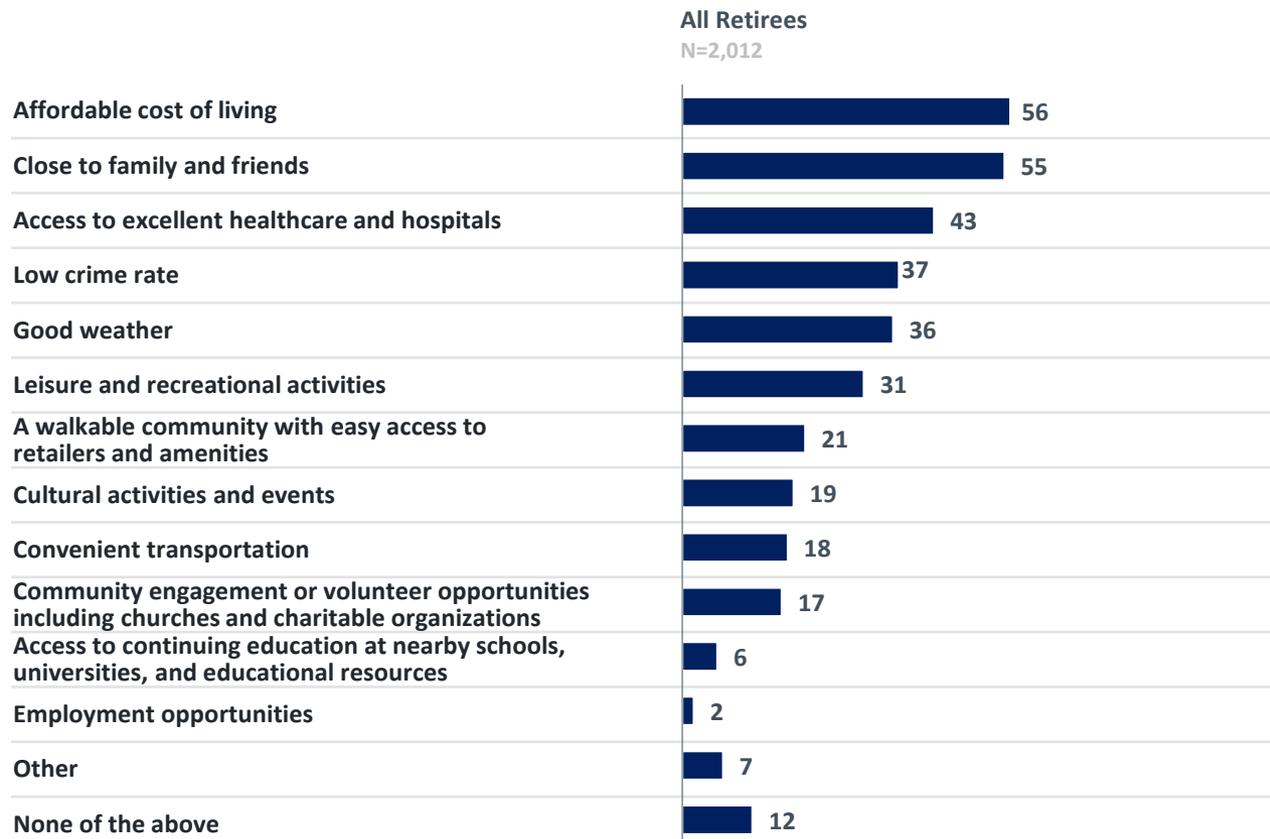
**Who do you currently live with in your household? (%)**  
By Age Range



# Choosing Where to Live in Retirement

When choosing where to live in retirement, more than half of retirees identified an affordable cost of living (56 percent) and proximity to family and friends (55 percent) as important criteria. Forty-three percent cited access to excellent healthcare and hospitals.

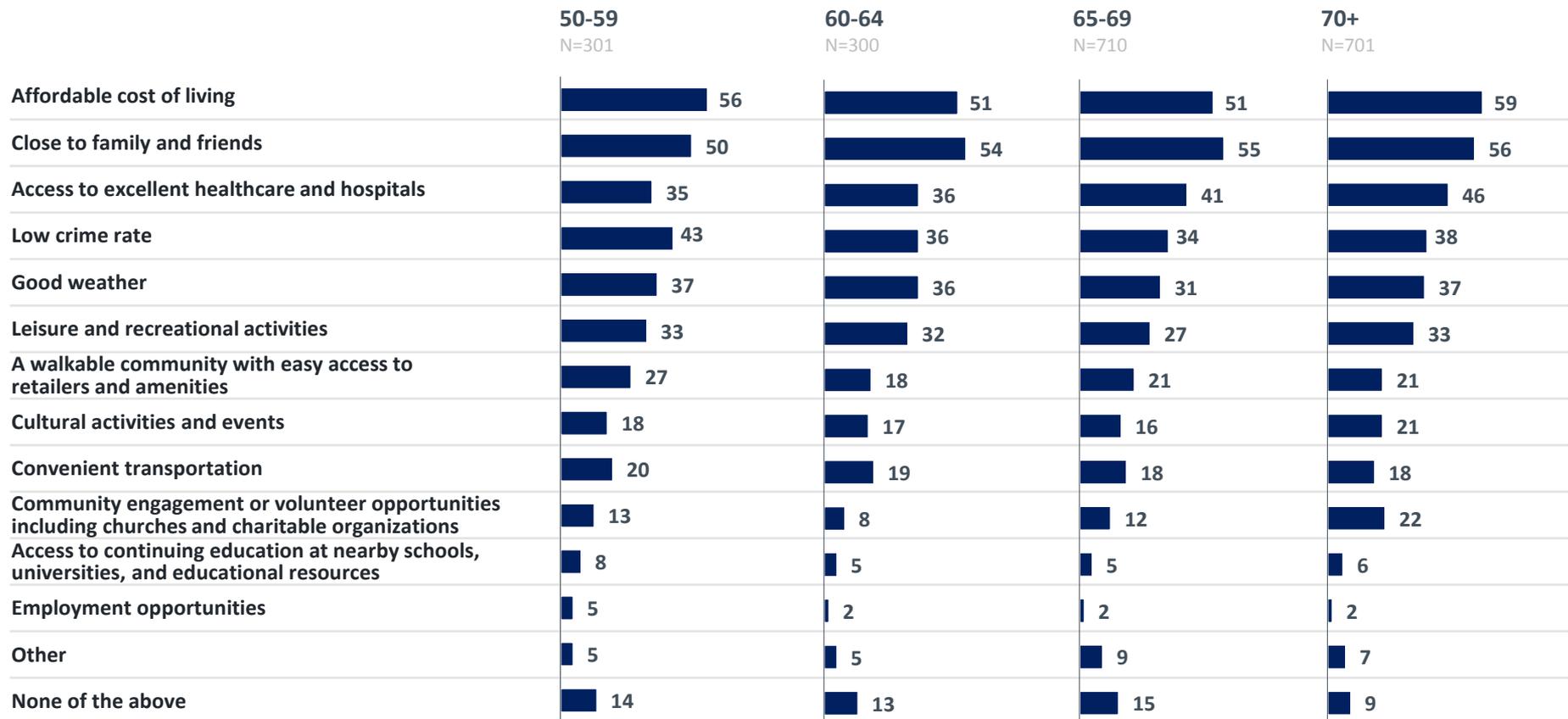
**Criteria for Where to Live During Retirement (%)**



# Choosing Where to Live in Retirement

Across the age ranges, more than half of retirees cite affordable cost of living and proximity to family and friends as important criteria when choosing where to live in retirement. Age 70+ retirees (46 percent) are more likely to cite access to excellent healthcare and hospitals when compared to younger retirees.

**Criteria for Where to Live During Retirement (%)**  
By Age Range



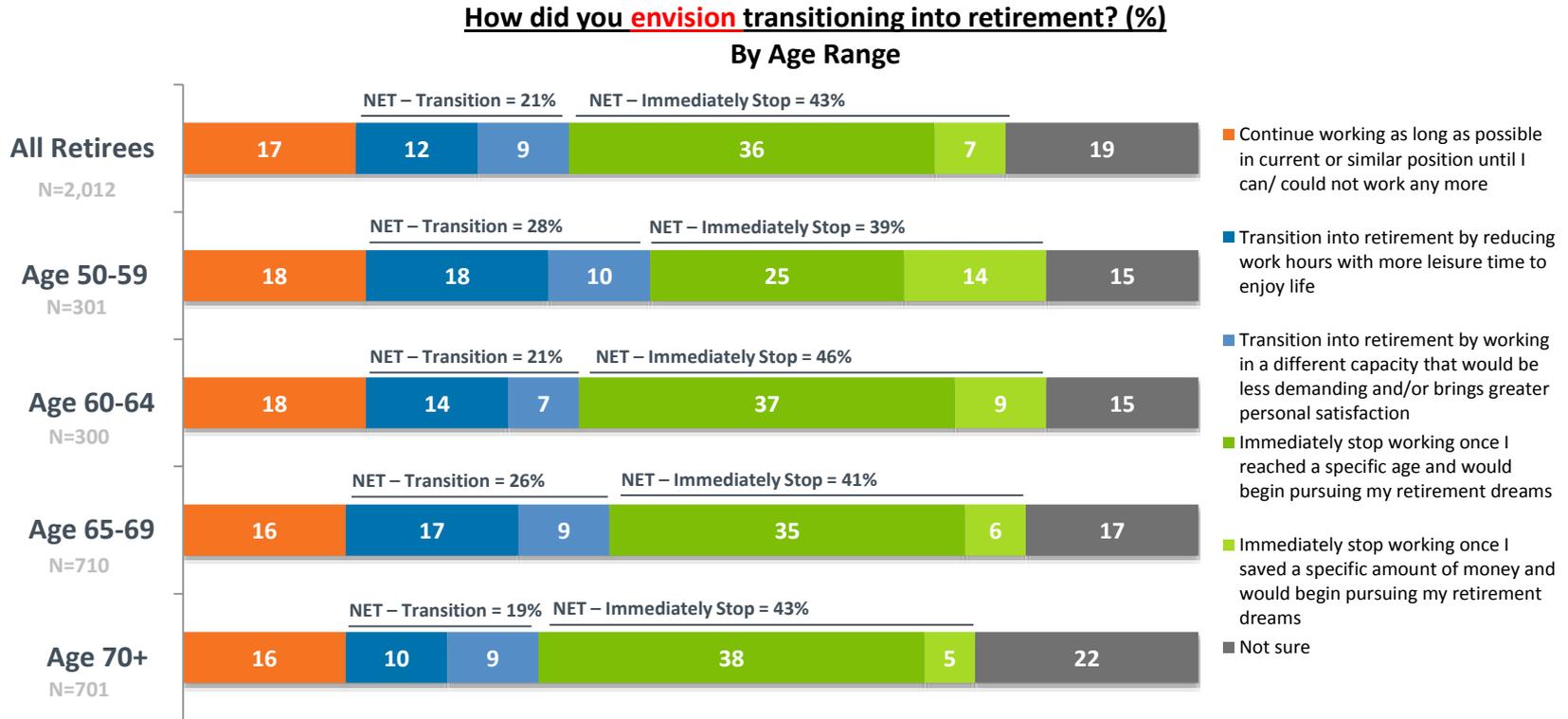
# How Retirement Happened

*Detailed Findings*

# How Retirees Envisioned Their Transition into Retirement

Before entering retirement, 43 percent of retirees planned to immediately stop working once they reached a specific age or amount of money, while 17 percent planned to continue working as long as possible until they couldn't work any more. Nearly one in five (21 percent) planned to transition into retirement by reducing work hours or working in a different capacity.

How retirees envisioned their transition into retirement varies by age range, representing a shifting retirement landscape. Retirees under age 70 are more likely to have envisioned a phased transition compared to retirees in their seventies.



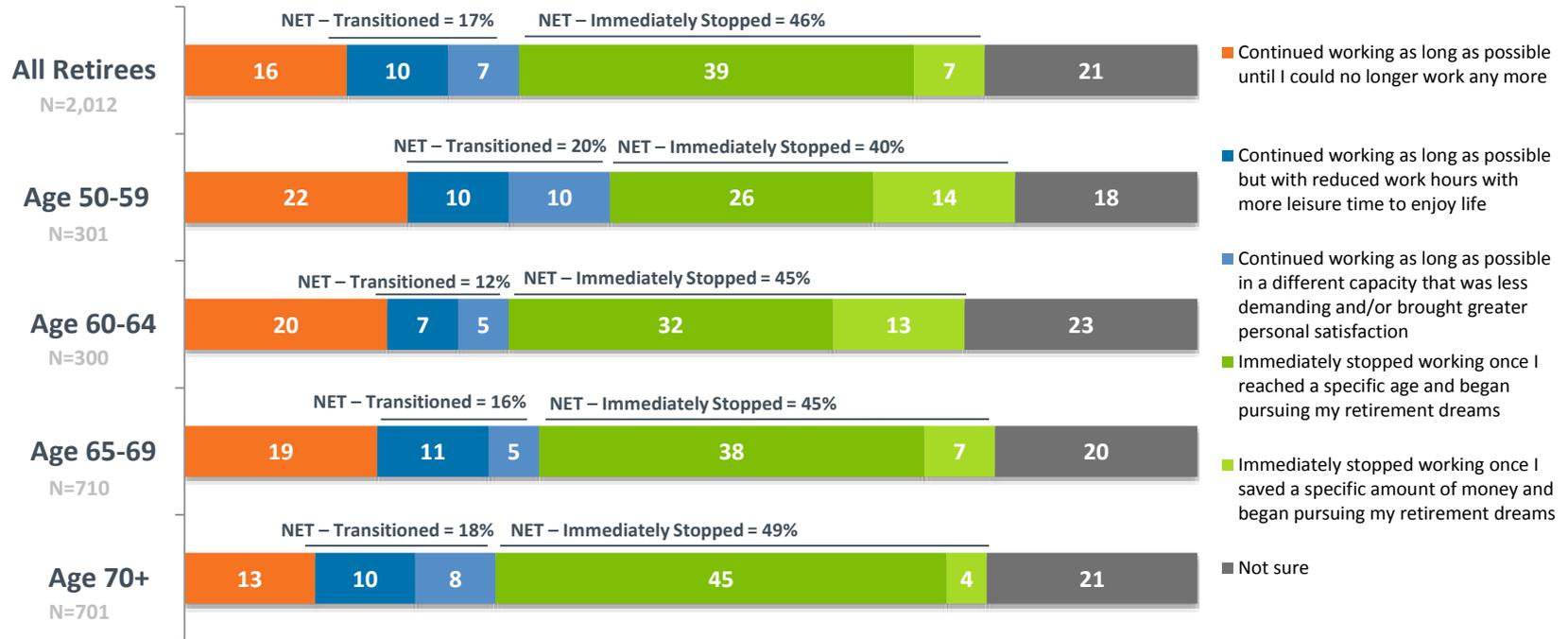
# How Retirees Transition Into Retirement Actually Took Place

When asked how their retirement actually happened, 46 percent of retirees say they immediately stopped working once they reached a specific age or amount of money, while 17 percent transitioned into retirement by reducing work hours or working in a different capacity. Sixteen percent say that they worked as long as possible until they couldn't work any more.

Retirees age 70+ are more likely to have immediately stopped working (49 percent), and retirees in their fifties are more likely than others to have continued working as long as possible until they couldn't work any more (22 percent).

## How did your transition into retirement **actually** take place? (%)

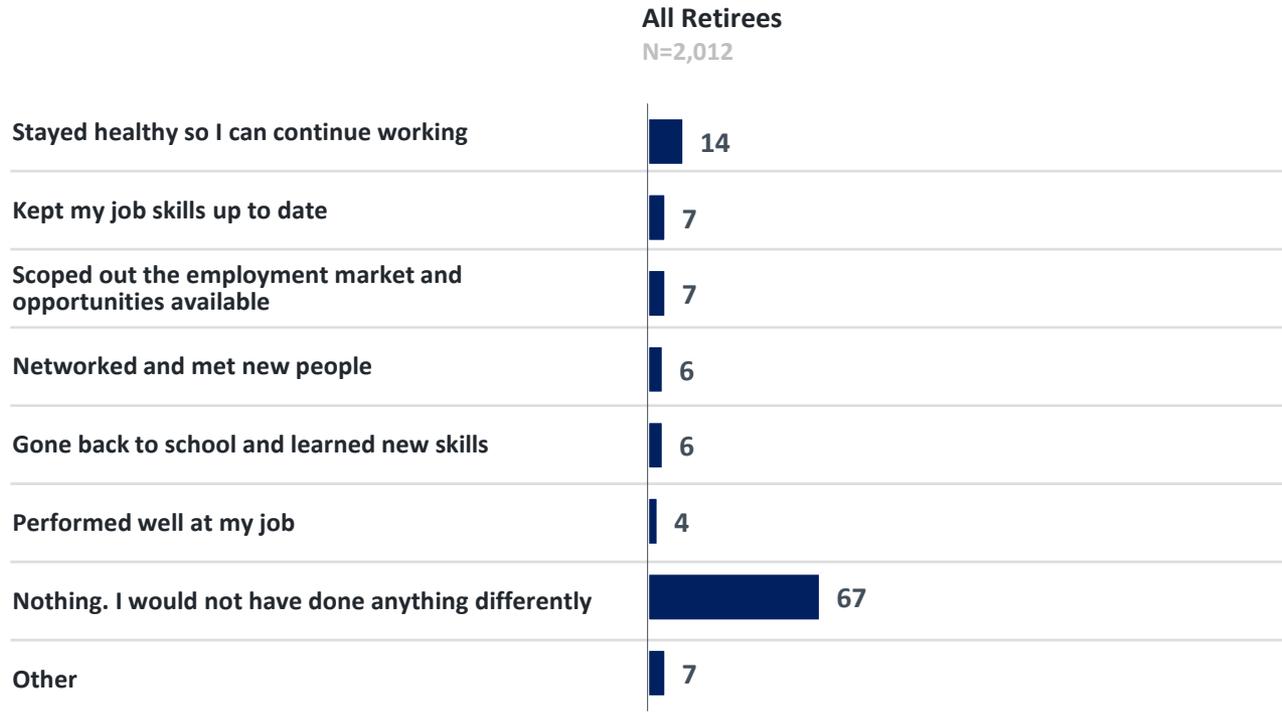
### By Age Range



# Proactive Steps to Continue Working as Long as Planned

More than two-thirds (67 percent) of retirees say they would not have done anything differently in order to continue working as long as planned.

## Steps to Continue to Work After Retirement (%)

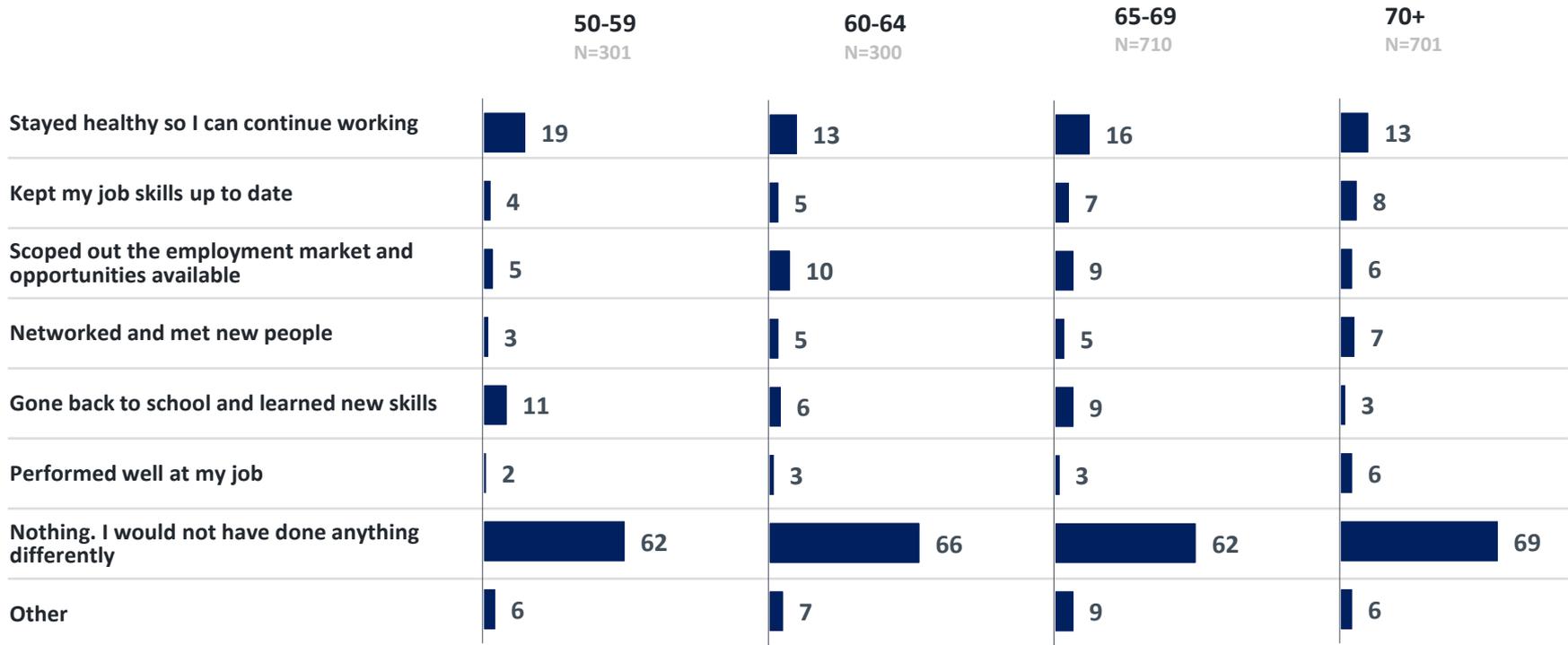


# Proactive Steps to Continue Working as Long as Planned

Regardless of age, a majority of retirees would not have done anything differently in order to continue working as long as they had planned. However, more retirees in their fifties and age 65 to 69 say that they would have done more to stay healthy so they could continue working and/or that they would have gone back to school and learned more skills.

## Steps to Continue to Work After Retirement (%)

### By Age Range



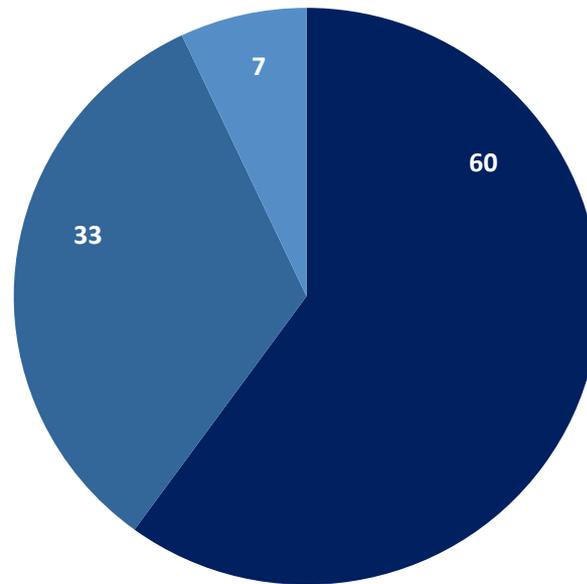
# When Retirement Happened

A majority of retirees (60 percent) retired sooner than they had planned while one-third (33 percent) retired as planned. Only seven percent retired later than they had planned.

Did you retire when you had planned? (%)

All Retirees

N=2,012



■ I retired sooner than planned

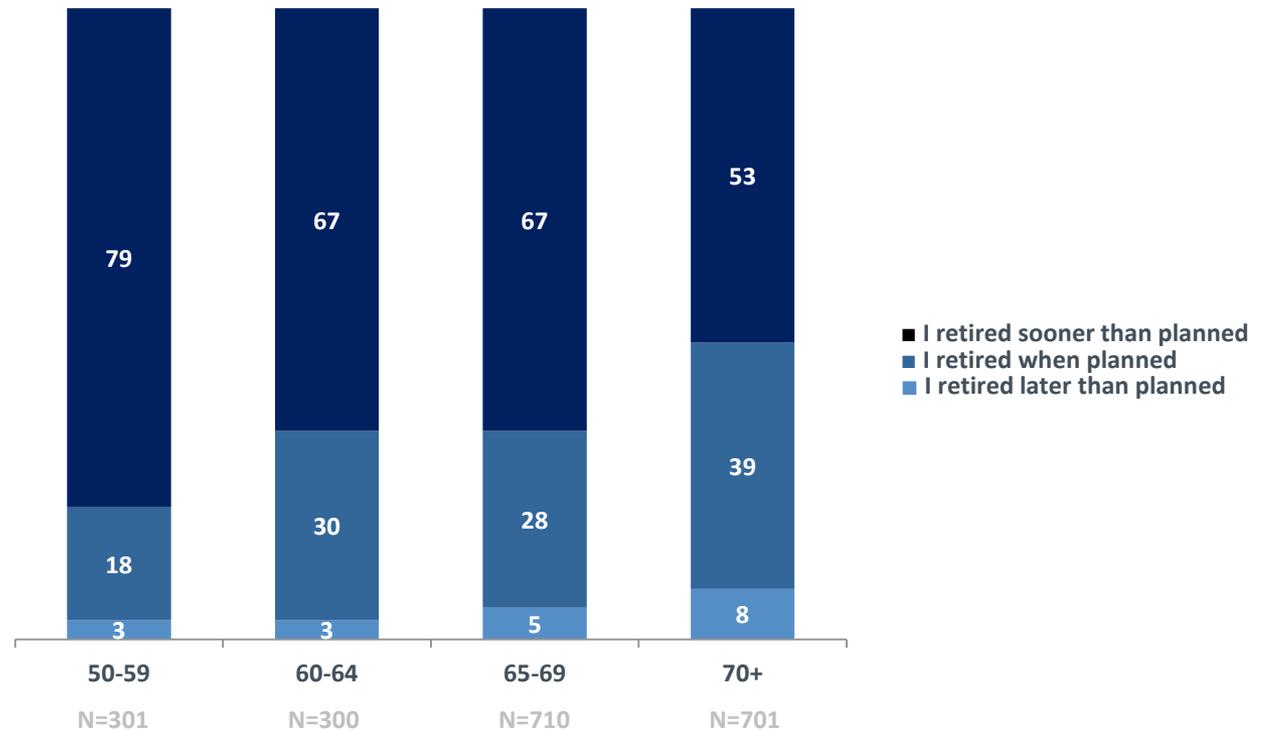
■ I retired when planned

■ I retired later than planned

# When Retirement Happened

The timing of when retirees entered retirement varies across age ranges. Retirees in their fifties (79 percent) are far more likely to have retired sooner than planned, while age 70+ retirees (53 percent) are least likely. Two-thirds (67 percent) of retirees in their sixties retired sooner than planned. Age 70+ retirees (39 percent) are most likely to have retired when they had planned. Across age ranges, fewer than 10 percent retired later than planned.

**Did You Retire When You Had Planned? (%)**  
By Age Range



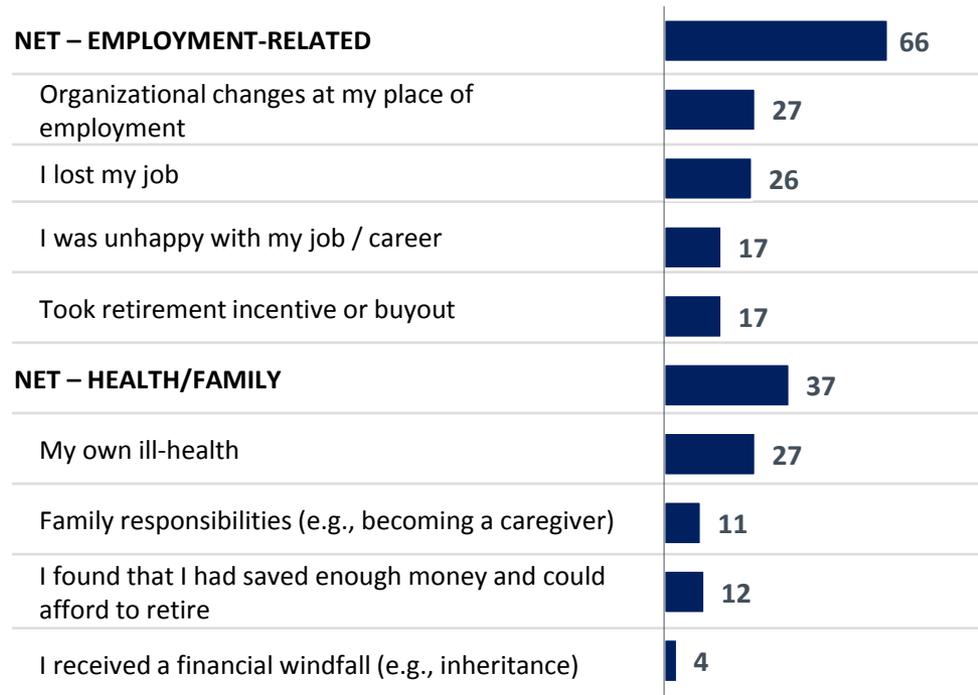
# Reasons for Retiring Sooner Than Planned

Among retirees who retired sooner than planned, two-thirds (66 percent) cite employment-related reasons for having done so. These reasons include organizational changes, loss of job, and unhappiness with job/career.

## Reasons Behind Retiring Sooner Than Planned (%)

### All Retirees Who Retired Sooner Than Planned

N=1301



\*Responses  $\geq$  3% shown based on All Retirees responses.

BASE: RETIRED SOONER THAN PLANNED

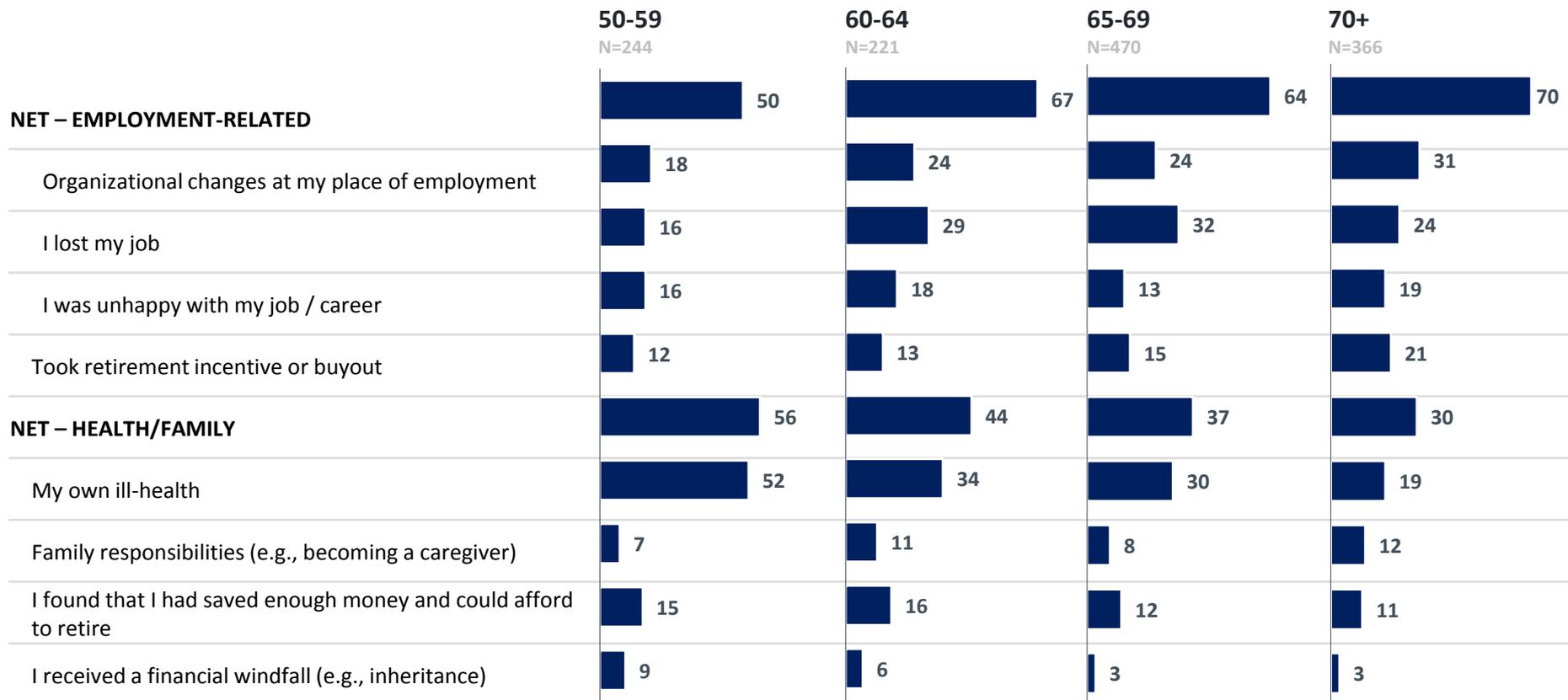
Q1548. What were your reasons for retiring sooner than planned? Please select all that apply.

# Reasons for Retiring Sooner Than Planned

Among retirees who retired sooner than planned, their reasons vary by age range. Age 70+ retirees (70 percent) were most likely to retire due to employment-related reasons, while those in their fifties were least likely (50 percent). Retirees in their fifties (52 percent) were most likely to retire sooner than planned due to their own ill-health compared to older retirees.

**Reasons Behind Retiring Sooner than Planned (%)**

By Age Range



\*Responses  $\geq$  3% shown based on All Retirees responses.

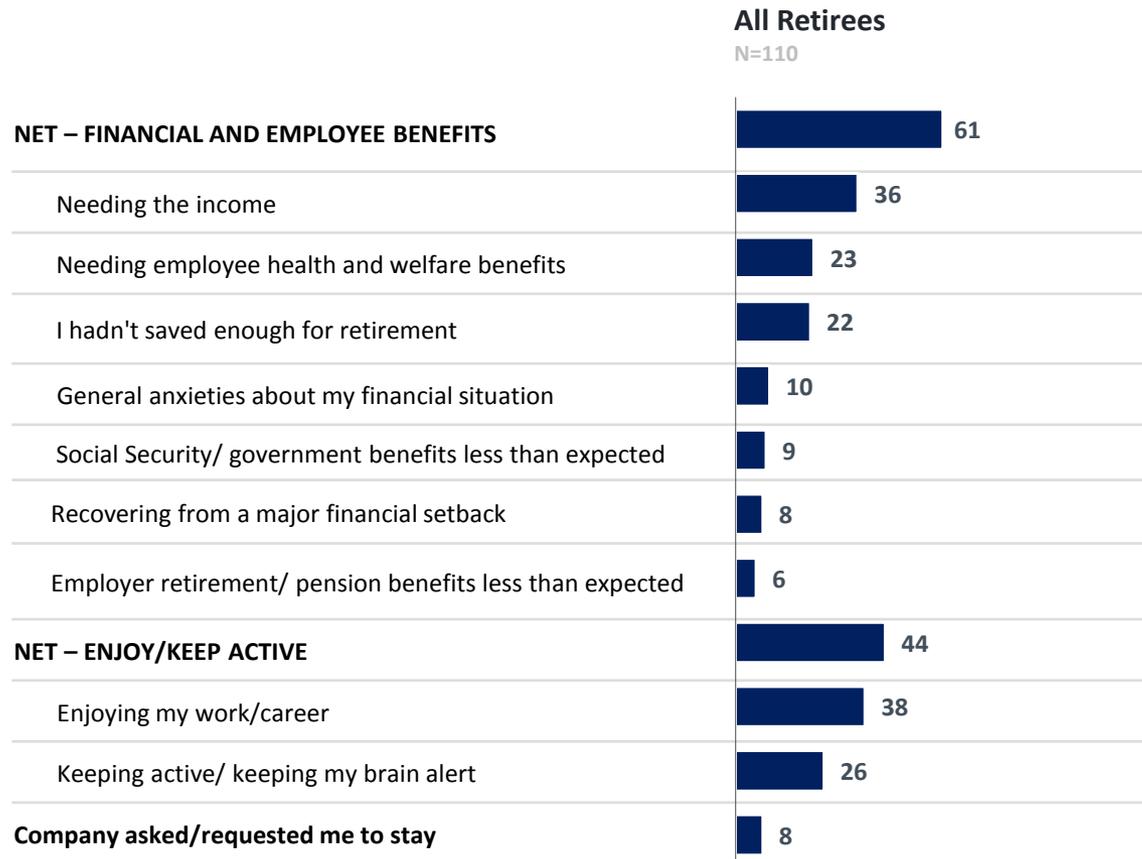
BASE: RETIRED SOONER THAN PLANNED

Q1548. What were your reasons for retiring sooner than planned? Please select all that apply.

# Reasons for Retiring Later Than Planned

Among retirees who retired later than planned, 61 percent cite financial and employee benefit-related reasons. Forty-four percent cite reasons related to enjoying their work and wanting to keep active. Eight percent say that their company asked them to stay.

**Reasons For Retiring Later than Planned (%)**



\*Responses  $\geq 5\%$  shown based on All Retirees responses. Note: Base is too small to break out by age range.

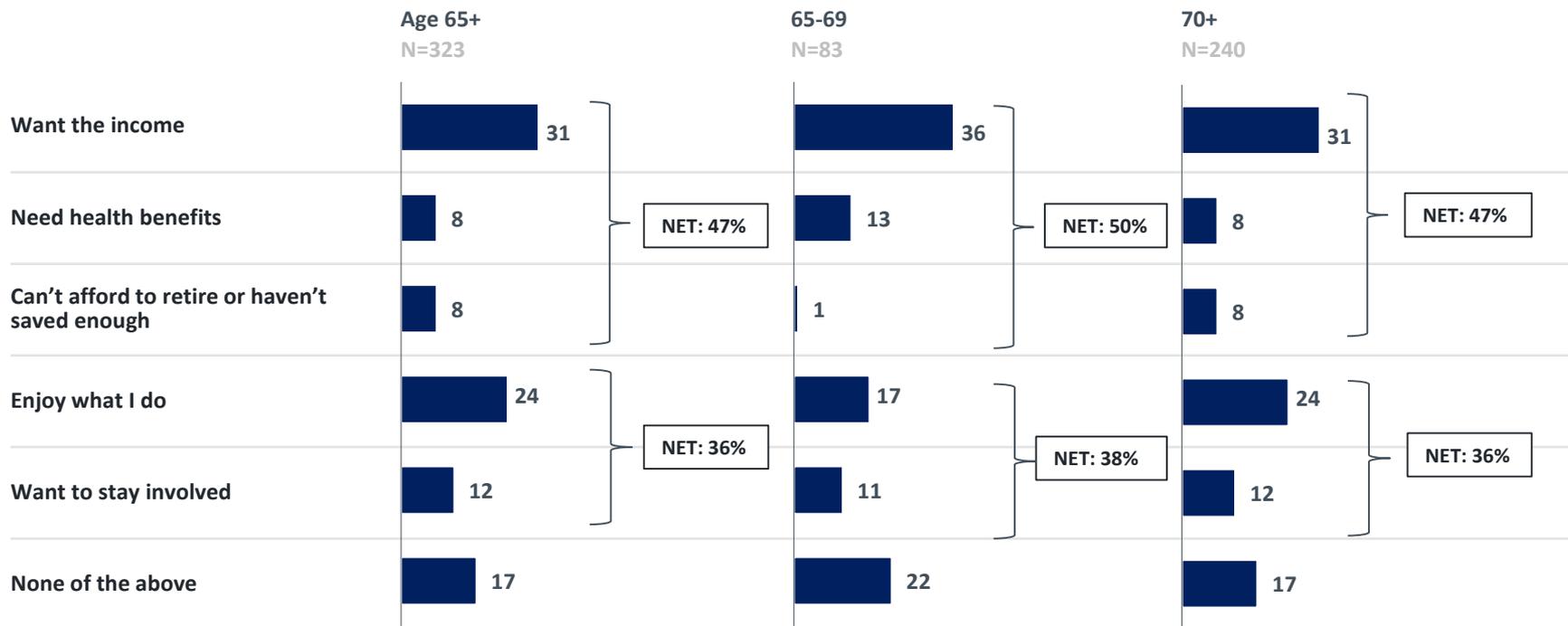
BASE: RETIRED LATER THAN PLANNED

Q1550. What were your reasons for retiring later than planned? Please select all that apply.

# Working Into Retirement

Among retirees who are age 65 and older and who either retired after age 65 or plan to fully retire after age 65, almost half (47 percent) say that their main reason to continue working was because they wanted or needed the income or health benefits. Thirty-six percent cite reasons of enjoyment or a desire to stay involved.

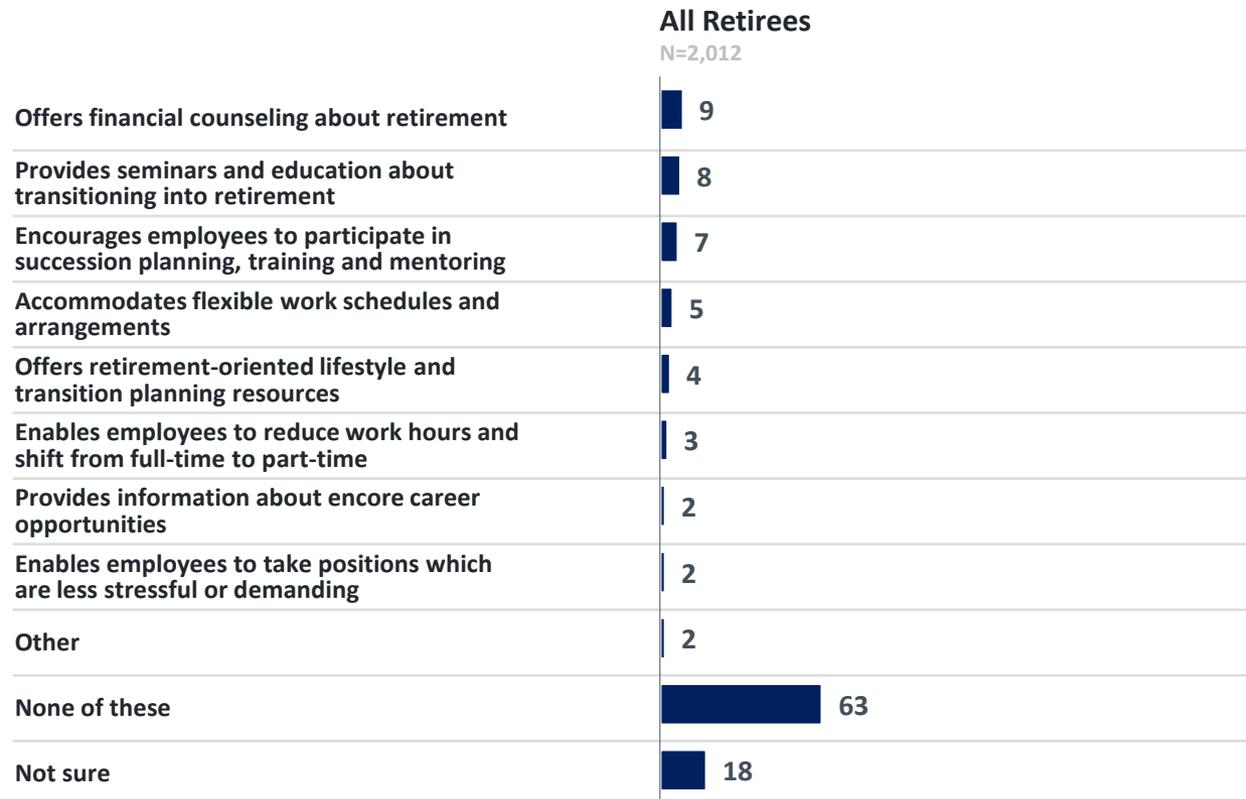
**Main Reason for Working Past Age 65 (%)**  
By Age Range



# How Employers Helped Retirees Transition to Retirement

Retirees say that their most recent employers did little or nothing to help pre-retirees transition into retirement. Fewer than 10 percent of retirees say that their employer offered financial advice or seminars, encouraged participation in succession planning/training/mentoring, or accommodated flexible work arrangements. Sixty-three percent of retirees say that their employer did not help in any of the ways listed.

## How Employers Help Pre-Retirees Transition into Retirement (%)



# How Employers Helped Retirees Transition to Retirement

Retirees say that their most recent employers did little or nothing to help pre-retirees transition into retirement, a finding that is directionally consistent across age ranges. Fewer than 15 percent of retirees say that their employer offered financial advice or seminars, encouraged participation in succession planning/training/mentoring, or accommodated flexible work arrangements. Across age ranges 60 percent or more say that their employer did not help in any of the ways listed.

**How Employers Help Pre-Retirees Transition into Retirement (%)**

	By Age Range			
	50-59 N=301	60-64 N=300	65-69 N=710	70+ N=701
Offers financial counseling about retirement	6	13	9	8
Provides seminars and education about transitioning into retirement	6	11	9	7
Encourages employees to participate in succession planning, training and mentoring	5	7	6	7
Accommodates flexible work schedules and arrangements	8	4	7	5
Offers retirement-oriented lifestyle and transition planning resources	3	6	5	4
Enables employees to reduce work hours and shift from full-time to part-time	5	2	6	2
Provides information about encore career opportunities	2	3	3	1
Enables employees to take positions which are less stressful or demanding	2	1	3	1
Other	2	1	1	2
None of these	63	62	60	64
Not sure	19	17	16	18

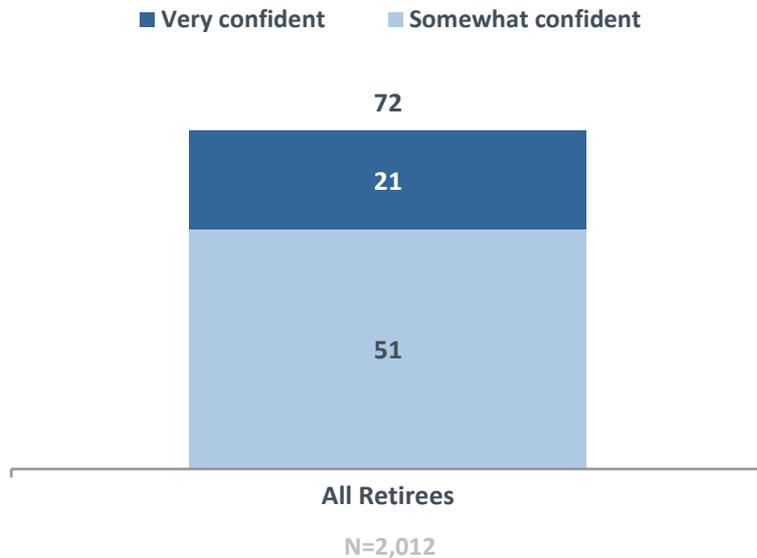
# Personal Finances in Retirement

*Detailed Findings*

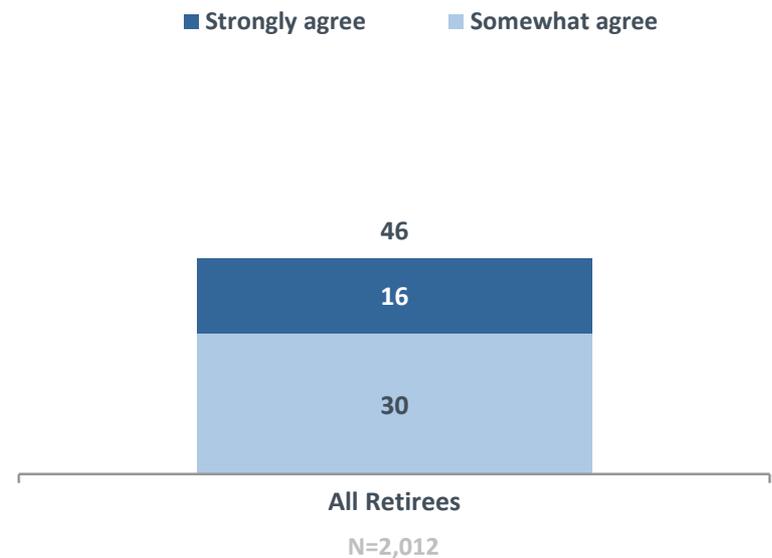
# Retirees' Confidence About Lifestyle Exceeds Nest Eggs

Seventy-two percent of retirees are “somewhat” or “very” confident that they will be able to maintain a comfortable lifestyle during retirement. However, fewer than half (46 percent) agree that they have built a large enough retirement nest egg – and only 16 percent “strongly” agree.

**Confidence in Maintaining Lifestyle**  
**Top 2 Box % (Very/Somewhat Confident)**



**Built Large Enough Nest Egg**  
**Top 2 Box % (Strongly/Somewhat Agree)**



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q880. How confident are you that you will be able maintain a lifestyle you consider comfortable throughout your retirement?

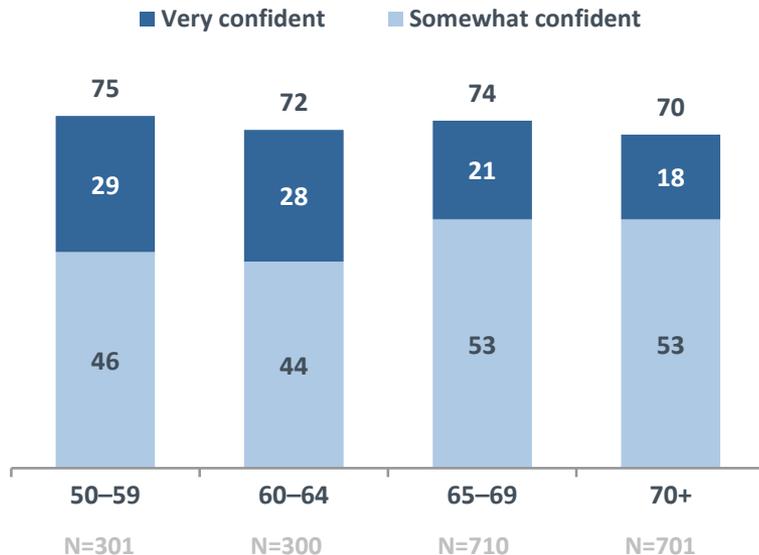
Q800. How much do you agree or disagree that you built a large enough retirement nest egg?

# Retirees' Confidence About Lifestyle Exceeds Nest Eggs

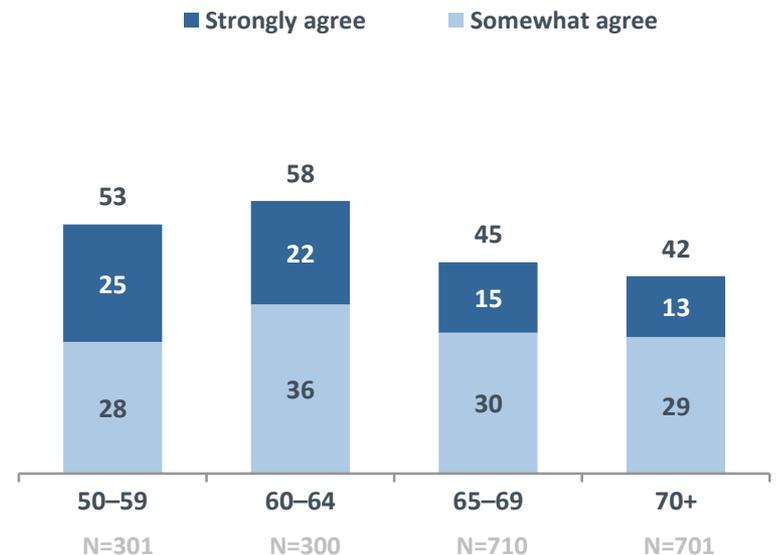
Retirement confidence among retirees varies somewhat by age range. Slightly more retirees in their fifties (75 percent) are “very” or “somewhat” confident in their ability to maintain a comfortable lifestyle throughout their retirement, while fewer age 70+ retirees (70 percent) are confident.

While many retirees are confident, far fewer agree that they built a large enough retirement nest egg. Age 60 to 64 retirees are most likely to “strongly” or “somewhat” agree that they built a large enough nest egg and retirees age 70+ (42 percent) are least likely to agree. Retirees in their fifties (25 percent) are most likely to “strongly” agree and those age 70+ are least likely (13 percent).

**Confidence in Maintaining Lifestyle**  
**Top 2 Box % (Very/Somewhat Confident)**  
 By Age Range



**Built Large Enough Nest Egg?**  
**Top 2 Box % (Strongly/Somewhat Agree)**  
 By Age Range



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

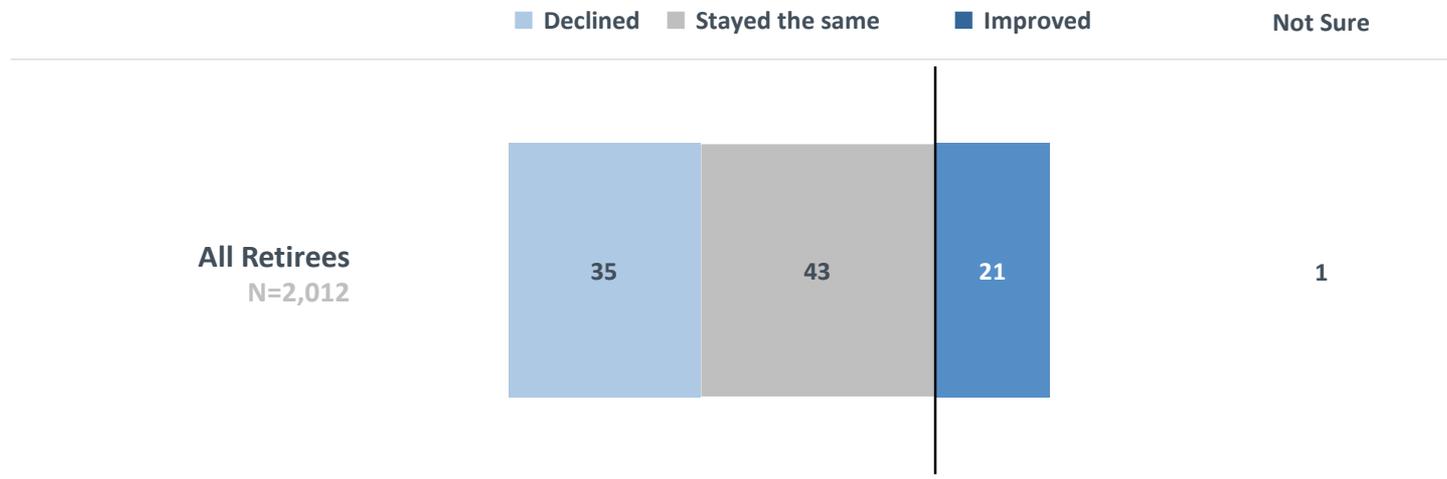
Q880. How confident are you that you will be able maintain a lifestyle you consider comfortable throughout your retirement?

Q800. How much do you agree or disagree that you built a large enough retirement nest egg?

# Personal Financial Situation Since Entering Retirement

Thirty-five percent of retirees indicate that their personal financial situation has declined since entering retirement. Forty-three percent say it has stayed the same. Only 21 percent of retirees say that their personal financial situation has improved.

## Personal Financial Situation Since Entering Retirement (%)



All Retirees  
N=2,012

■ Declined ■ Stayed the same ■ Improved ■ Not Sure

35

43

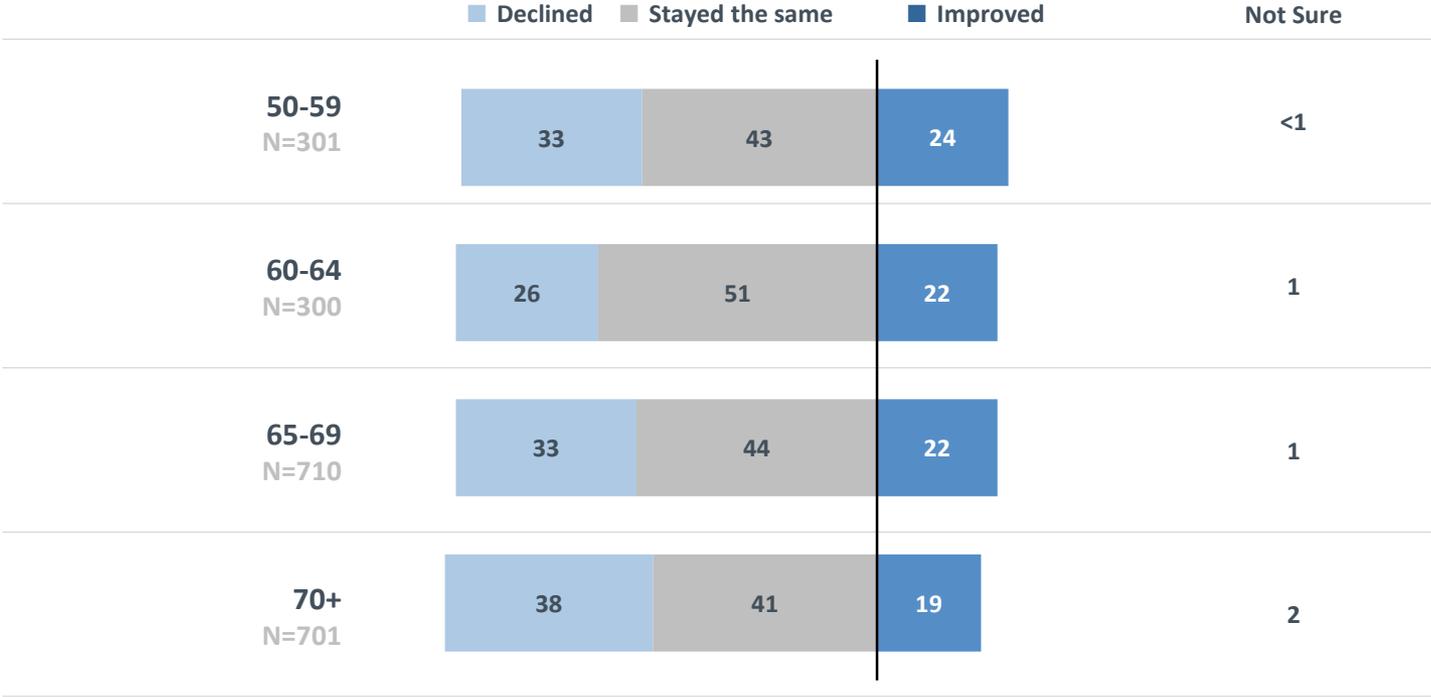
21

1

# Personal Financial Situation Since Entering Retirement

Across age ranges, retirees most frequently indicate that their personal financial situation has stayed the same since they entered retirement. Age 70+ retirees (38 percent) are most likely to say that their personal financial situation has declined since retiring, while retirees in their fifties (24 percent) are most likely to say their situation has improved.

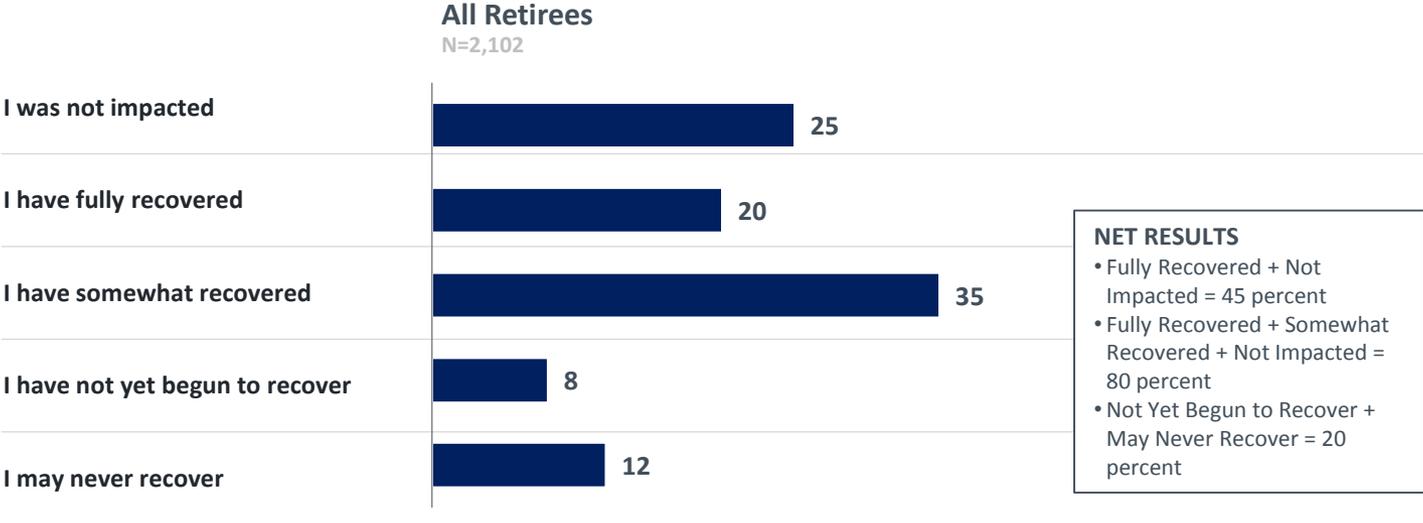
**Personal Financial Situation Since Entering Retirement (%)**  
By Age Range



# Retirees' Financial Recovery From the Great Recession

Many retirees (45 percent) have either fully financially recovered or were not impacted by the deep recession that is commonly referred to as the Great Recession. Twenty percent have not yet begun to recover or feel that they may never financially recover.

**Retirees' Financial Recovery From the Great Recession (%)**



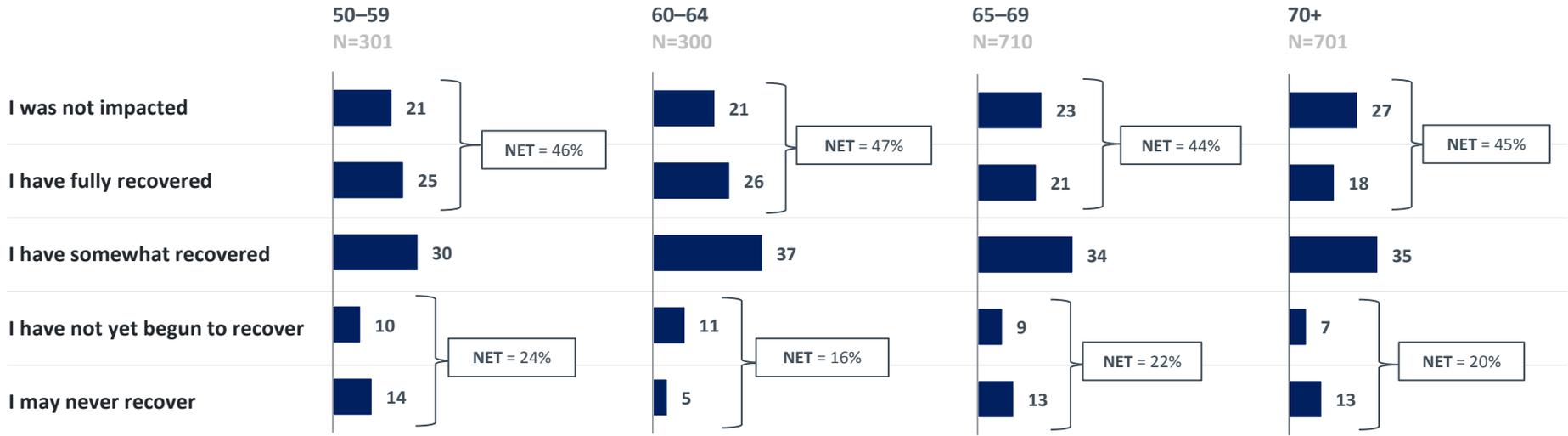
BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q2655. How would you describe your financial recovery from the Great Recession?

# Retirees' Financial Recovery From the Great Recession

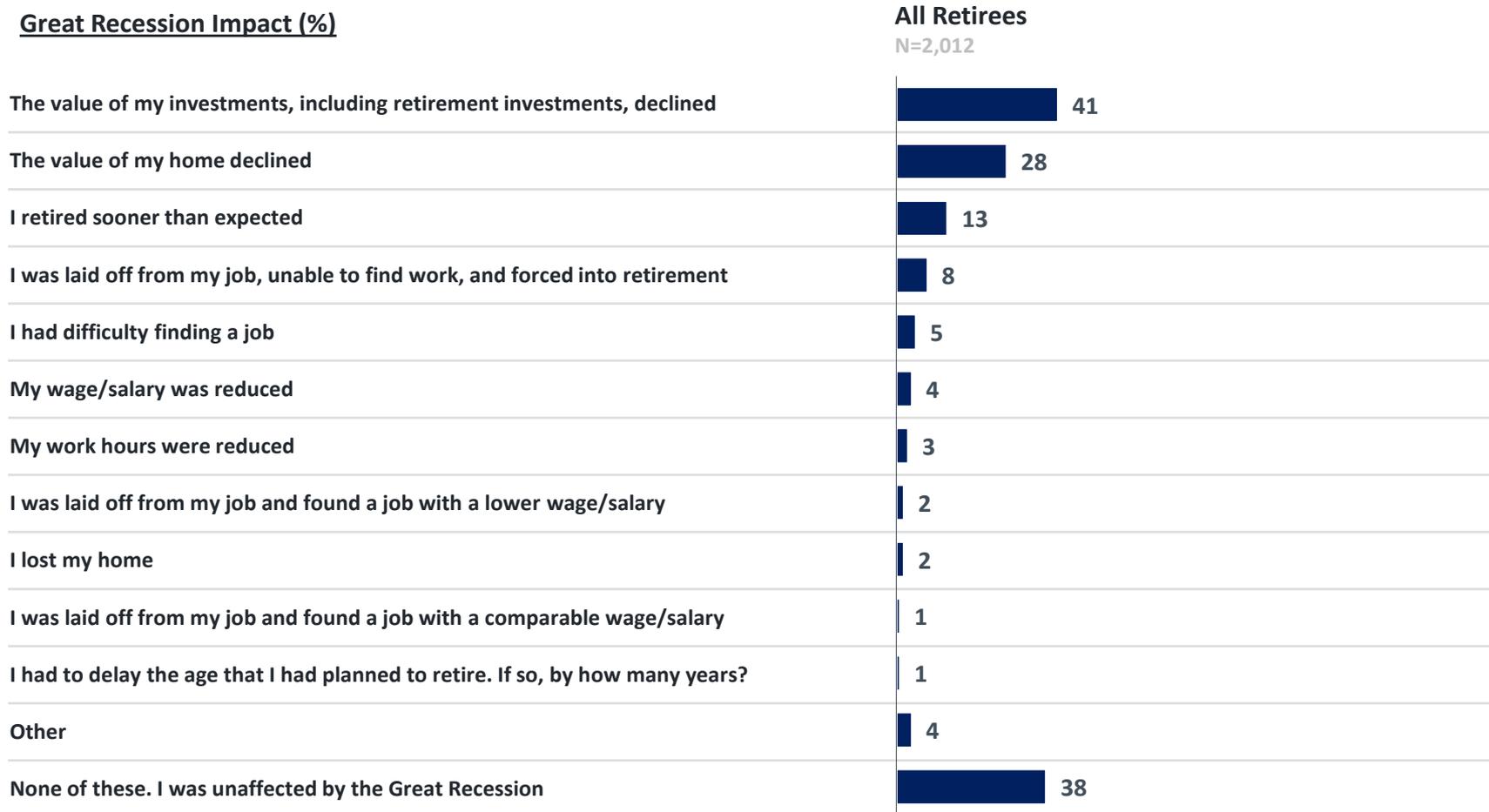
Many retirees across age ranges (45 percent +/-) have either fully financially recovered or were not impacted by the Great Recession. Retirees in their fifties (24 percent) have the largest proportion who say that they have either not yet begun to recover or may never recover while age 60 to 64 retirees have the fewest who say this (16 percent).

**Retirees' Financial Recovery From the Great Recession (%)**  
By Age Range



# How Retirees Were Affected by the Great Recession

When asked how they were personally affected by the Great Recession, retirees most frequently indicate that they experienced a decline in the value of their investments (41 percent) followed by declines in home values (28 percent) and/or retired sooner than expected (13 percent).



# How Retirees Were Affected by the Great Recession

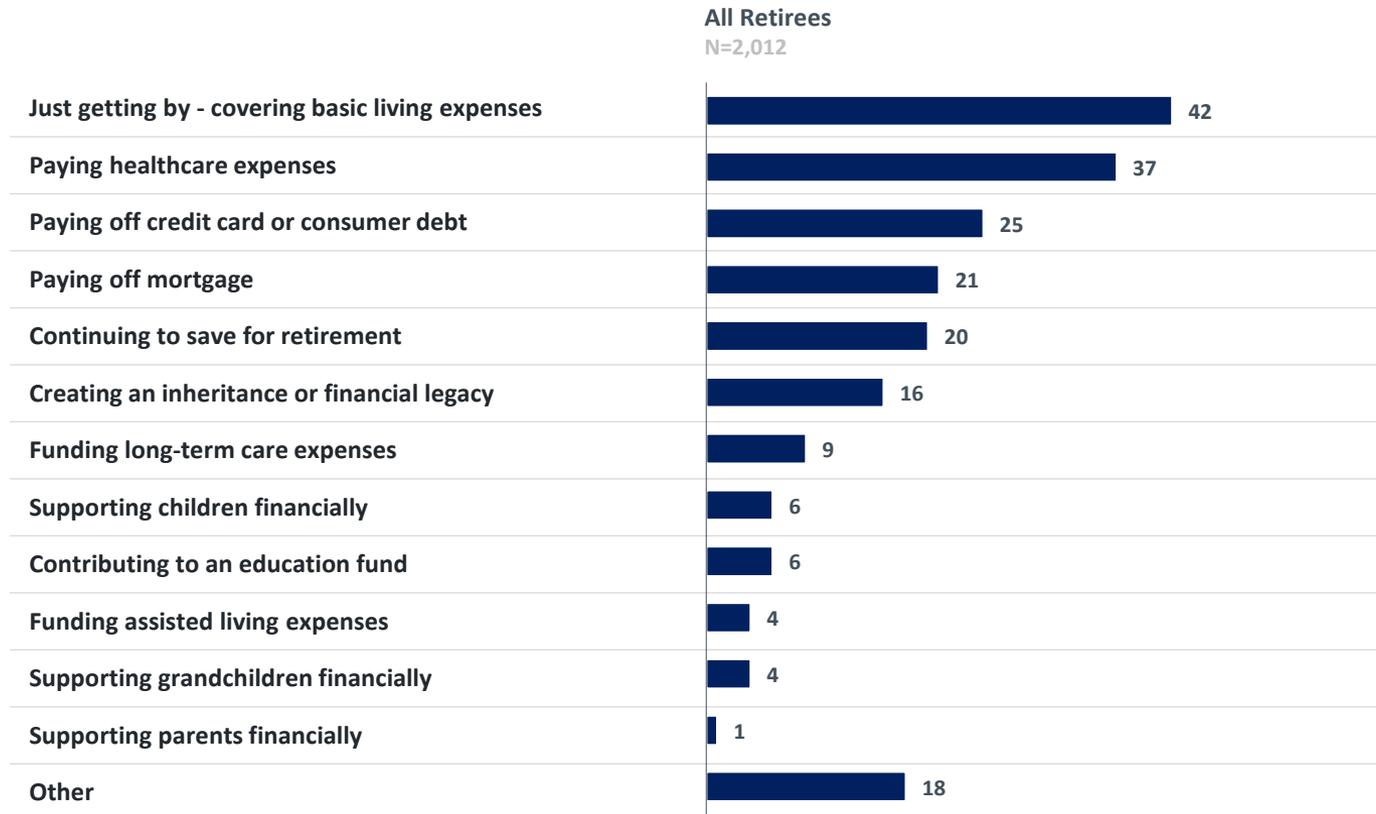
When asked how they were personally affected by the Great Recession, retirees across age ranges most frequently indicate that they experienced a decline in the value of their investments, followed by declines in home values and/or retired sooner than expected. Retirees in their fifties (19 percent), age 60 to 64 (18 percent), and age 65 to 69 (21 percent) are more likely to say they retired sooner than expected as a result of the recession when compared to those age 70+ (8 percent).

<u>Great Recession Impact (%)</u> By Age Range	50-59 N=301	60-64 N=300	65-69 N=710	70+ N=701
The value of my investments, including retirement investments, declined	33	44	37	42
The value of my home declined	26	28	29	27
I retired sooner than expected	19	18	21	8
I was laid off from my job, unable to find work, and forced into retirement	8	11	14	5
I had difficulty finding a job	9	12	7	2
My wage/salary was reduced	5	6	6	3
My work hours were reduced	5	5	6	1
I was laid off from my job and found a job with a lower wage/salary	2	3	4	2
I lost my home	2	2	3	1
I was laid off from my job and found a job with a comparable wage/salary	1	1	1	<1
I had to delay the age that I had planned to retire. If so, by how many years?	2	1	2	1
Other	6	3	5	3
None of these. I was unaffected by the Great Recession	33	36	32	41

# Retirees' Financial Priorities

Retirees most frequently cite just getting by – covering basic living expenses (42 percent) as a financial priority. Other frequently cited priorities include paying healthcare expenses (37 percent), paying of their mortgage (21 percent) and continuing to save for retirement (20 percent). An alarming 25 percent cite paying of credit card or consumer debt as a priority.

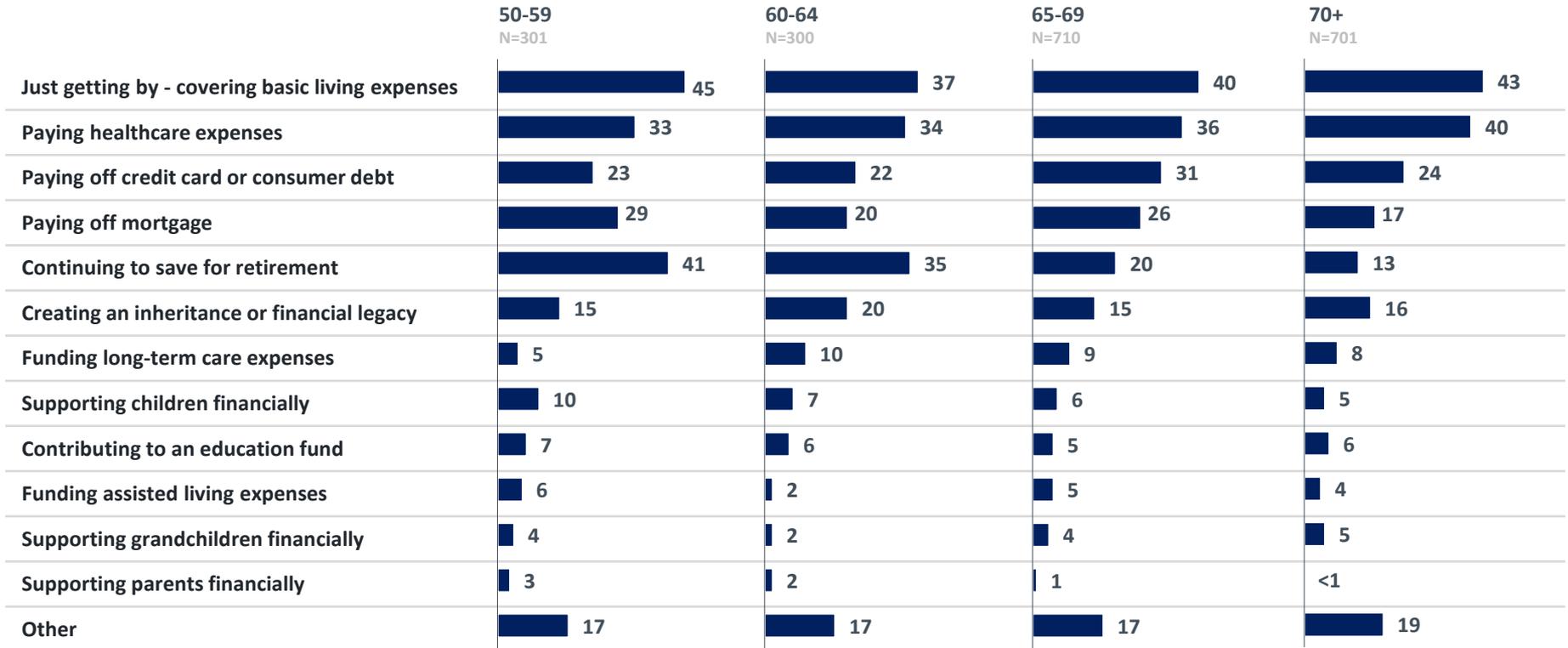
## Current Financial Priorities (%)



# Retirees' Financial Priorities

The most frequently cited financial priority among retirees of all ages is just getting by - covering basic living expenses. Retirees who are younger than 65 are more likely to cite continuing to save for retirement as a priority, while those age 65+ are slightly more likely to cite paying healthcare expenses. An alarming 31 percent of retirees who are age 65 to 69 cite paying off credit card or consumer debt as a priority.

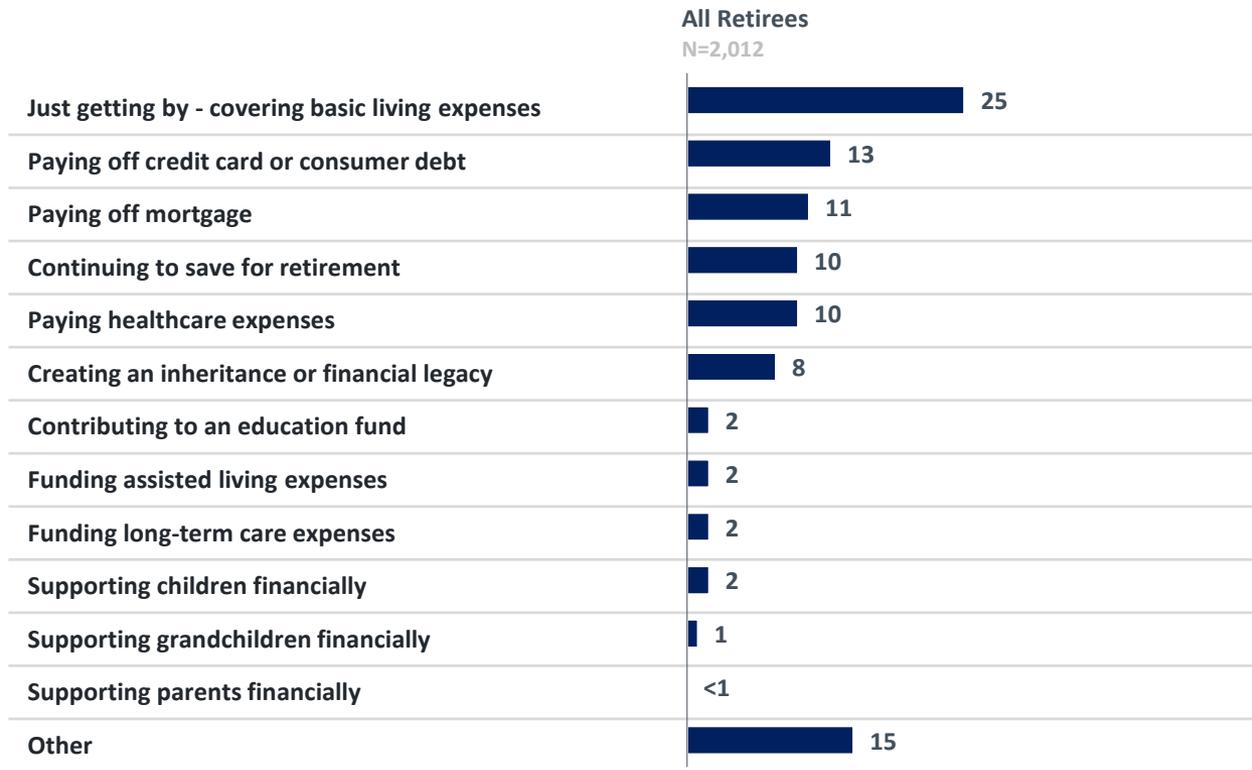
**Current Financial Priorities (%)**  
By Age Range



# The Greatest Financial Priority of Retirees

Twenty-five percent of retirees say that just getting by - covering basic living expenses is their *greatest* financial priority right now, followed by 13 percent who say their greatest priority is paying off credit card or consumer debt and 11 percent who cite paying off their mortgage.

**Retirees' Greatest Financial Priority (%)**



# The Greatest Financial Priority of Retirees

While covering basic living expenses is most often cited as the greatest financial priority among retirees of all ages, retirees under age 65 are more likely to cite continuing to save for retirement while older retirees are more likely to say paying off credit card or consumer debt.

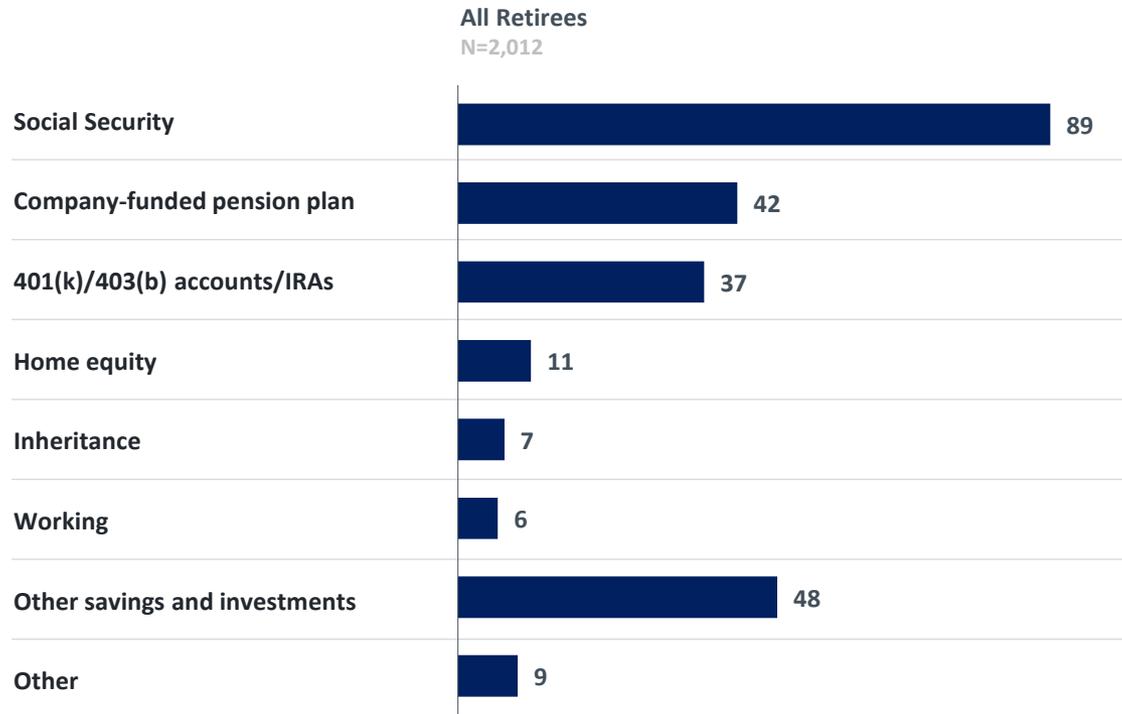
**Retirees' Greatest Financial Priority (%)**

	50-59 N=301	60-64 N=300	65-69 N=710	70+ N=701
Just getting by - covering basic living expenses	30	22	22	25
Paying off credit card or consumer debt	9	8	16	14
Paying off mortgage	11	10	14	10
Continuing to save for retirement	18	18	11	7
Paying healthcare expenses	9	9	10	10
Creating an inheritance or financial legacy	4	11	7	9
Contributing to an education fund	3	2	1	3
Funding assisted living expenses	2	0	1	2
Funding long-term care expenses	1	2	1	2
Supporting children financially	2	1	2	2
Supporting grandchildren financially	1	1	1	<1
Supporting parents financially	<1	0	1	<1
Other	10	16	13	16

# Current Sources of Retirement Income

Social Security (89 percent), followed by other savings and investments (48 percent), company-funded pension plan (42 percent), and 401(k)/403(b)/IRAs (37 percent) are the most frequently cited current sources of income among retirees.

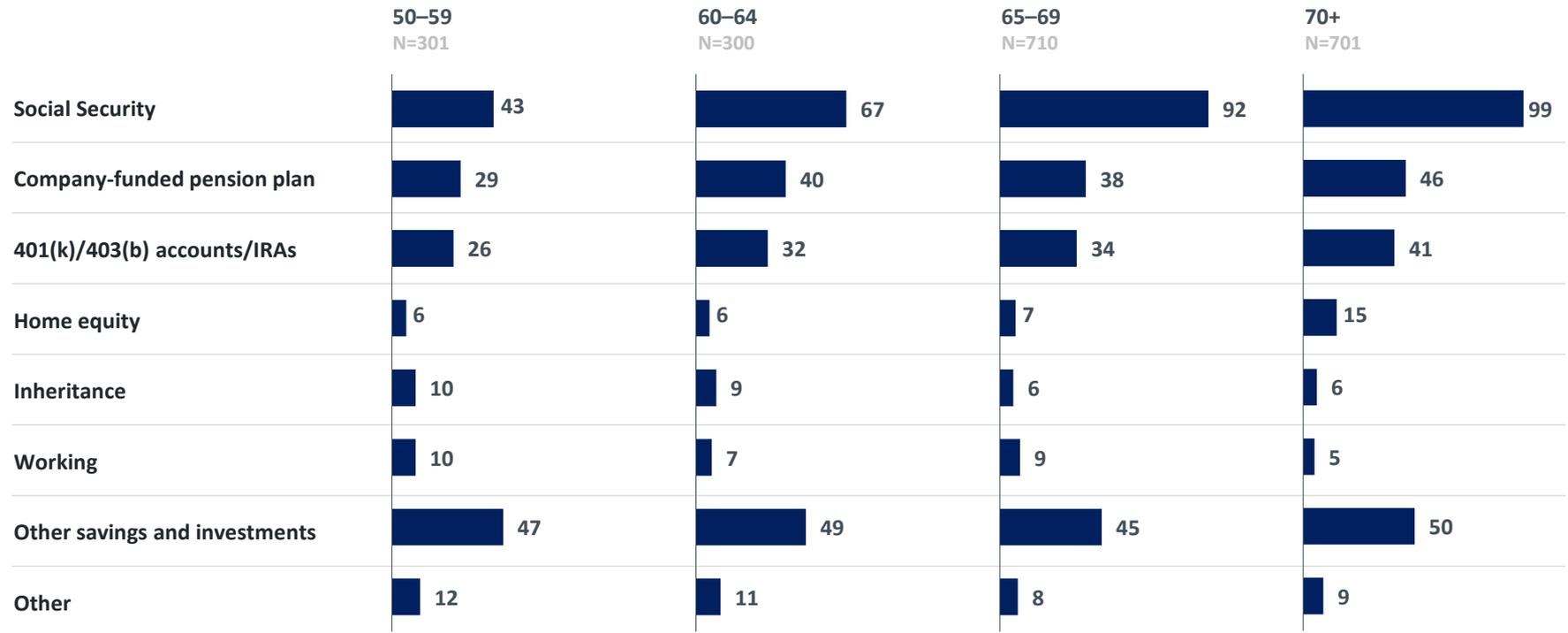
Current Sources of Retirement Income (%)



# Current Sources of Retirement Income

Age 60+ retirees most frequently cite Social Security as a current source of retirement income, while retirees in their fifties are most frequently cite other savings and investments as an income source. Age 60+ retirees are also more likely to cite company-funded pension plans and 401(k)/403(b) accounts and IRAs as current sources of income. This, in part, is attributable to the fact that retirees under the age of 60 have limited ability to draw income from these types of retirement plans.

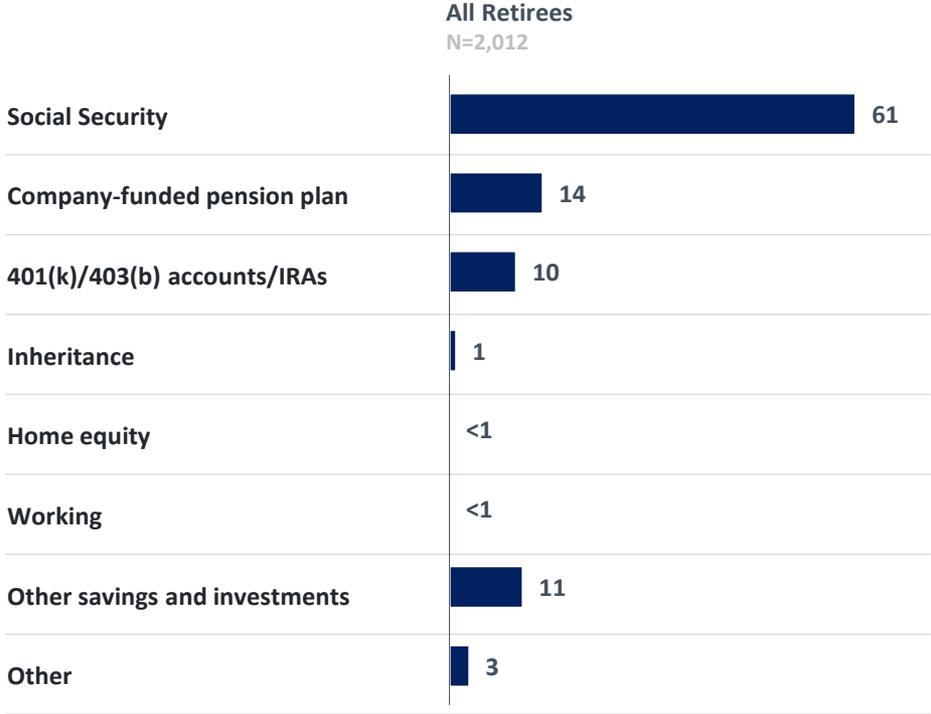
**Current Sources of Retirement Income (%)**  
By Age Range



# Primary Income Source Throughout Retirement

Sixty-one percent of retirees indicate that Social Security will be their primary source of income over the course of their retirement. Only 14 percent of retirees cite company-funded pension plans as their primary source of income and even fewer, 10 percent, cite 401(k)/403(b) accounts/IRAs.

**Primary Source of Income For Duration of Retirement (%)**

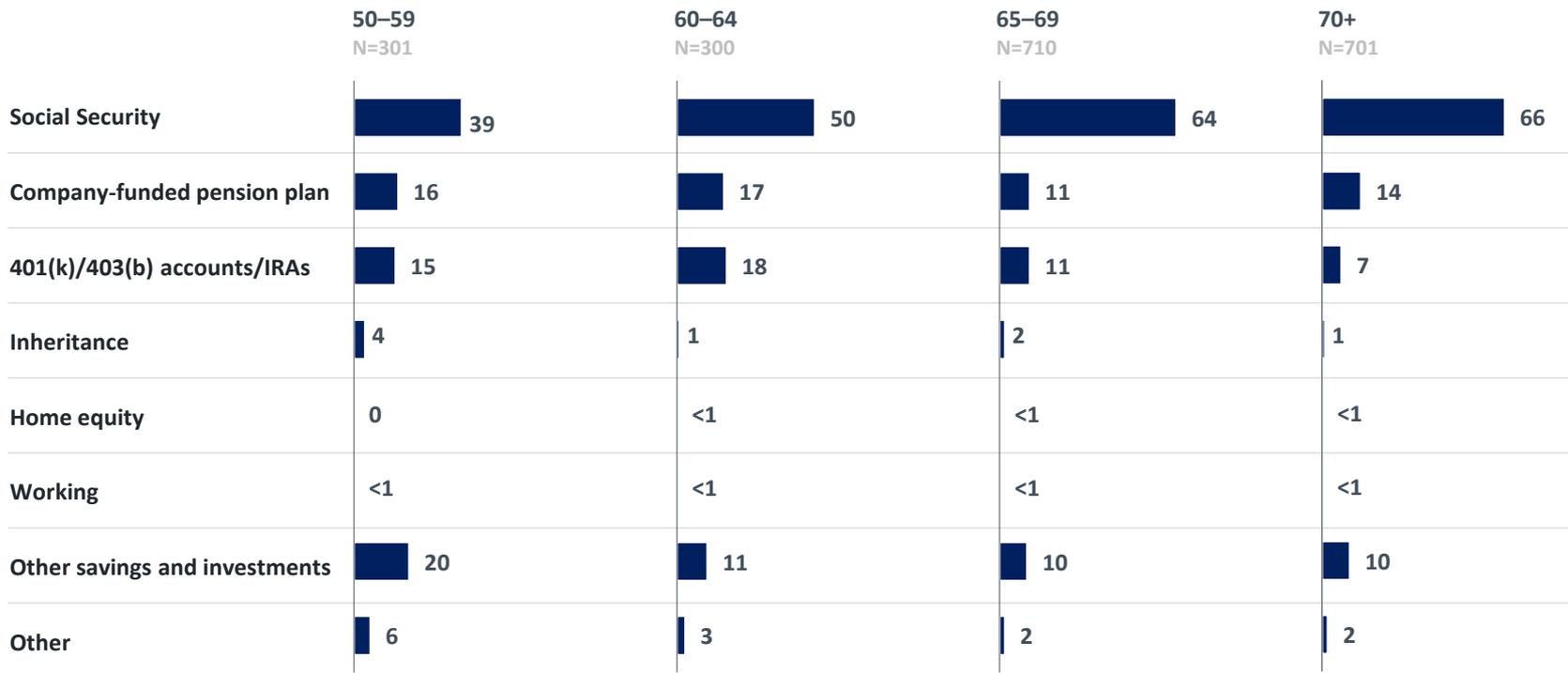


BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS  
 Q1155. Over the course of your retirement, what will be your primary source of income?

# Primary Income Source Throughout Retirement

Social Security is the most cited primary income source during retirement across age groups of retirees, although the response rate is significantly higher for those 65 and older. Younger retirees (50-59) are more likely to rely on other savings and investments compared to age 60+ retirees.

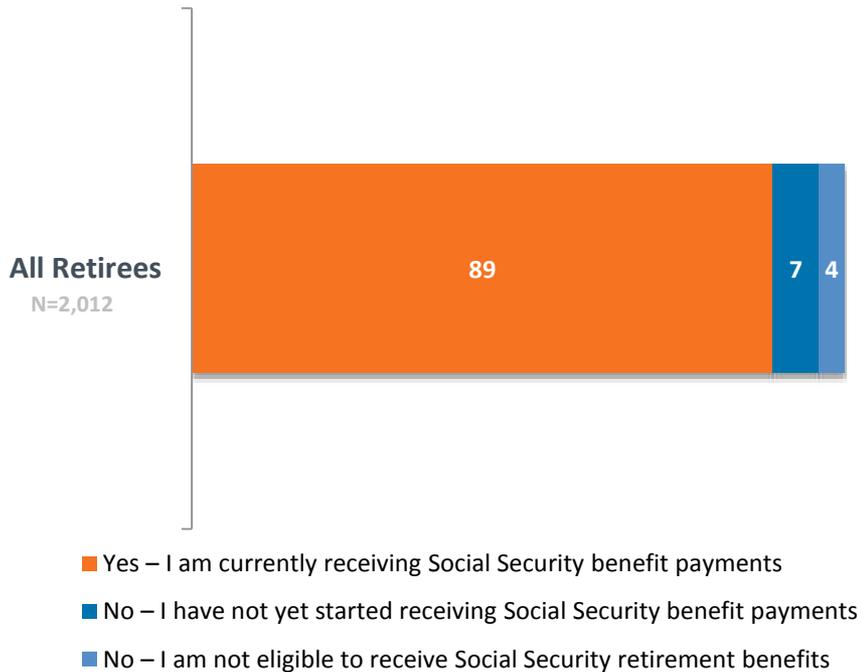
**Primary Source of Income For Duration of Retirement (%)**  
By Age Range



# Receiving Social Security Benefits

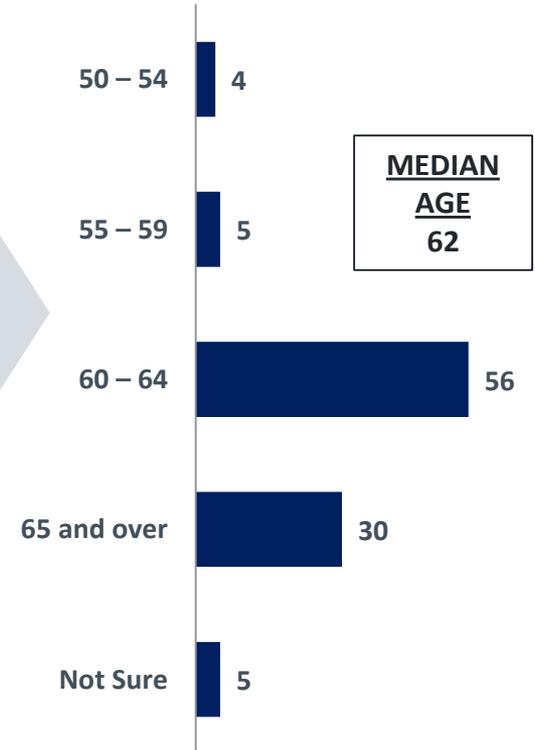
Most (89 percent) retirees are currently receiving income from Social Security benefits. The age that they started receiving benefits was 62 (median). Among those retirees receiving Social Security benefits, more than half (56 percent) began receiving them between the ages of 60 and 64, while three in 10 (30 percent) started receiving benefits at age 65 or older.

**Currently Receiving Social Security Benefits (%)**



Among those receiving Social Security  
N=1,673

**Age at Which Started Receiving Social Security Benefits (%)**



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

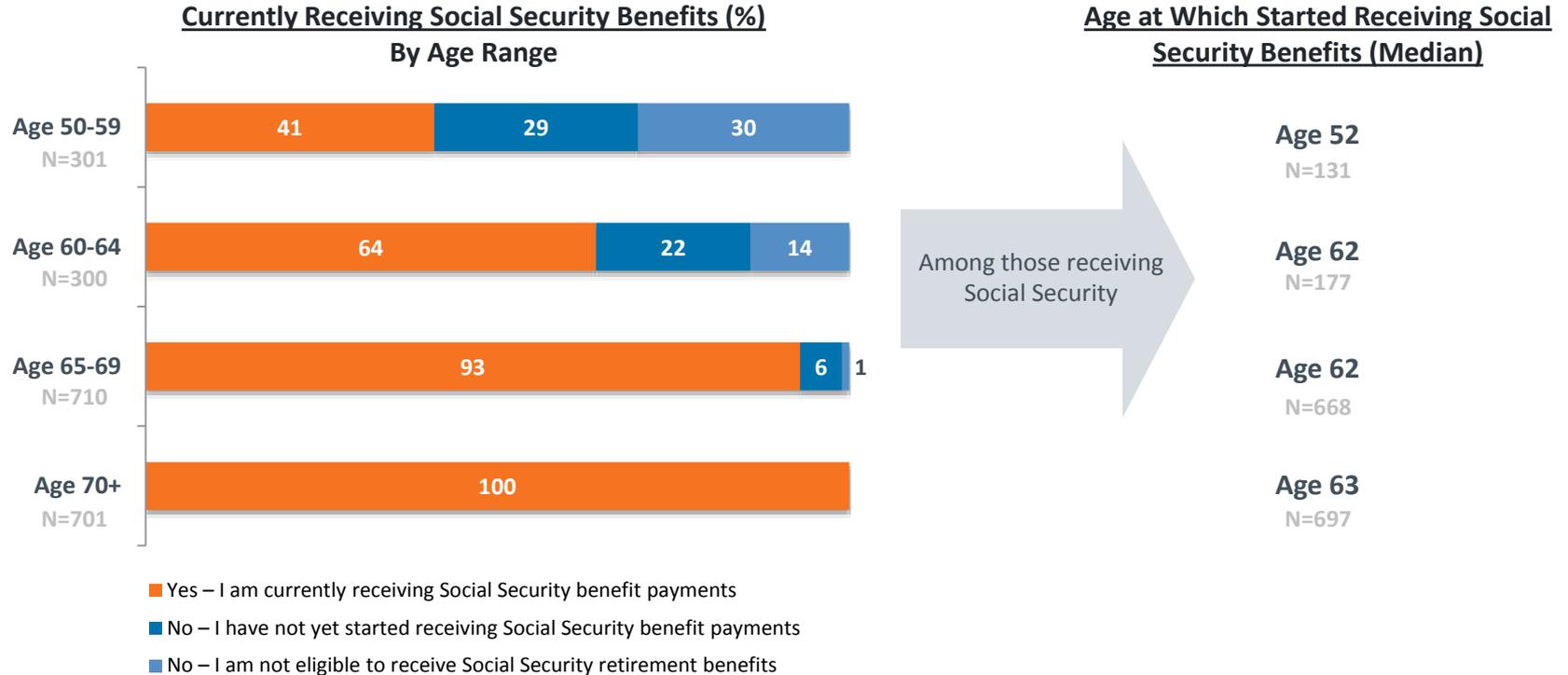
Q1540. Are you currently receiving income from Social Security benefits?

BASE: RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Q1555. At what age did you start receiving income from Social Security benefits?

# Receiving Social Security Benefits

The vast majority of retirees age 65 and older are receiving Social Security benefit payments, including 93 percent of age 65 to 69 retirees and 100 percent of age 70+ retirees. Sixty-four percent of retirees age 60 to 64 are receiving benefits. It should be noted that age 62 is the earliest age available to begin claiming retirement benefits. Forty-one percent of retirees in their fifties indicate they are receiving Social Security benefits, which suggests that they are receiving disability benefits (many retirees in their fifties indicate having health issues in the survey).



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q1540. Are you currently receiving income from Social Security benefits?

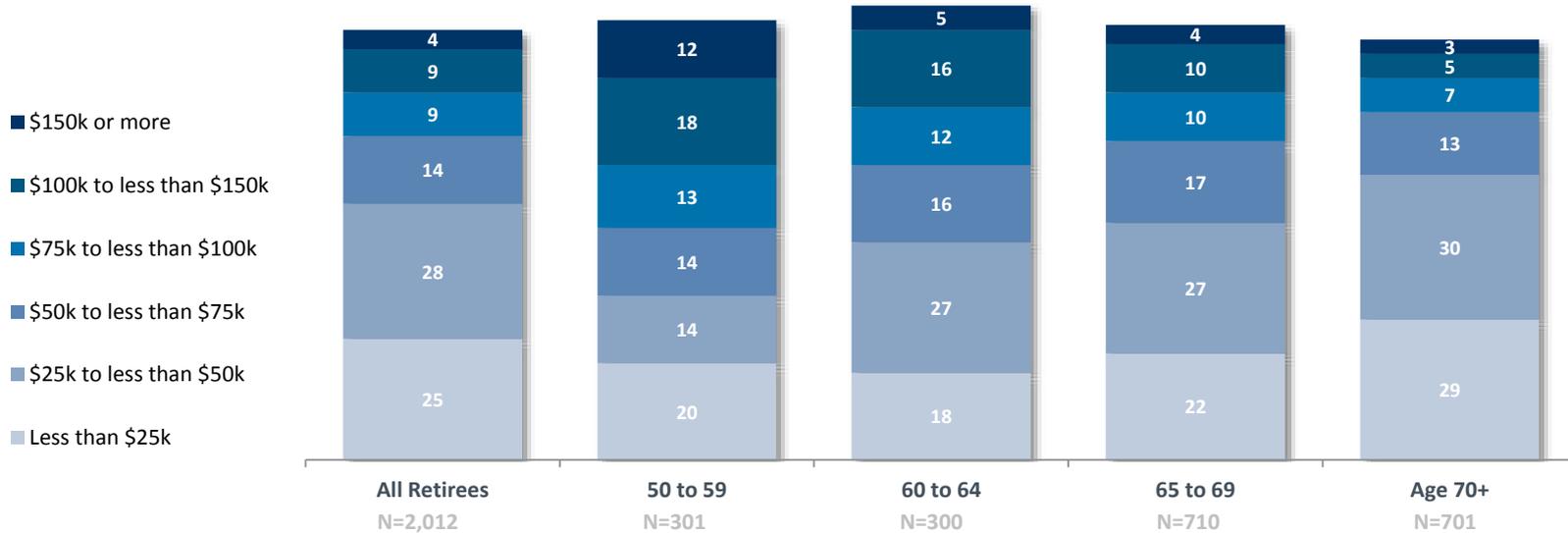
BASE: RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Q1555. At what age did you start receiving income from Social Security benefits?

# Annual Household Income

Retirees report their annual household income to be \$32,000 (estimated median). Younger retirees report higher levels of income compared to older retirees. Retirees in their fifties report the highest household income at \$56,000, and those who are age 70 and older the lowest at \$29,000. Twenty-five percent of retirees have a household income of less than \$25,000, while 13 percent earned \$100,000 or more.

**Annual Household Income (%)**  
By Age Range



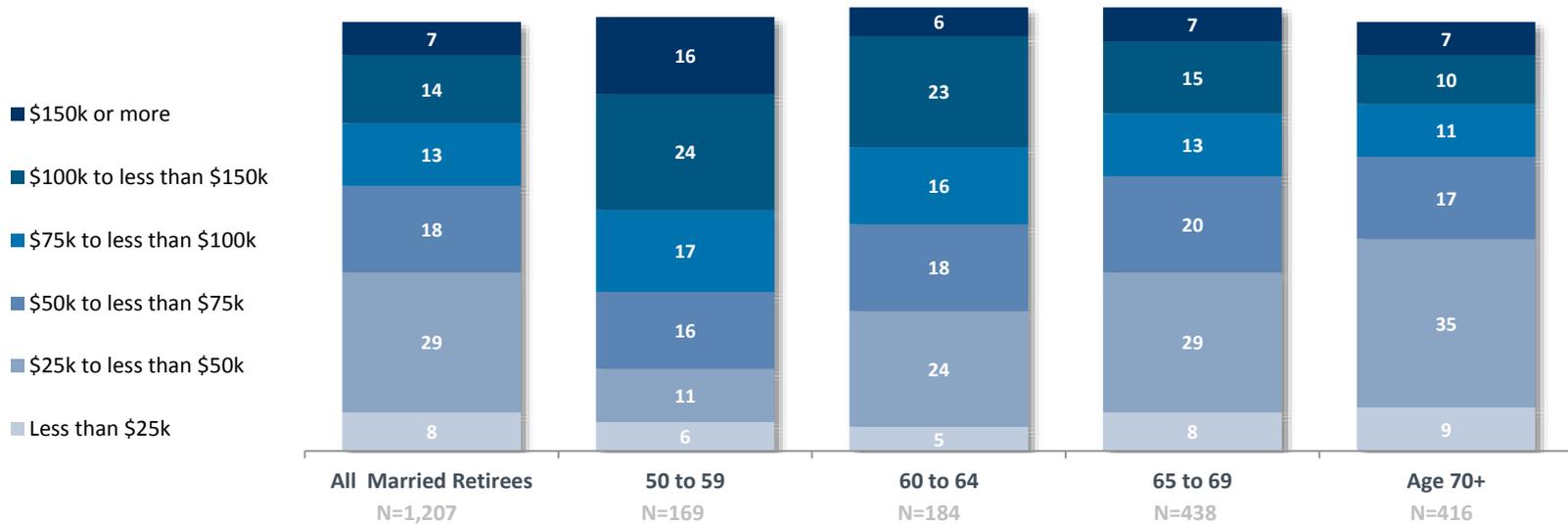
<b>Not sure</b>	1	3	<1	<1	2
<b>Decline to answer</b>	10	6	6	10	11
<b>Estimated Median</b>	\$32,000	\$56,000	\$41,000	\$35,000	\$29,000

Note: The median is estimated based on the approximate midpoint of the range of each response category. Non-responses are excluded from the estimate.

# Annual Household Income of Married Retirees

Married retirees report an annual household income of \$48,000 (estimated median). Older married retirees report directionally lower levels of income: \$81,000 for those in their fifties, \$61,000 for those in early sixties, \$48,000 in their later sixties, and \$38,000 for those who are age 70 and older.

**Annual Household Income of Married Retirees (%)**  
By Age Range



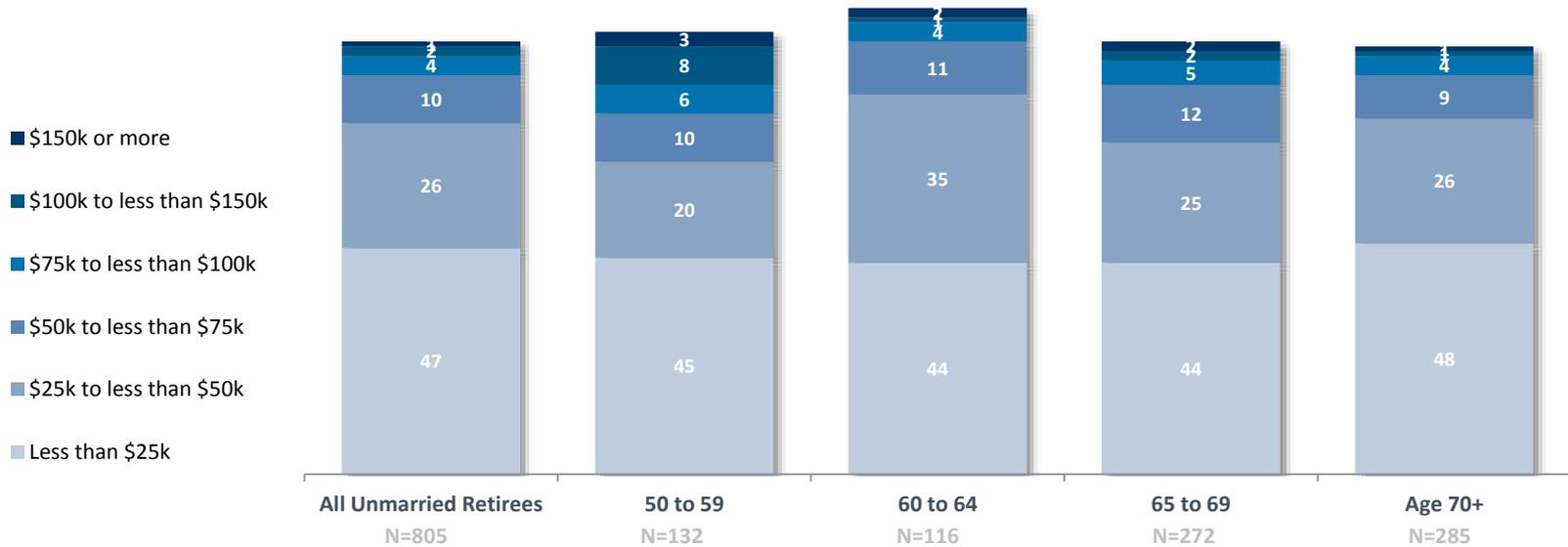
Not sure	2	4	0	<1	2
Decline to answer	9	6	8	8	9
<b>Estimated Median</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>	<b>\$81,000</b>	<b>\$61,000</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>

Note: The median is estimated based on the approximate midpoint of the range of each response category. Non-responses are excluded from the estimate.

# Annual Household Income of Unmarried Retirees

Unmarried retirees report an annual household income of \$19,000 (estimated median). Nearly half (47 percent) of unmarried retirees report an annual household income of less than \$25,000. The estimated median level of income is consistently low across age ranges, and lower than that for married retirees.

**Annual Household Income of Unmarried Retirees (%)**  
By Age Range

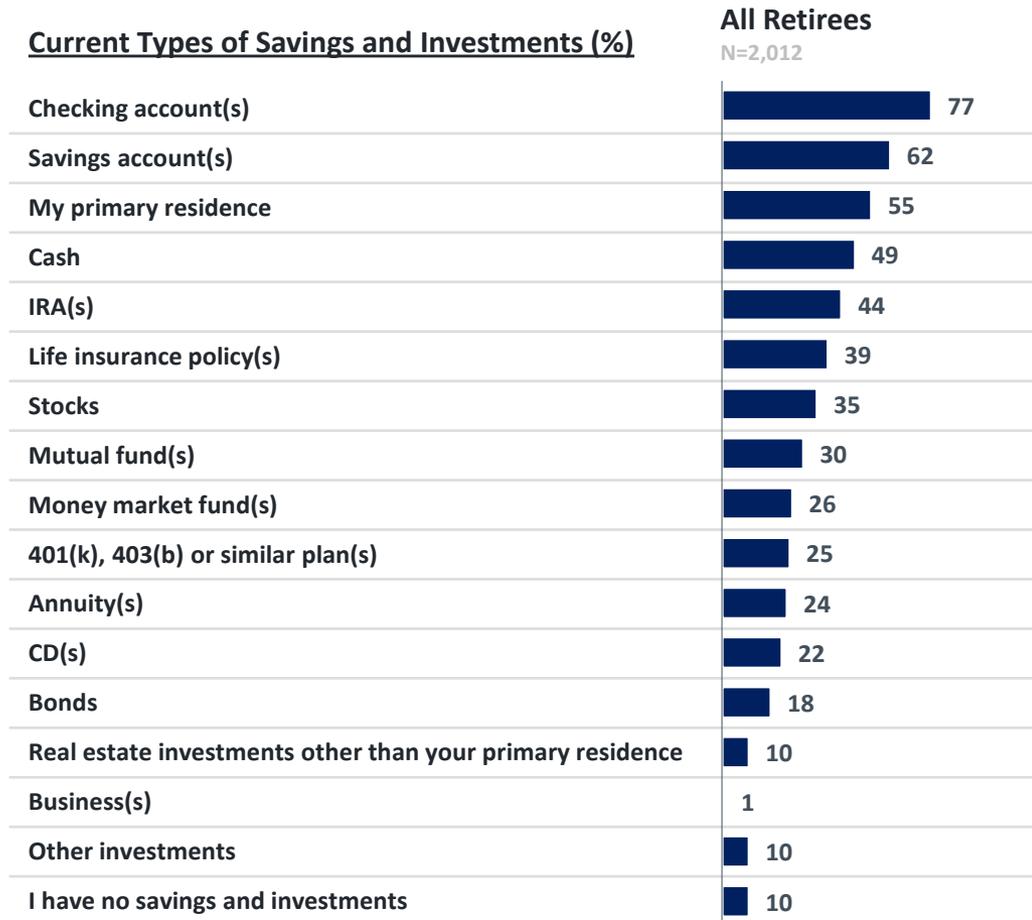


<b>Not sure</b>	1	2	<1	<1	1
<b>Decline to answer</b>	9	6	2	10	10
<b>Estimated Median</b>	\$19,000	\$21,000	\$22,000	\$21,000	\$18,000

Note: The median is estimated based on the approximate midpoint of the range of each response category. Non-responses are excluded from the estimate.

# Retirees' Current Types of Savings and Investments

When asked about the types of savings and investments they currently have, retirees most frequently cite checking accounts (77 percent), savings accounts (62 percent), their primary residence (55 percent), and cash (49 percent). Retirees are less likely to cite retirement accounts such as IRAs (44 percent), 401(k), 403(b), or similar plans (25 percent), and annuities (24 percent).



# Retirees' Current Types of Savings and Investments

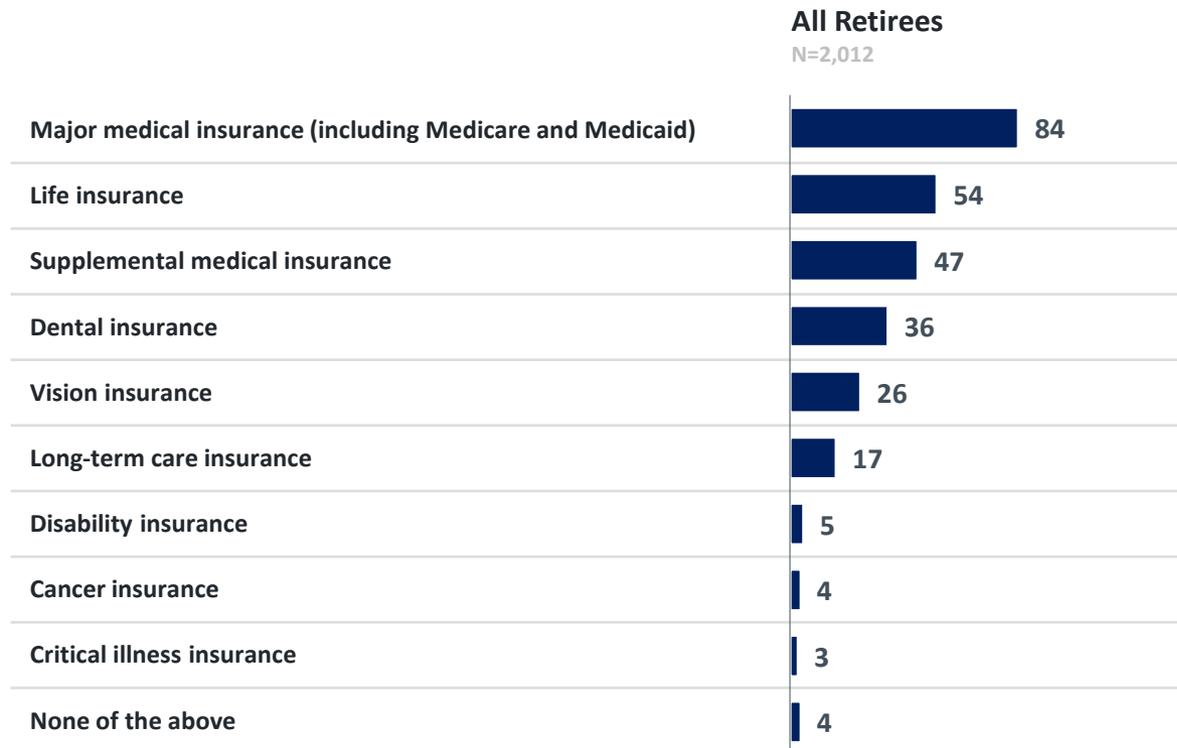
The majority of retirees across age ranges have savings and investments in the form of checking and savings accounts as well as their primary residence. Younger retirees are more likely than those age 65+ to have retirement accounts such as 401(k), 403(b), or similar plans.

<b><u>Current Types of Savings and Investments (%)</u></b> <b>By Age Range</b>	<b>50-59</b> N=301	<b>60-64</b> N=300	<b>65-69</b> N=710	<b>70+</b> N=701
Checking account(s)	75	80	71	79
Savings account(s)	61	74	60	60
My primary residence	52	59	51	56
Cash	52	56	47	48
IRA(s)	45	51	40	43
Life insurance policy(s)	37	35	34	42
Stocks	43	39	30	35
Mutual fund(s)	35	36	29	28
Money market fund(s)	33	29	24	26
401(k), 403(b) or similar plan(s)	33	33	27	21
Annuity(s)	14	25	27	24
CD(s)	24	32	18	21
Bonds	23	22	16	17
Real estate investments other than your primary residence	19	9	11	8
Business(s)	1	1	1	1
Other investments	13	10	11	10
I have no savings and investments	10	7	16	9

# Current Types of Insurance Among Retirees

Major medical insurance is the most commonly held insurance among retirees (84 percent), followed by life insurance (54 percent) and supplement medical insurance (47 percent).

Current Types of Insurance (%)



# Current Types of Insurance Among Retirees

Major medical insurance is the most prevalent insurance across different age groups followed by life insurance. Significantly more age 65+ retirees have supplemental medical insurance; however, they are less likely to have dental or vision insurance.

**Current Types of Insurance (%)**  
By Age Range

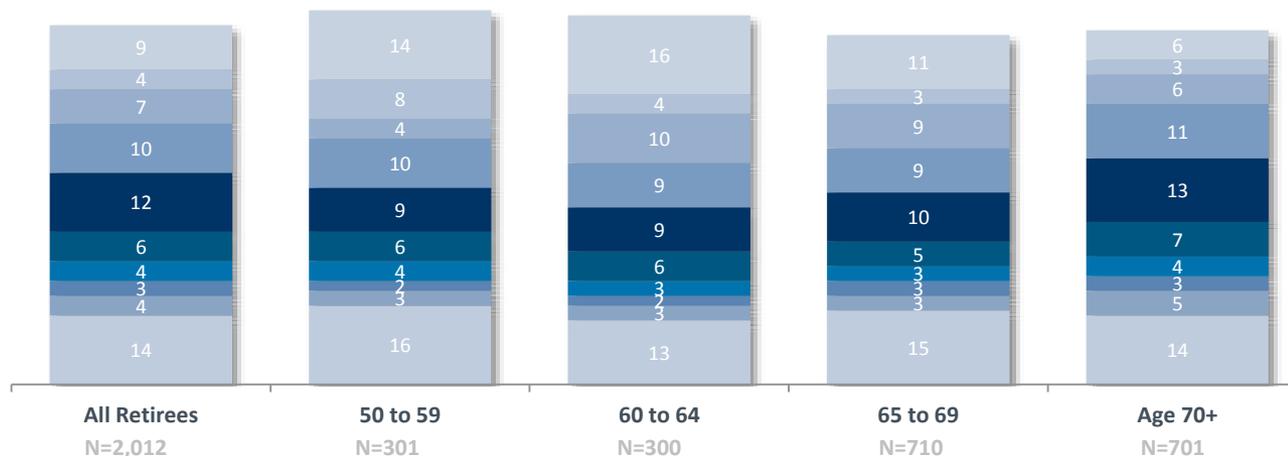
	50-59 N=301	60-64 N=300	65-69 N=710	70+ N=701
Major medical insurance (including Medicare and Medicaid)	70	78	84	87
Life insurance	50	52	53	57
Supplemental medical insurance	18	13	49	57
Dental insurance	46	51	42	29
Vision insurance	37	39	27	21
Long-term care insurance	11	22	15	17
Disability insurance	14	10	3	4
Cancer insurance	3	4	4	5
Critical illness insurance	6	6	3	2
None of the above	9	7	4	3

# Current Retirement Savings

Current retirement savings among retirees in all retirement accounts stands at \$119,000 (estimated median). Retirees age 60-64 report having the most retirement savings at \$202,000. Retirees who are age 70 and older report having the least savings in their retirement accounts (\$97,000), illustrating how they may be drawing down their savings.

**Current Retirement Savings (%)**  
**By Age Range**

- \$1m or more
- \$750k to less than \$1m
- \$500k to less than \$750k
- \$250k to less than \$500k
- \$100k to less than \$250k
- \$50k to less than \$100k
- \$25k to less than \$50k
- \$10k to less than \$25k
- \$5k to less than \$10k
- Less than \$5k



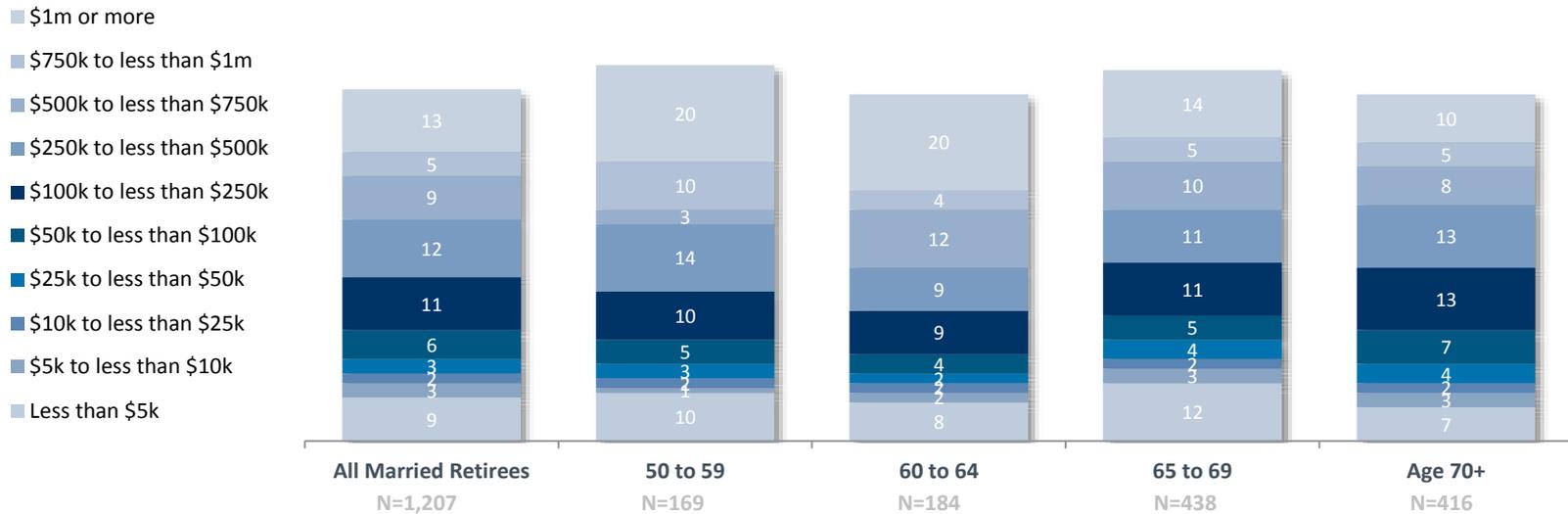
<b>Not sure</b>	8	8	6	8	9
<b>Decline to answer</b>	19	16	19	21	19
<b>Estimated Median</b>	\$119,000	\$154,000	\$202,000	\$142,000	\$97,000

Note: The median is estimated based on the approximate midpoint of the range of each response category. Non-responses are excluded from the estimate.

# Current Retirement Savings of Married Retirees

Married retirees report their current retirement savings in all retirement accounts to be \$224,000 (estimated median). Among married retirees, those age 60-64 have the most in current retirement savings at \$379,000. Retirees who are age 70 and older have the least at \$183,000, suggesting that they may be drawing down their savings.

**Current Retirement Savings Married Retirees (%)**  
By Age Range



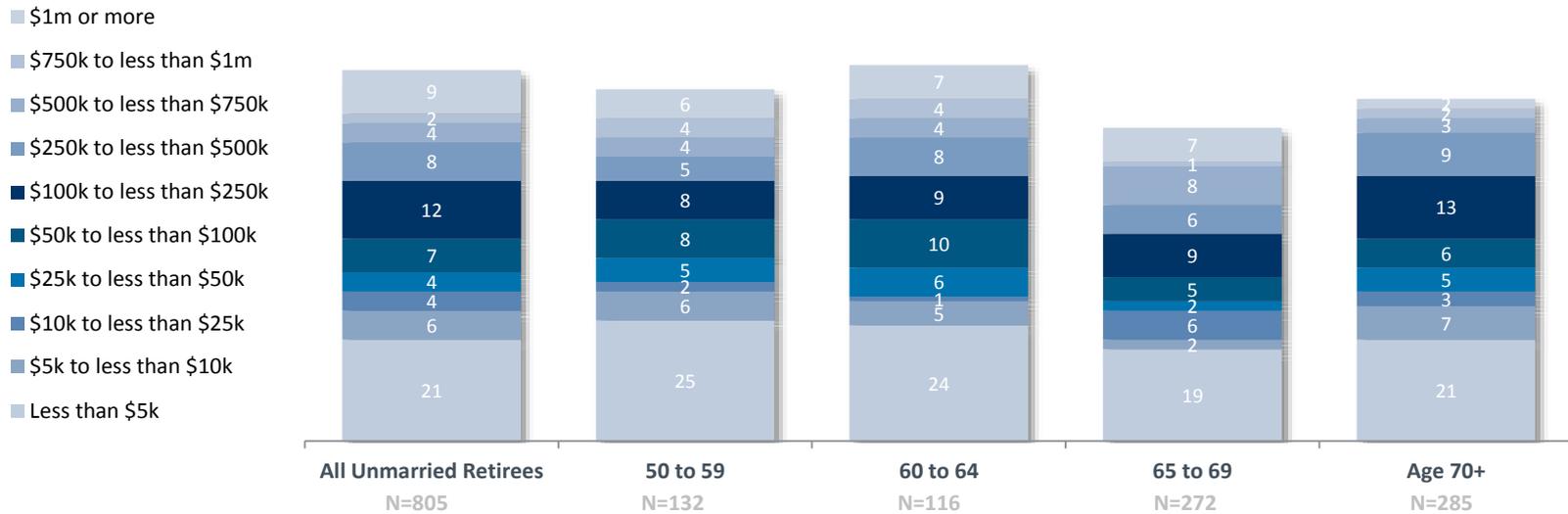
<b>Not sure</b>	7	8	5	7	7
<b>Decline to answer</b>	20	14	23	16	21
<b>Estimated Median</b>	\$224,000	\$284,000	\$379,000	\$213,000	\$183,000

Note: The median is estimated based on the approximate midpoint of the range of each response category. Non-responses are excluded from the estimate.

# Current Retirement Savings of Unmarried Retirees

Unmarried retirees report low levels of savings in all retirement accounts (\$40,000 estimated median), a dramatic gap compared to married retirees with \$224,000 (see page 76). Twenty-one percent of unmarried retirees have less than \$5,000 in current retirement savings. Of concern, this is consistent across age ranges.

**Current Retirement Savings Unmarried Retirees (%)**  
By Age Range



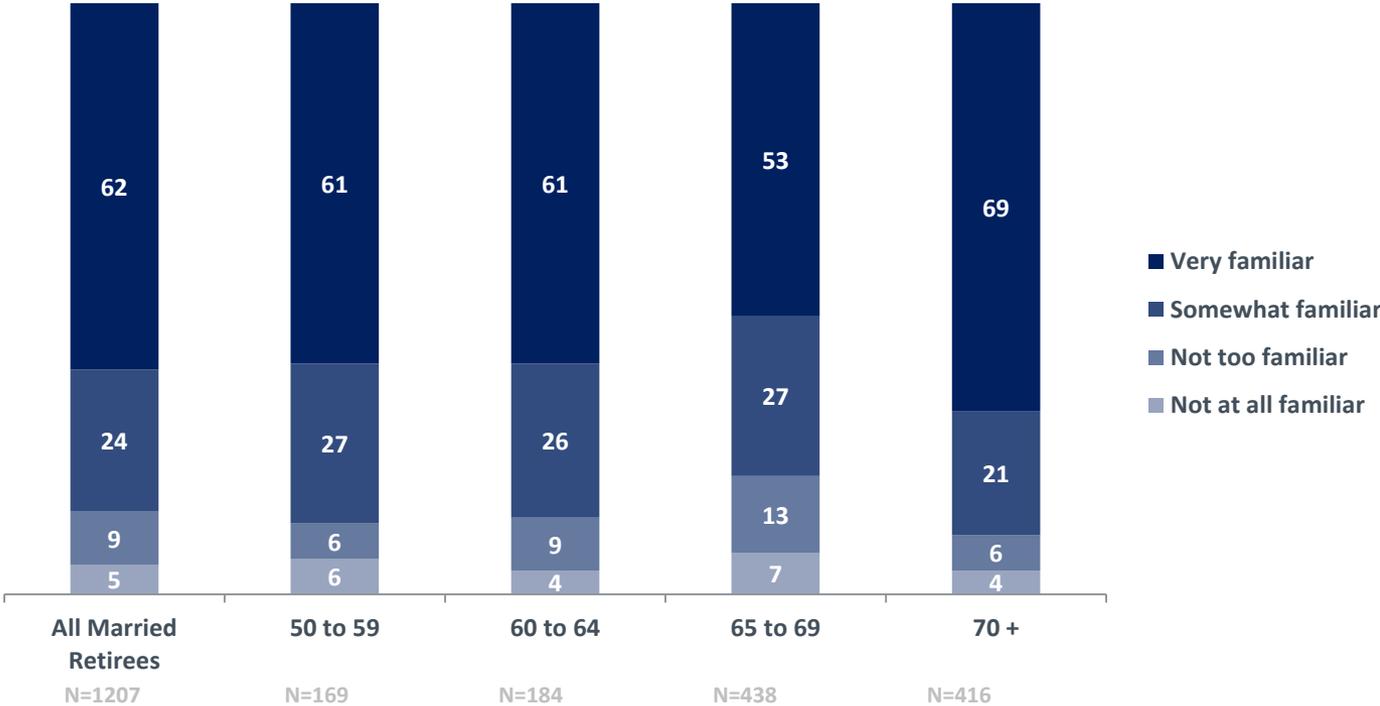
<b>Not sure</b>	9	9	9	9	11
<b>Decline to answer</b>	19	18	13	26	18
<b>Estimated Median</b>	\$40,000	\$32,000	\$47,000	\$57,000	\$36,000

Note: The median is estimated based on the approximate midpoint of the range of each response category. Non-responses are excluded from the estimate.

# Familiarity with Spouse/Partner's Retirement Plan and Savings

Among retirees who are married or in a civil union, 62 percent are very familiar with their spouse/partner's retirement plan and savings. Familiarity with spousal retirement plans and savings is high across age groups; however, retirees ages 70+ (69 percent) are more likely to be very familiar than those age 65-69 (53 percent).

**Familiarity with Spouse/Partner's Retirement Plan and Savings (%)**  
**By Age Range**



BASE: MARRIED OR IN CIVIL UNION  
 Q1520. How familiar are you with your spouse or partner's retirement plan and savings?

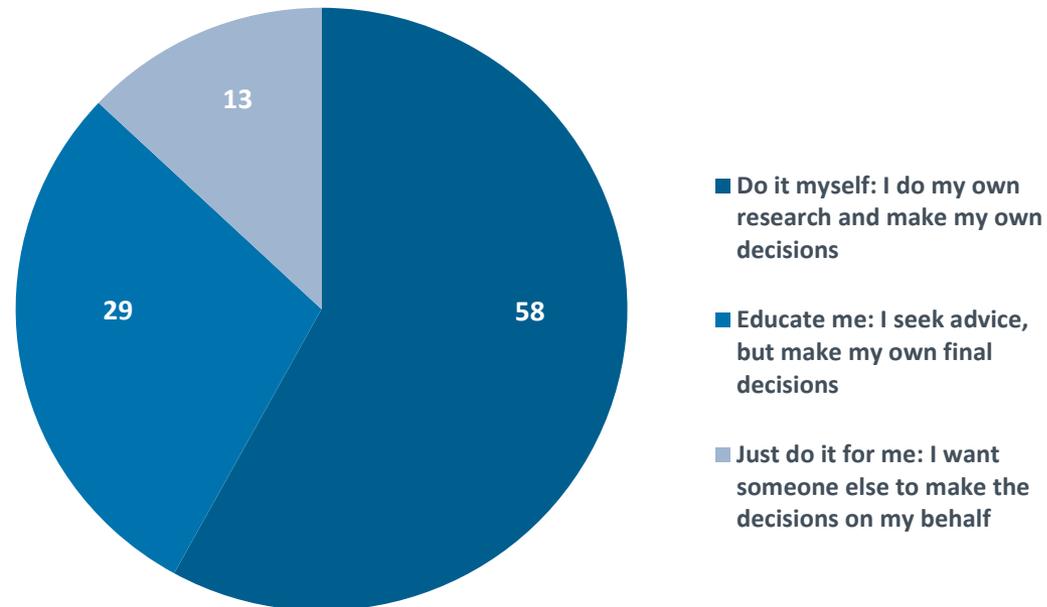
# Approach to Managing Savings and Investing in Retirement

Fifty-eight percent of retirees say they take a “do it myself” approach to researching and making decisions related to managing their savings and investments in retirement. Twenty-nine percent of retirees prefer to be educated and receive advice before making their own final decisions. Only 13 percent say that they want someone else to make decisions on their behalf.

## Managing Savings and Investing in Retirement (%)

All Retirees

N=2,012

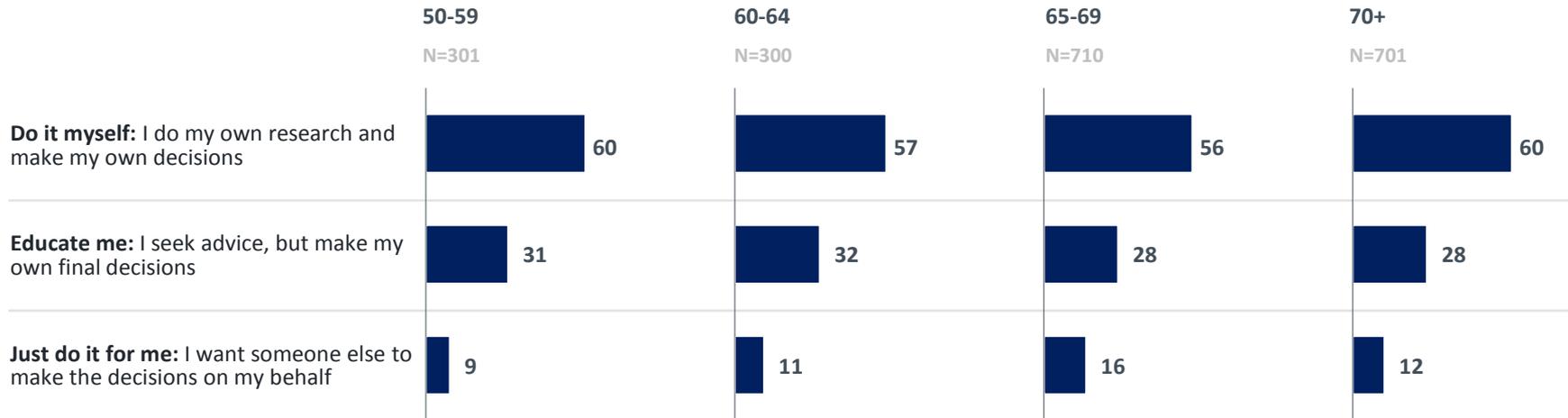


- Do it myself: I do my own research and make my own decisions
- Educate me: I seek advice, but make my own final decisions
- Just do it for me: I want someone else to make the decisions on my behalf

# Approach to Managing Savings and Investing in Retirement

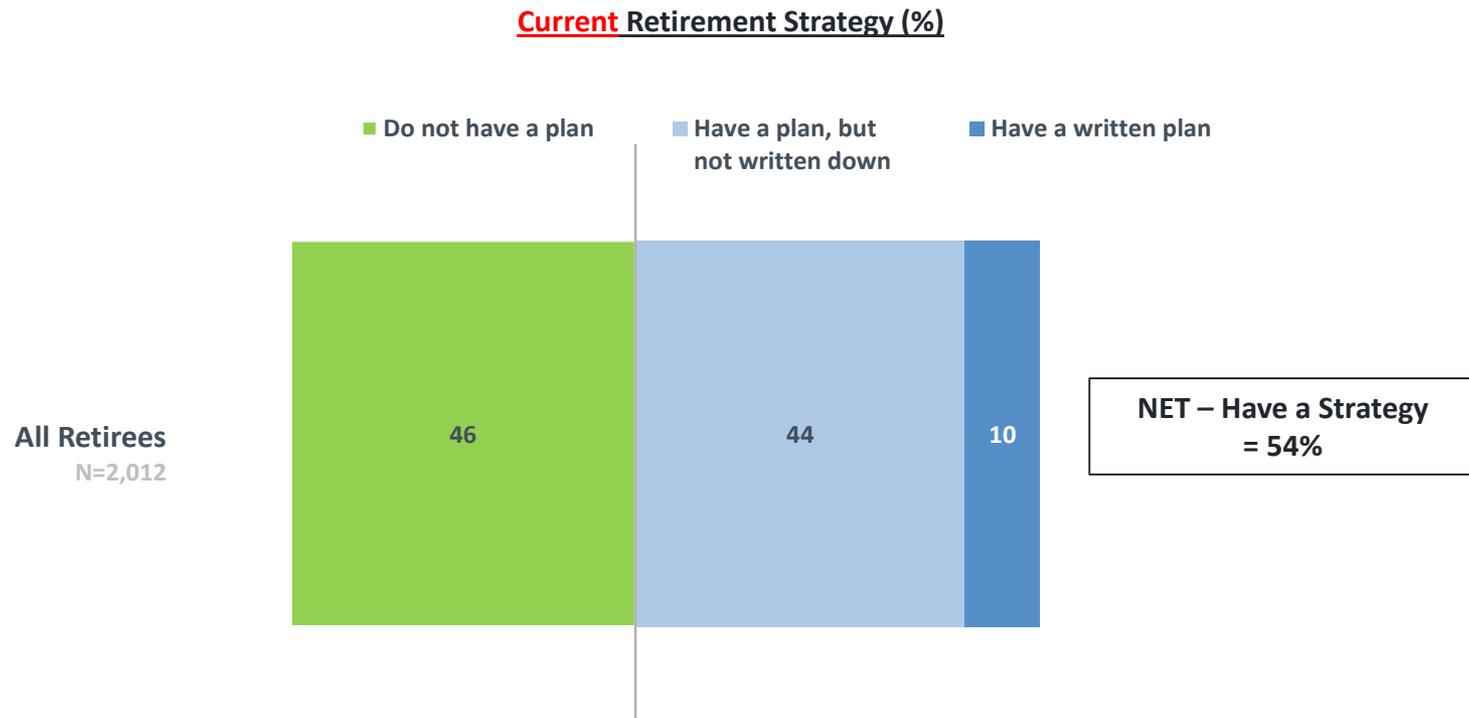
Across age ranges, most retirees prefer to research and make their own decisions related to managing their savings and investments in retirement. More retirees age 65 and older than retirees in their fifties to want someone else to make decisions on their behalf.

**Managing Savings and Investing in Retirement (%)**  
By Age Range



# Current Retirement Strategy

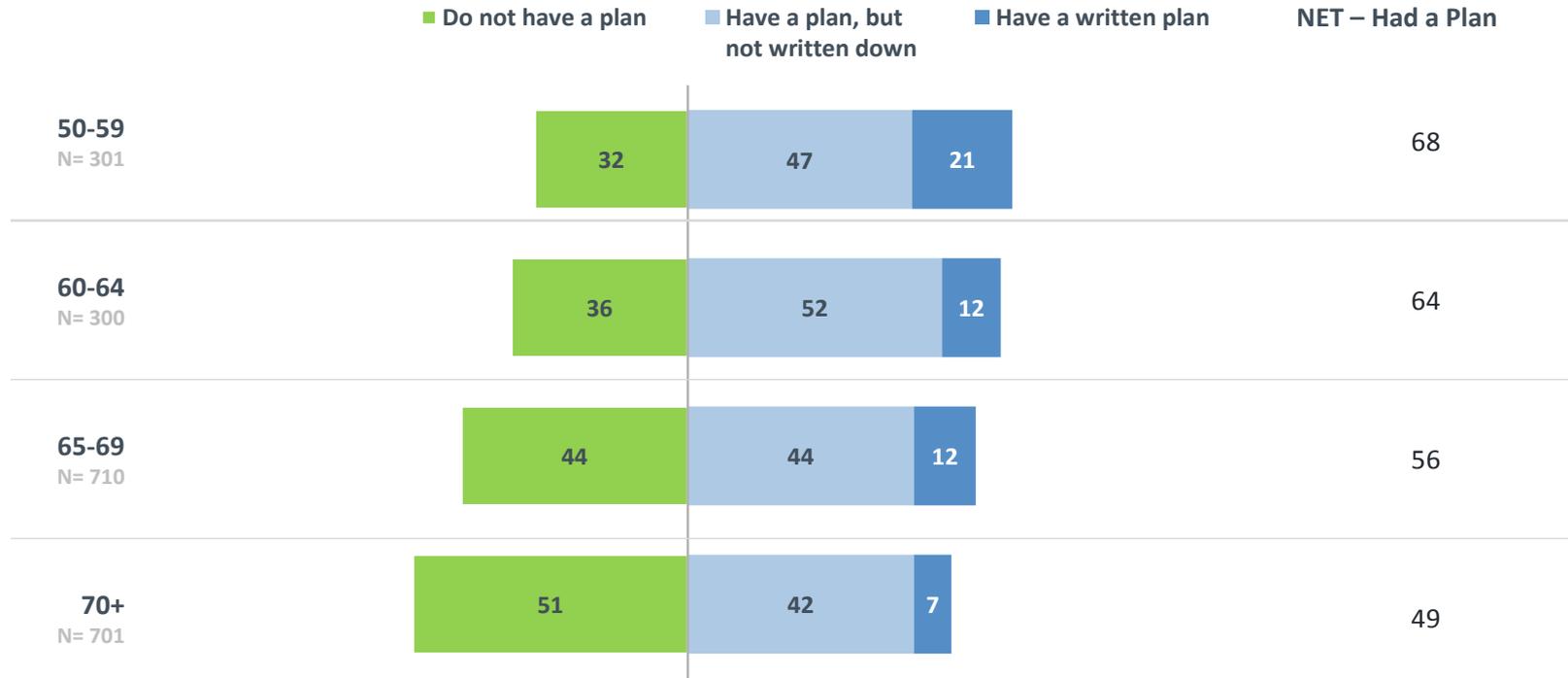
More than half of retirees (54 percent) state that they have a retirement strategy, but only 10 percent have it in writing.



# Current Retirement Strategy

A higher number of relatively younger retirees (under 65 years old) have a retirement strategy, while retirees age 70+ more often do not have a plan.

**Current Retirement Strategy (%)**  
By Age Range



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q1165. Since which of the following best describes your current retirement strategy?

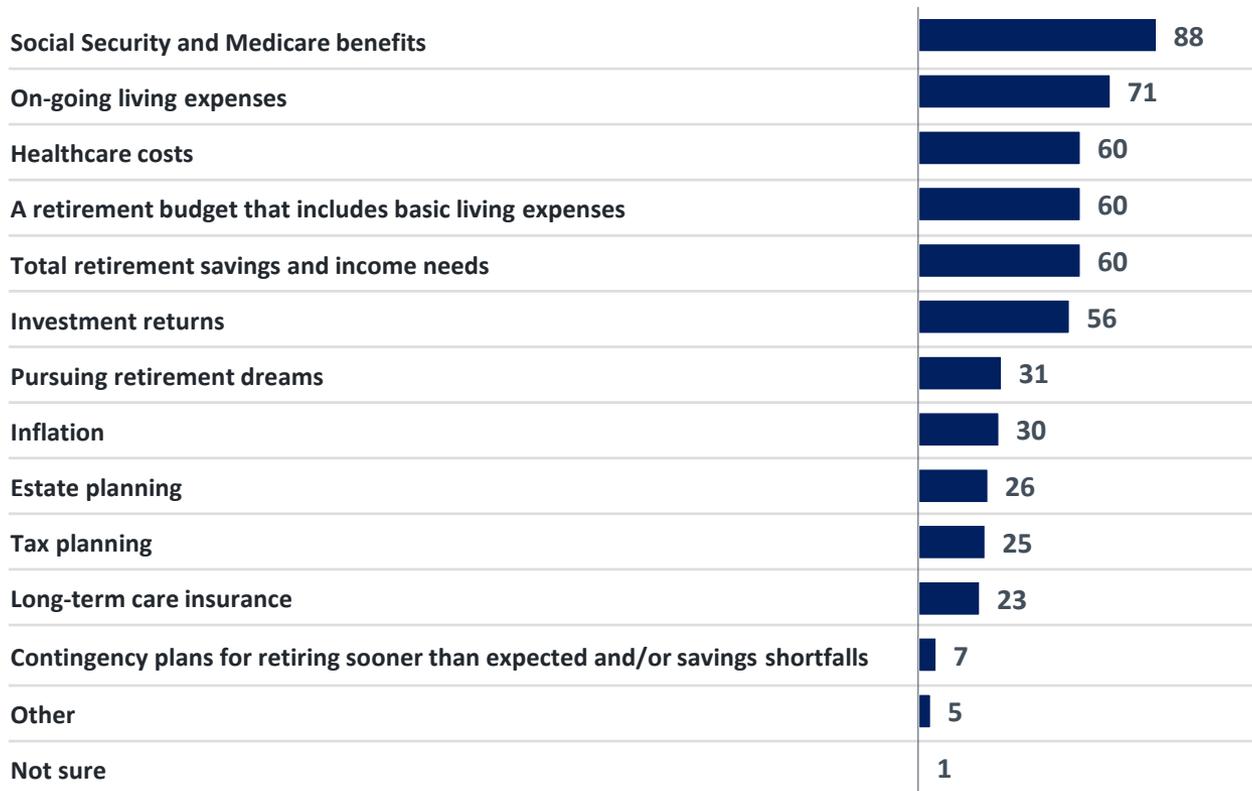
# Components of Current Retirement Strategy

Among retirees with a retirement strategy, 88 percent factor Social Security and Medicare benefits into their current strategy – and most include on-going living expenses (71 percent), healthcare costs (60 percent), a budget for basic living expenses (60 percent), total savings and income needs (60 percent), investment returns (56 percent). Only seven percent have contingency plans for retiring sooner than expected and/or savings shortfalls.

## Included in **Current** Retirement Strategy (%)

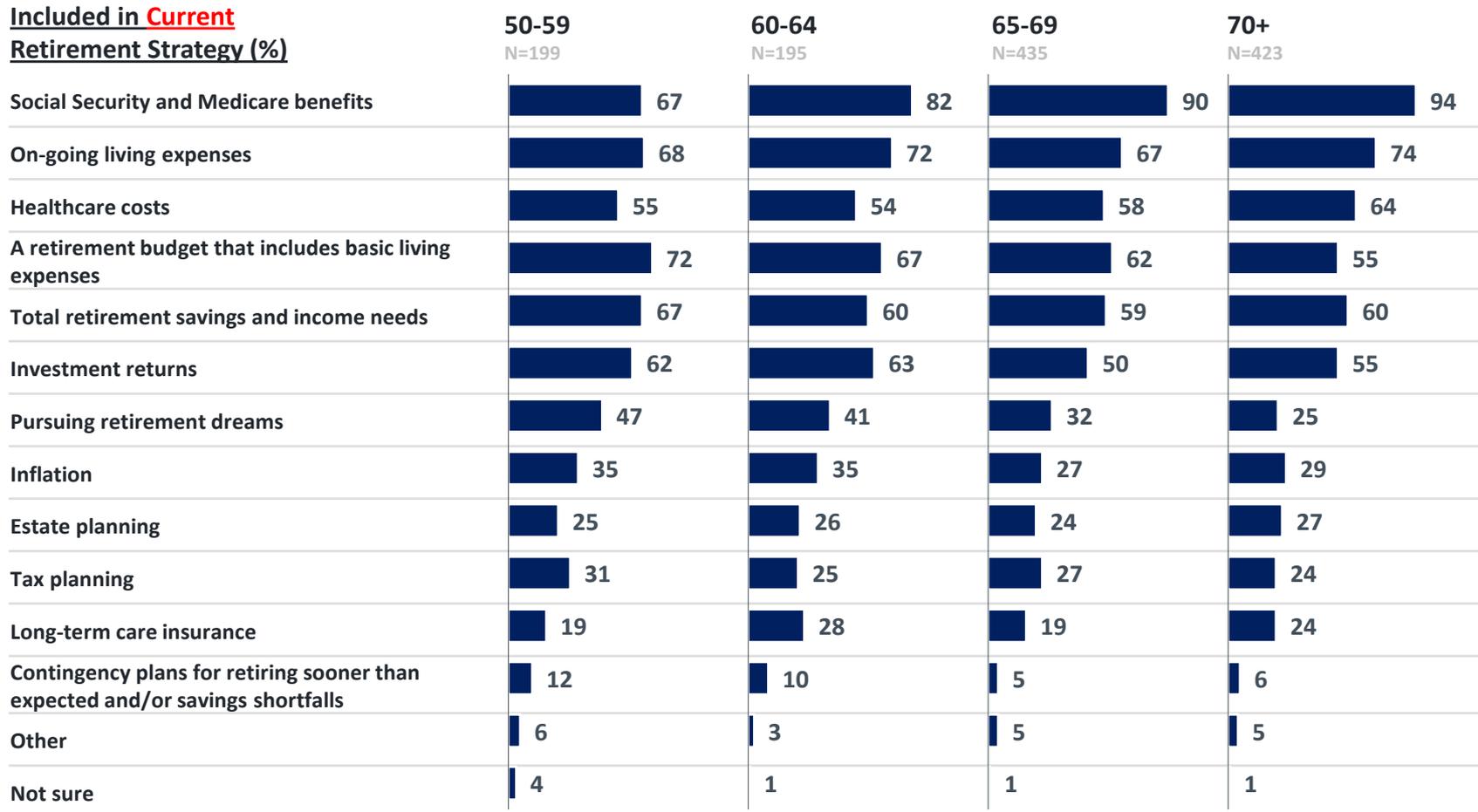
### All Retirees with a Retirement Strategy

N=1,252



# Components of Current Retirement Strategy

Among retirees who have a retirement strategy, those age 65+ are more likely to factor Social Security and Medicare benefits into their plans than younger retirees. Younger retirees are more likely to include a retirement budget that includes basic living expenses, total retirement savings and income needs, and investment returns.



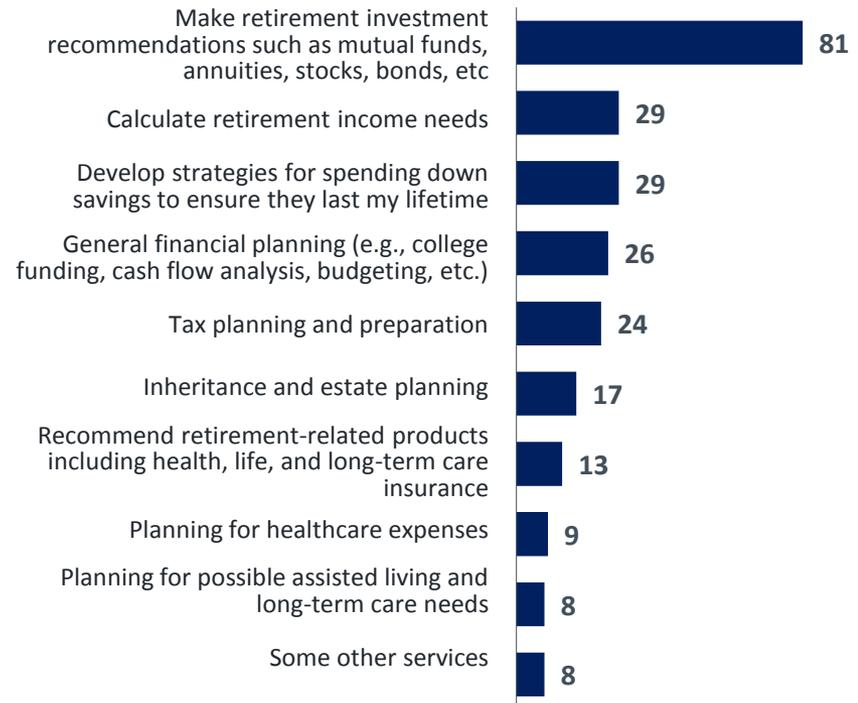
# Currently Use a Professional Financial Advisor

Two in five retirees (41 percent) currently use a professional financial advisor to help manage their savings or investments; and among those who do, the majority use them to make retirement investment recommendations. Relatively few use their advisors to calculate retirement income needs, develop strategies for spending down savings, general financial planning, tax planning and preparation, inheritance or estate planning, or other services.

## Use a Professional Financial Advisor to Help Manage Your Retirement Savings or Investments, % Indicate “Yes”



## Types of Services Financial Advisor Performs (%)



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q860. Do you currently use a professional financial advisor to help manage your retirement savings or investments?

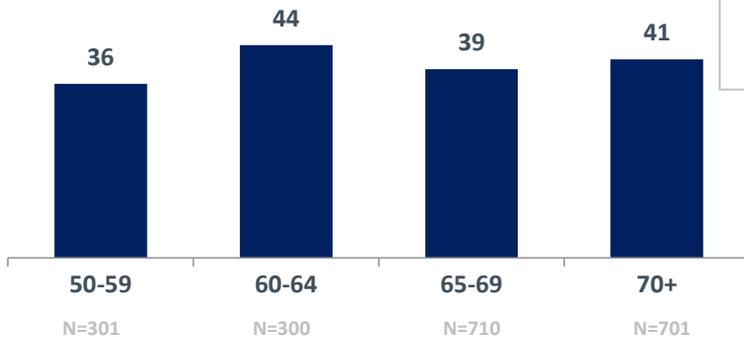
BASE: USE FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Q870. What types of services do you currently use your professional financial advisor to perform? Please select all that apply.

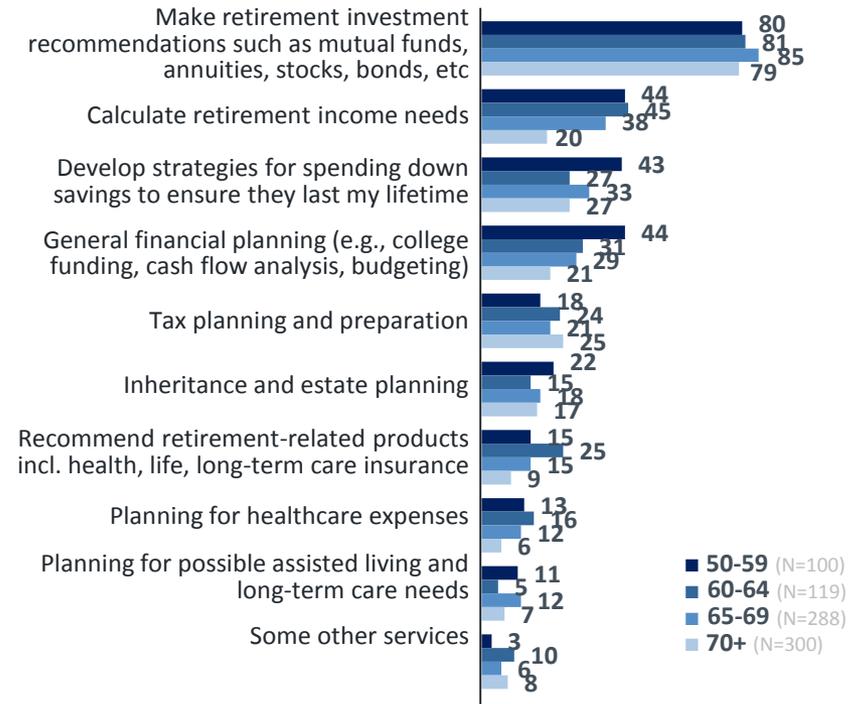
# Currently Use a Professional Financial Advisor

Across age ranges, approximately four in 10 retirees use a professional financial advisor to help manage their retirement savings/investments. Retirees in their fifties who use a financial advisor are more likely than those age 70+ to use advisors to calculate retirement income needs, develop strategies to ensure savings last their lifetime and general financial planning.

**Use a Professional Financial Advisor to Help Manage Your Retirement Savings or Investments, % Indicate "Yes"**



**Types of Services Financial Advisor Performs (%) By Age Range**



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS  
Q860. Do you currently use a professional financial advisor to help manage your retirement savings or investments?  
BASE: USE FINANCIAL ADVISOR  
Q870. What types of services do you currently use your professional financial advisor to perform? Please select all that apply.

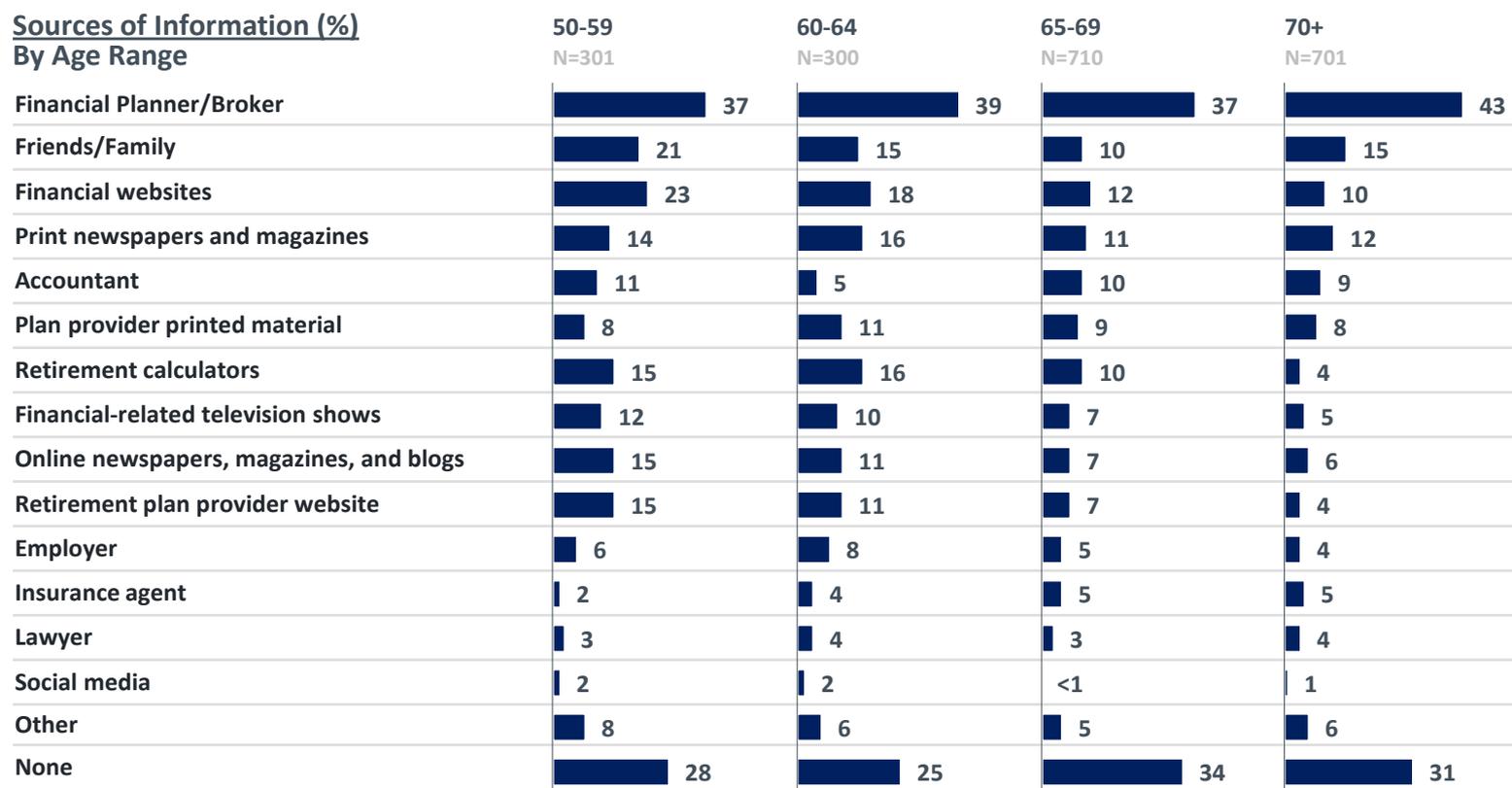
# Information Sources: Retirement Planning & Investing

Retirees most frequently cite financial planners/brokers (41 percent) as a source of information that they rely on for retirement planning and investing. Relatively few cite friends/family (14 percent), financial websites (13 percent), print newspapers and magazines (13 percent), or other sources. Thirty-one percent of retirees cite “none.”



# Information Sources: Retirement Planning & Investing

A financial planner/broker is the most frequently cited source of information for retirement planning and investing among retirees, across age ranges. Retirees in their fifties are more likely than older retirees to cite friends/family, financial websites, online news sources, and their retirement plan provider(s) website.



# Financial Dependents

Sixty-three percent of retirees do not have anyone that is financially dependent on them, and three in 10 (31 percent) say their spouse or partner relies on them financially.

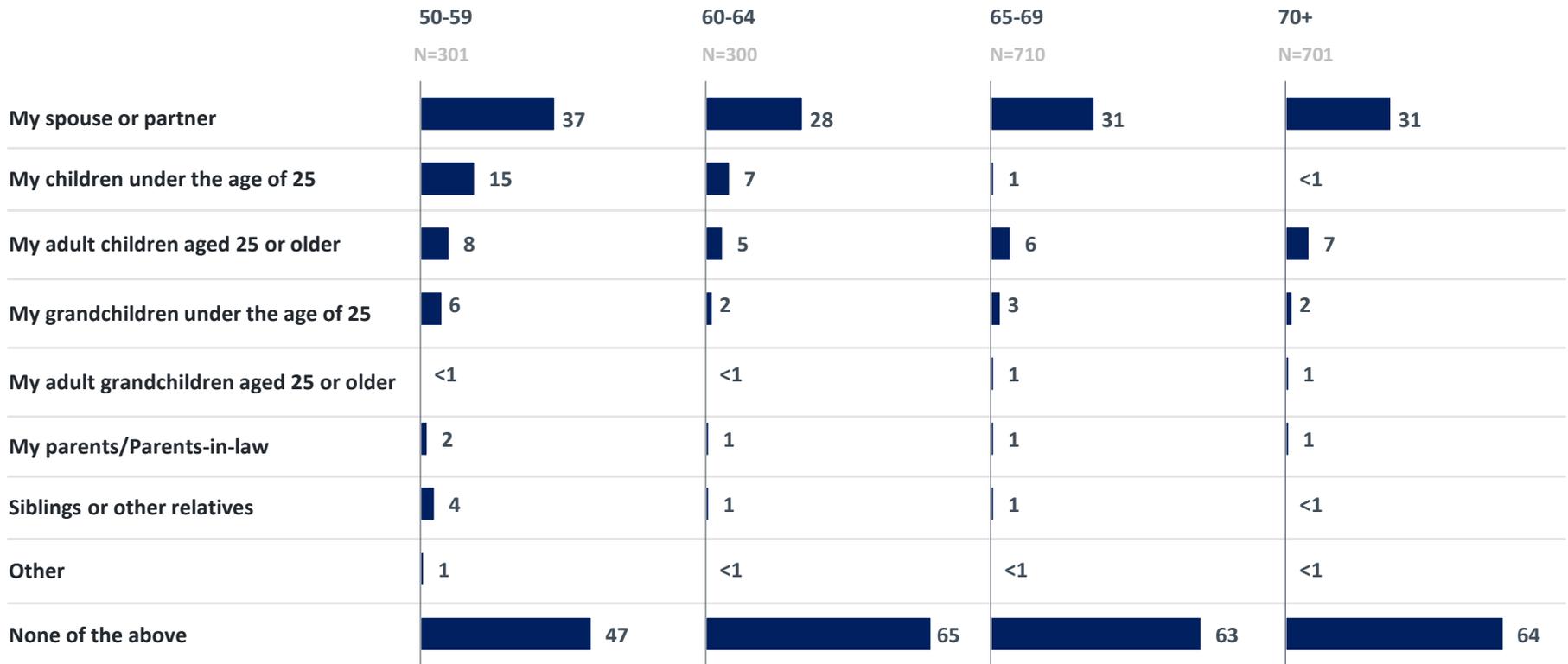
## Financially Dependent on Retiree (%)



# Financial Dependents

Retirees in their fifties are more likely than older retirees to have financial dependents which may include a spouse/partner, children, grandchildren and/or other relatives. The majority of age 60+ retirees do not have any financial dependents.

**Financially Dependent on Retiree (%)**  
By Age Range



# Receiving Support from Family in Retirement

An overwhelming majority (94 percent) of retirees do not receive financial support from their family in retirement.

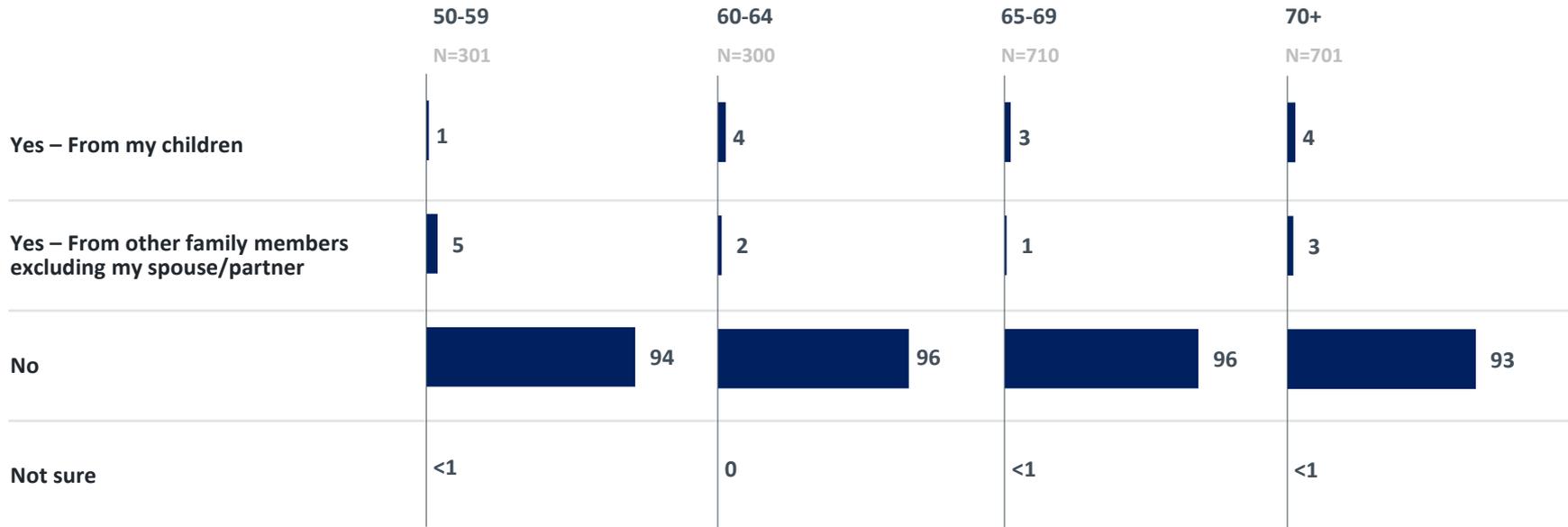
## Do You Receive Financial Support? (%)



# Receiving Financial Support from Family in Retirement

More than 90 percent of retirees across all age groups do not receive financial support from their family. Age 60+ retirees are slightly more likely than those in their fifties to receive financial support from their children, while retirees in the fifties are slightly more likely to receive support from other family members.

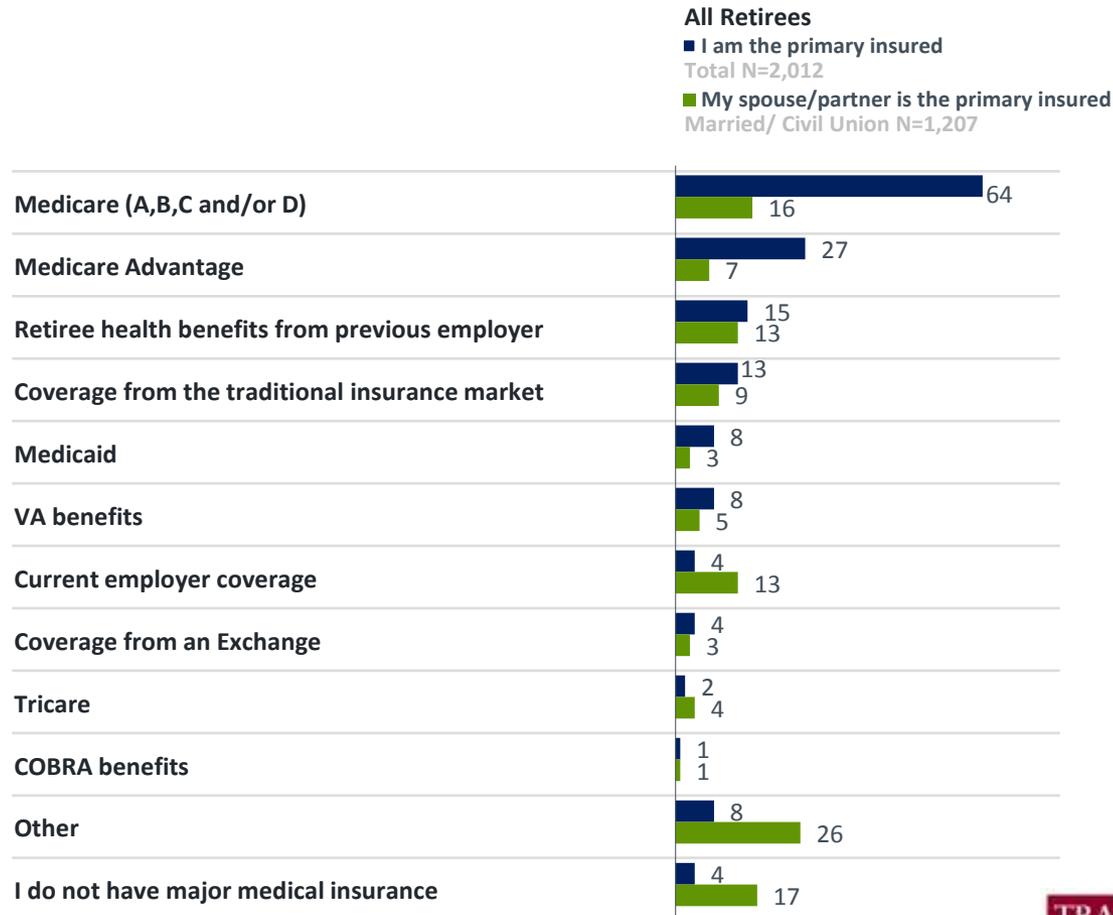
**Do You Receive Financial Support? (%)**  
By Age Range



# Major Medical Insurance Provider

Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of retirees are the primarily insured by Medicare while around one-quarter (26 percent) cite that their spouse/partner is the primary insured through other types of insurance.

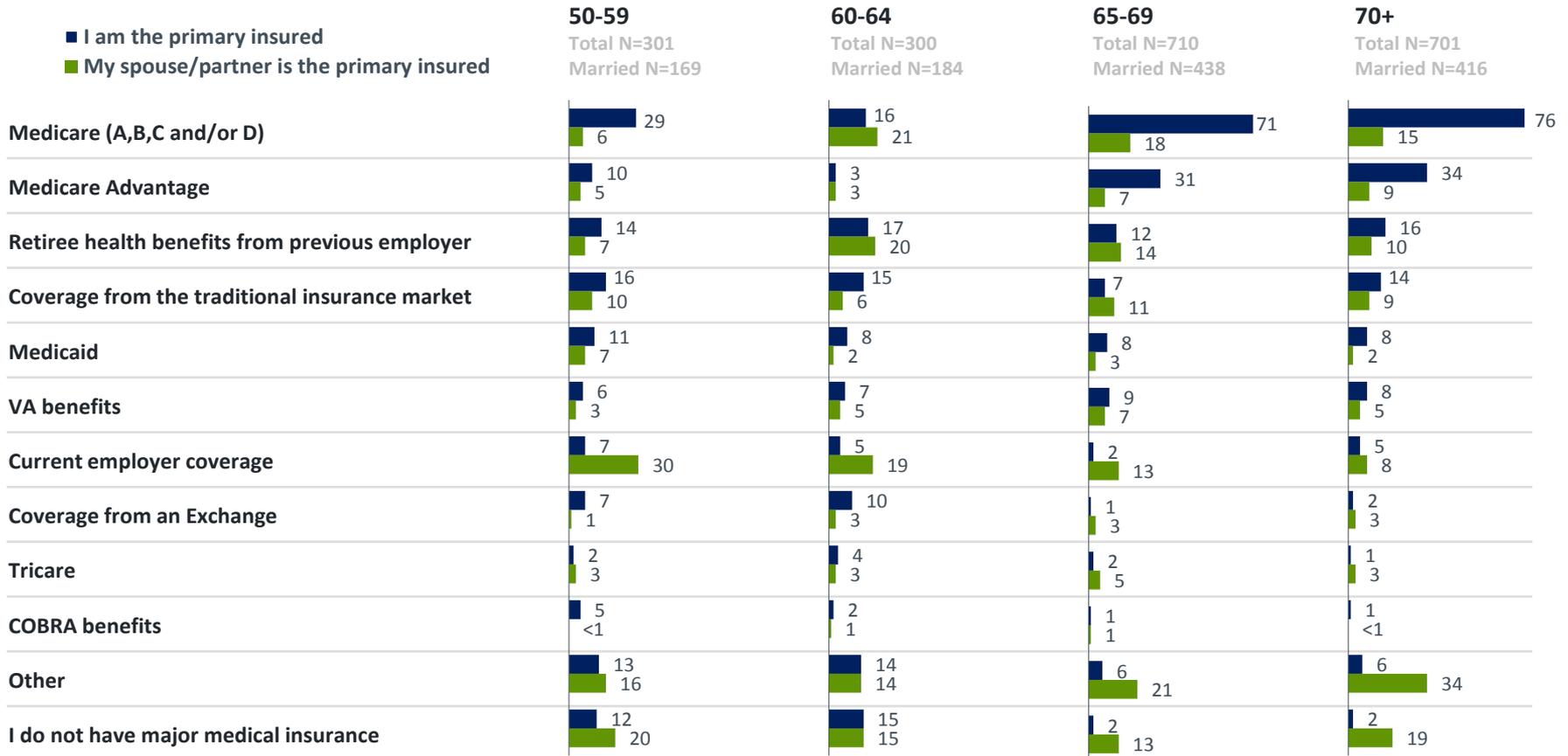
**Major Medical Insurance Provider (%)**



# Major Medical Insurance Provider

More retirees who are age 65 and older are the primary insured through Medicare while significantly more younger retirees (age 50-64) indicate that their spouse/partner is the primary insured through their employer.

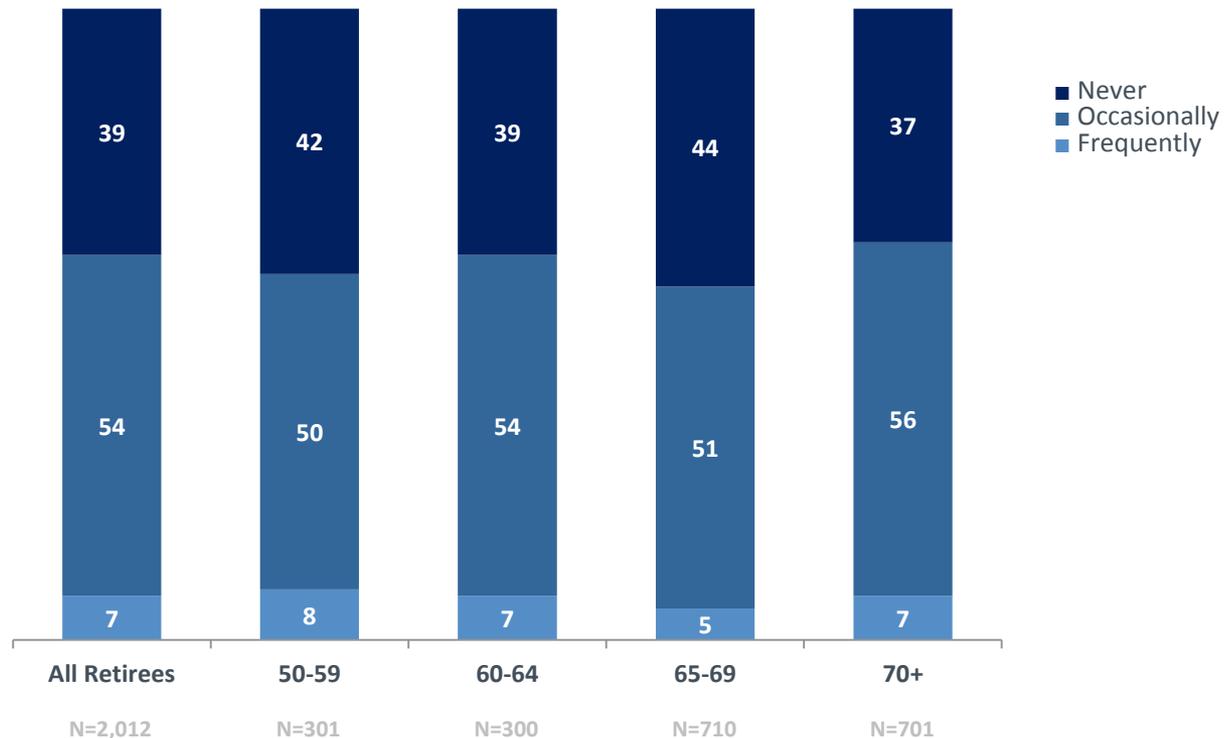
## Major Medical Insurance Provider (%) By Age Range



# Frequency of Retirement Discussions

Only seven percent of retirees frequently discuss retirement savings, investments, and their financial situation with their family and close friends. Fifty-four percent of retirees occasionally discuss these topics, while 39 percent never do so. These findings among retirees are relatively consistent across age ranges.

**Frequency of Discussing Retirement with Family and Friends (%)**



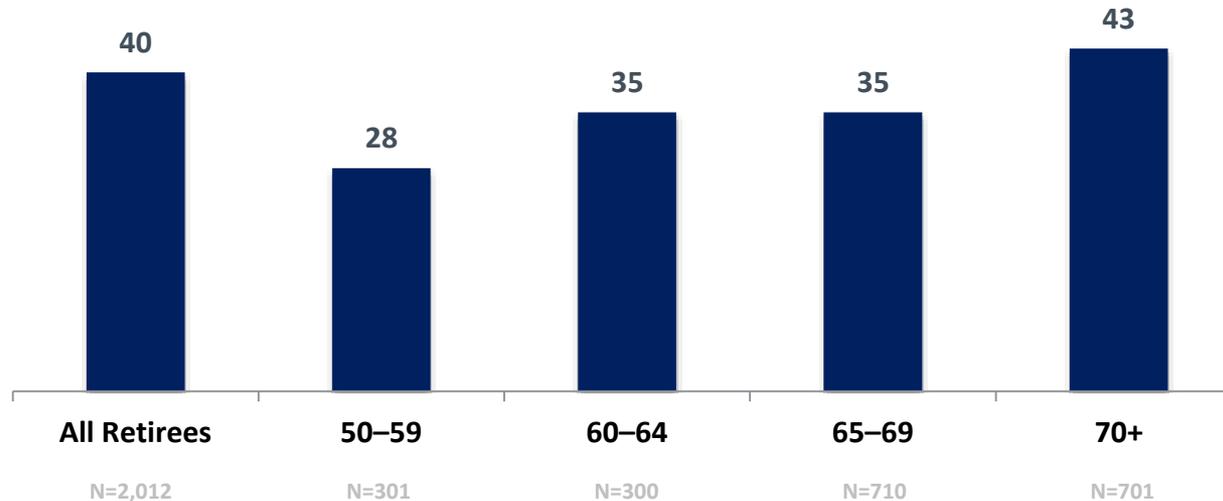
# Looking Back on Retirement Preparations & Lessons Learned

*Detailed Findings*

# Age That Retirees Started Saving for Retirement

Retirees first started saving for retirement at age 40 (median). Younger retirees started saving at an earlier age compared to older retirees. Retirees in their fifties first started saving at age 28 (median) while retirees in their sixties started at age 35 (median) and age 70+ retirees started at age 43 (median).

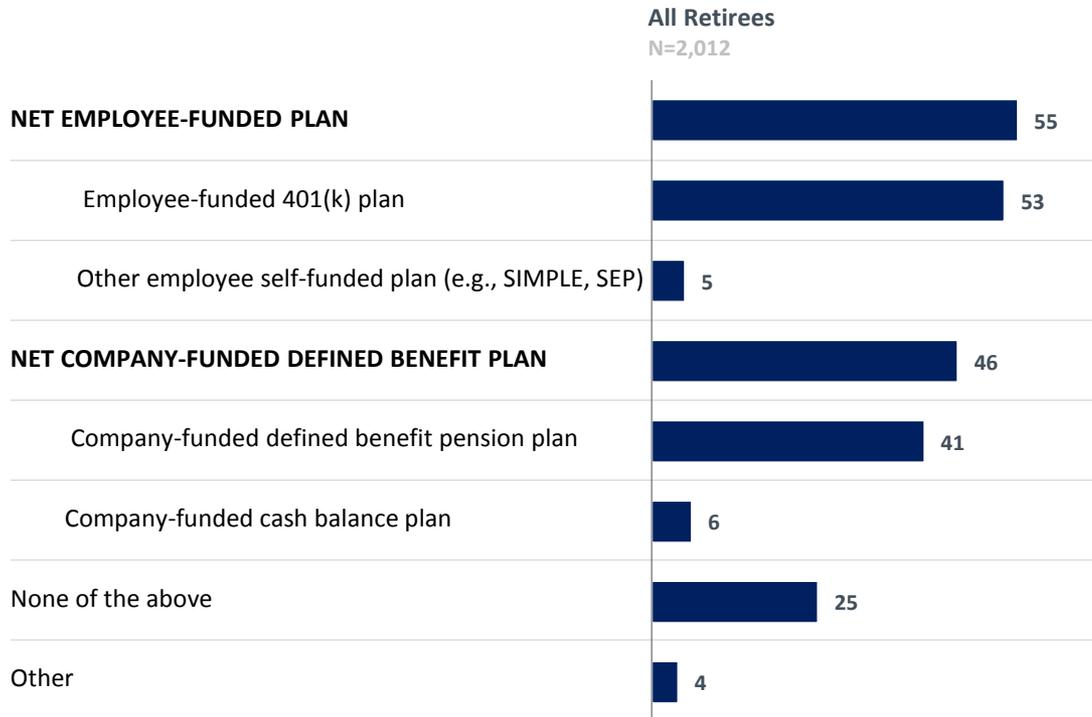
**Age Started Saving for Retirement (Median)**



# Retirement Benefits During Working Years

For the majority of their working careers, more than half (55 percent) of retirees participated in a 401(k) or similar plan and (46 percent) participated in a company-funded defined benefit plan.

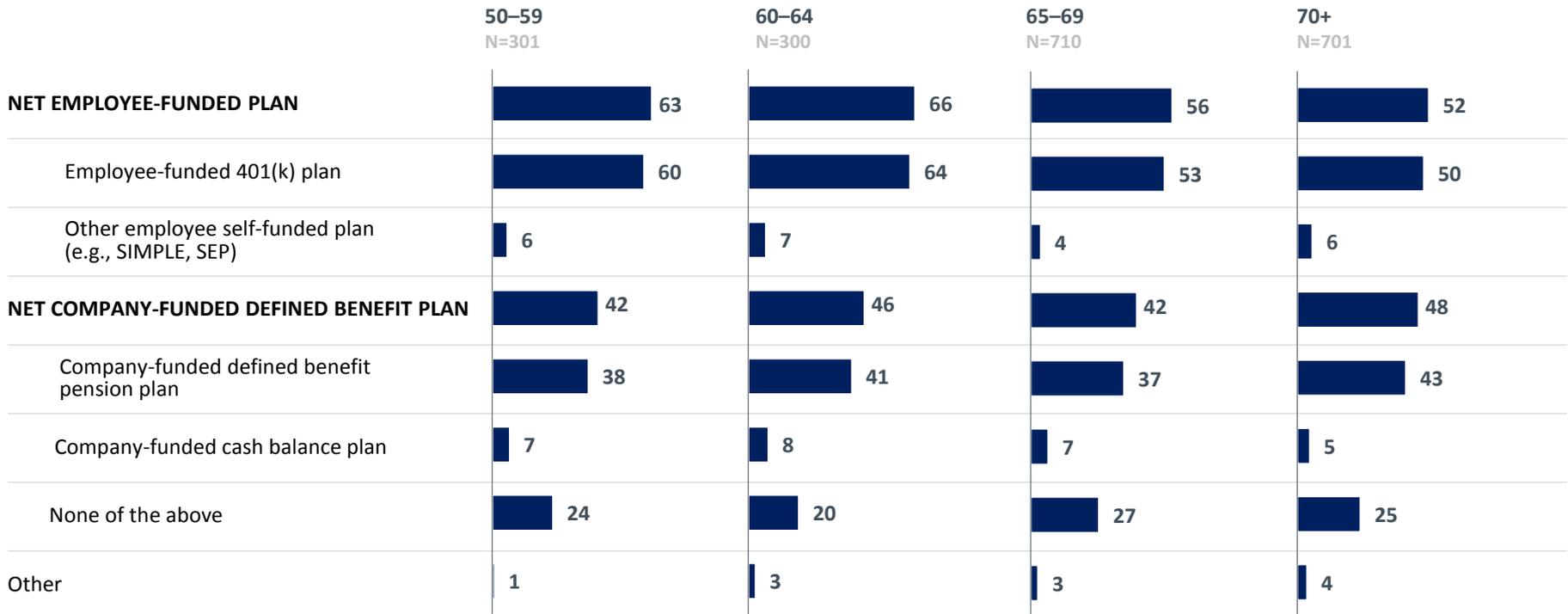
## Retirement Benefits Among Retirees For the Majority of Their Working Careers (%)



# Retirement Benefits During Working Years

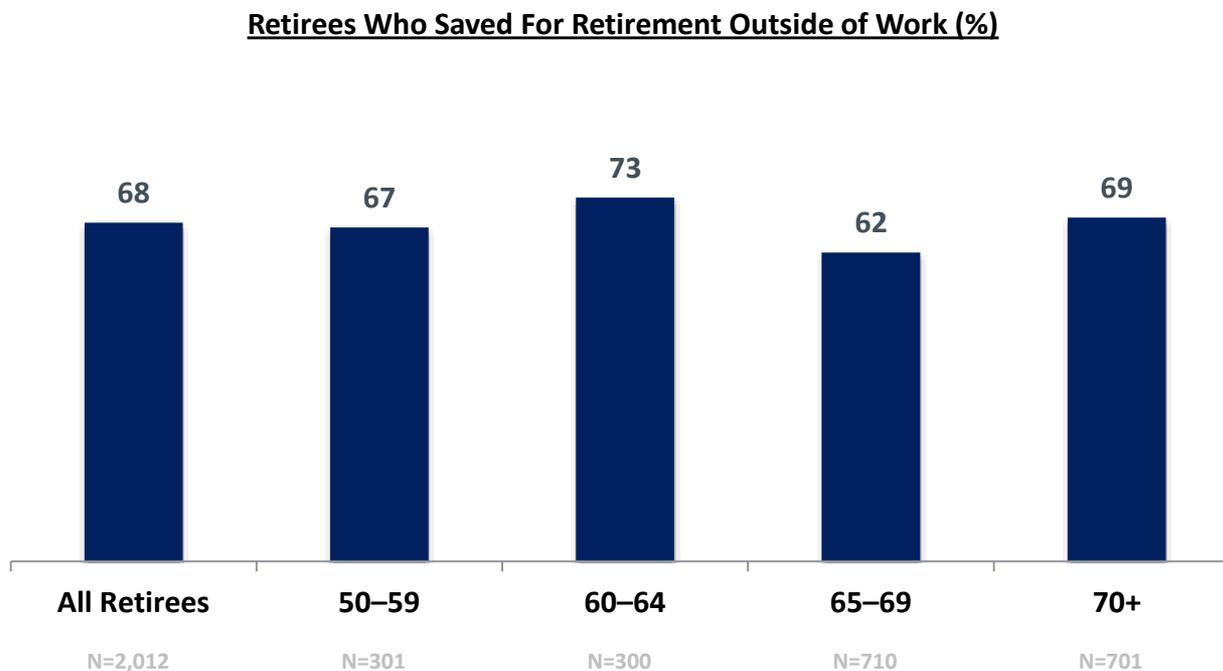
Most retirees across age ranges participated in a 401(k) or similar plan for the majority of their working careers. Retirees who are younger than age 65 are more likely to have participated in such a plan compared to older retirees. (It should be noted that 401(k) plans were introduced in the 1980s and become widespread in the 1990s.) Age 70+ retirees are most likely to say they participated in a company-funded defined benefit plan for most of their working careers.

**Retirement Benefits Among Retirees For the Majority of Their Working Careers (%)**  
By Age Range



# Retirees Who Saved for Retirement Outside of Work

Most retirees (68 percent) saved for retirement outside of work before entering retirement. Retirees age 60 to 64 (73 percent) are most likely to have saved outside of work, while those age 65 to 69 (62 percent) are least likely.



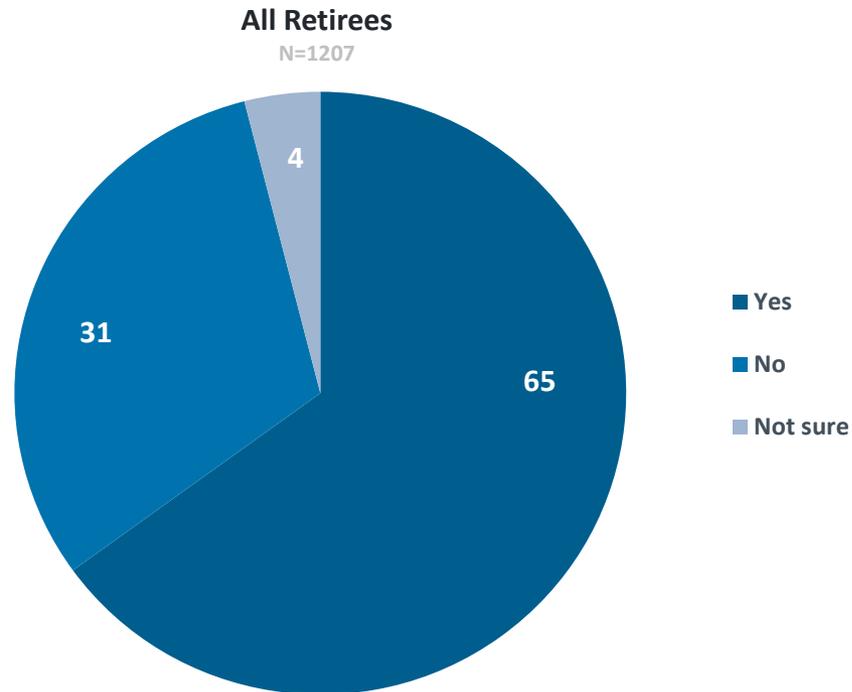
BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q740. Before entering retirement, did you save for retirement outside of work, such as in an IRA, mutual fund, bank account, etc.?

# Spouse/Partner's Retirement Savings

About two-thirds (65 percent) of retirees who are married or in a civil union indicate that their spouse/partner did or does save in a retirement plan of his or her own.

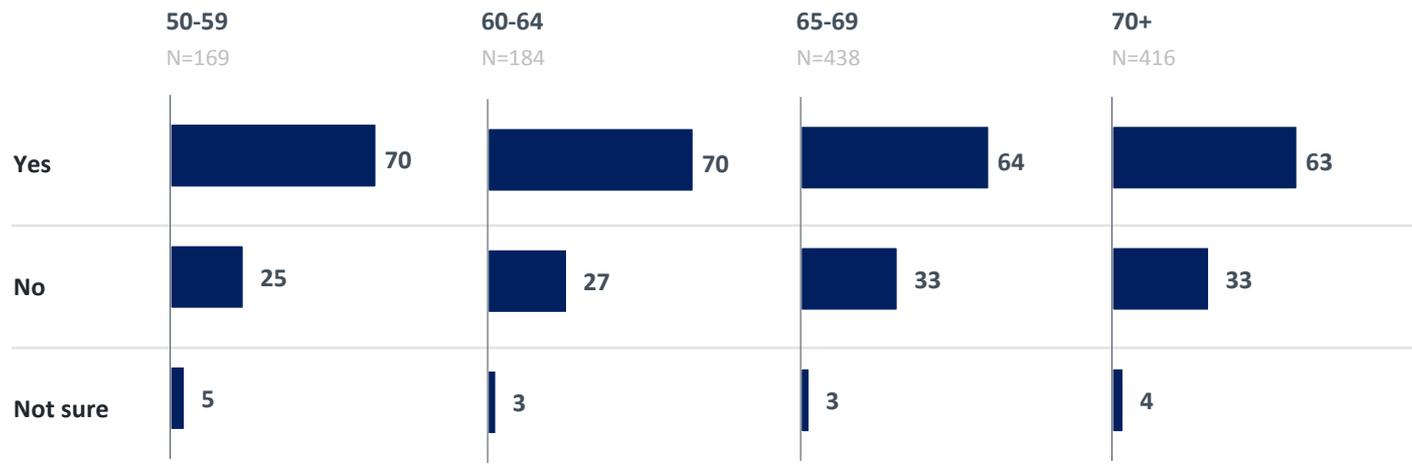
Spouse/Partner Saved in a Retirement Plan (%)



# Spouse/Partner's Retirement Savings

Across age ranges, most retirees who are married or in a civil union indicate that their spouse/partner did or does save in a retirement plan of his or her own. Seventy percent of age 50 to 64 married retirees indicate their spouses saved. Relatively fewer older married retirees, age 65 and older, indicate that their spouses saved.

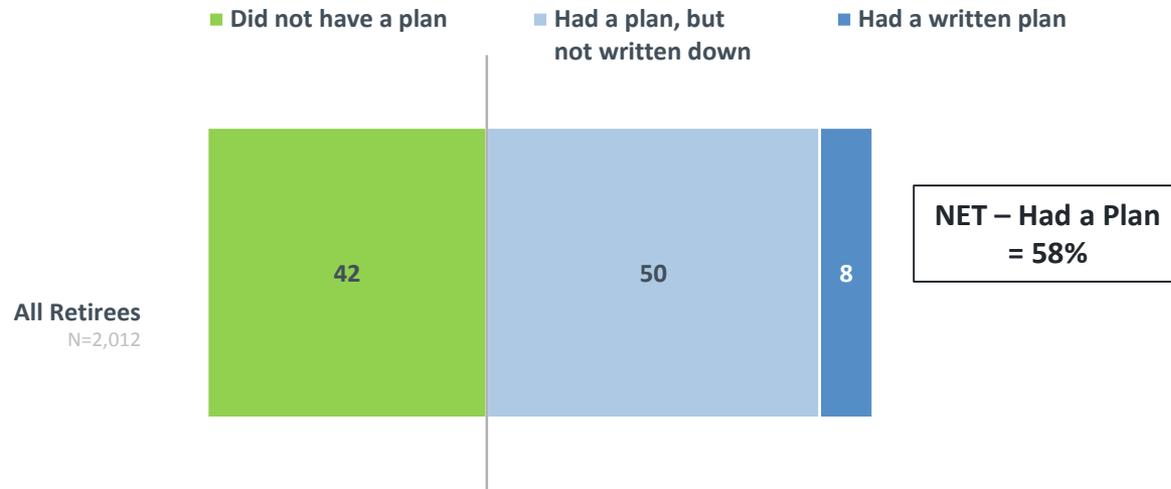
**Spouse/Partner Saved in a Retirement Plan (%)**  
**By Age Range**



# Retirement Strategy Before Retiring

Fifty-eight percent of retirees indicate that they had a retirement strategy before they retired. However, only eight percent had a written plan, while 50 percent say that had a plan but it was not written down. Forty-two percent did not have a plan.

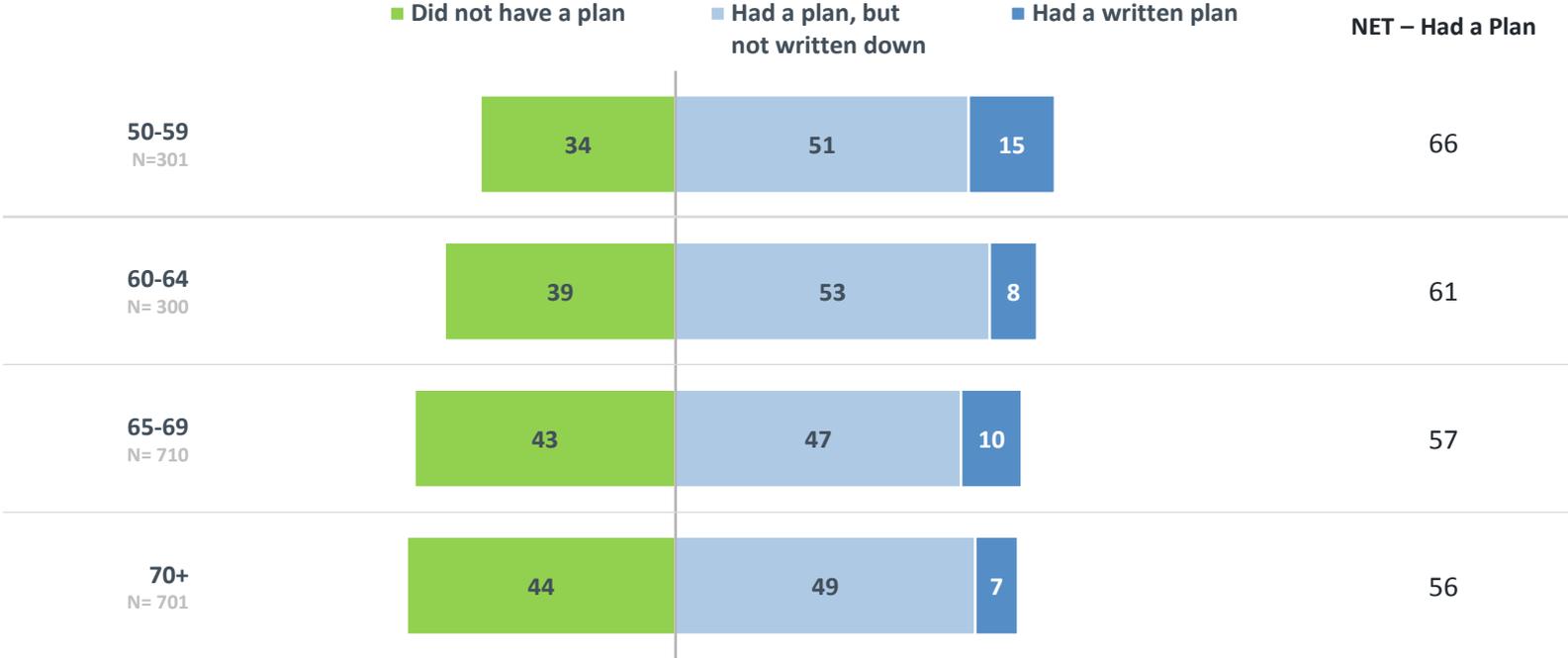
**Retirement Strategy Before Retiring (%)**



# Retirement Strategy Before Retiring

While most retirees across age ranges indicate that they had some sort of retirement strategy before retiring, few say that they had a written plan. Retirees in their fifties (15 percent) are most likely to have had a written plan, while age 70+ retirees (7 percent) are least likely.

**Retirement Strategy Before Retiring (%)**  
By Age Range



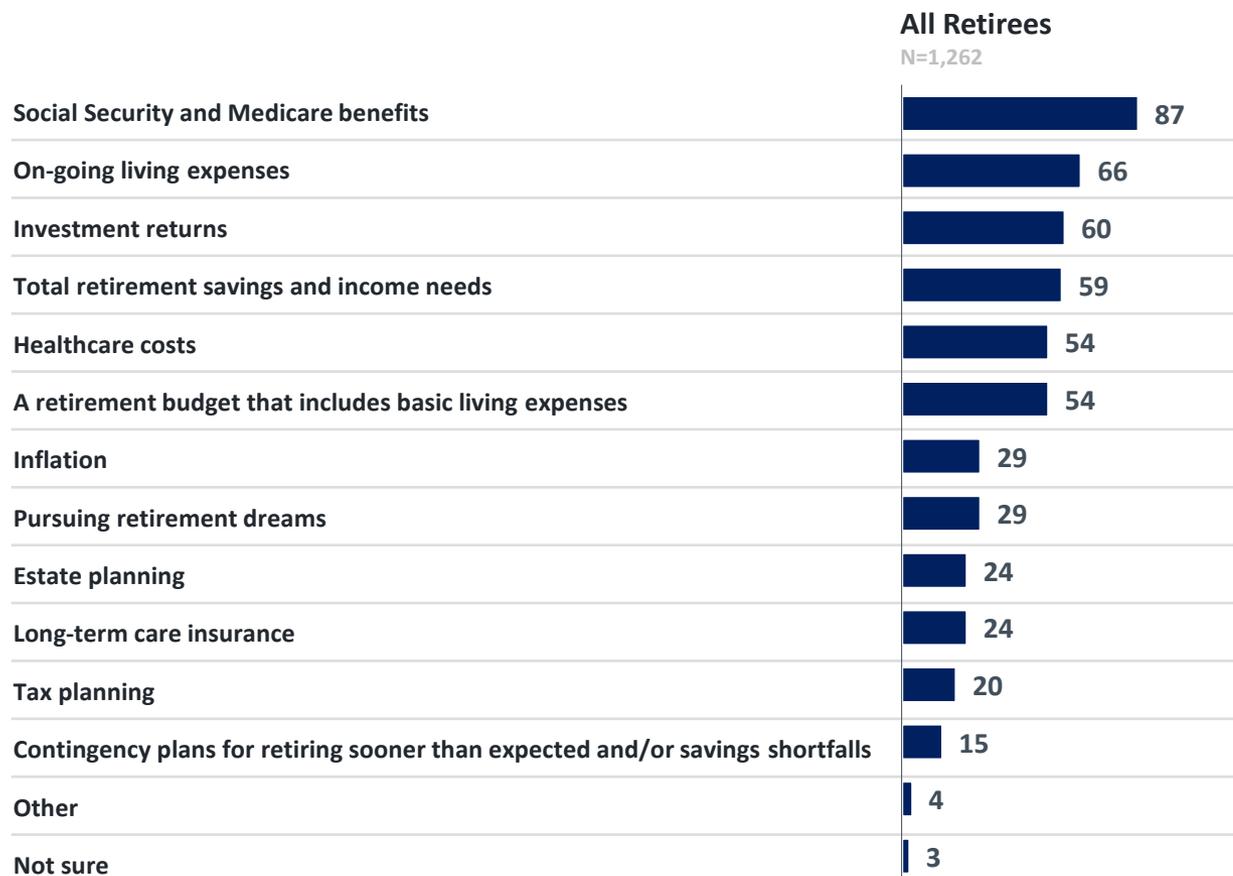
BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q1160. Which of the following best describes your retirement strategy before retiring?

# Components of Retirement Strategy Before Retiring

Among retirees who had a retirement strategy before retiring, written or unwritten, the majority had factored Social Security and Medicare benefits, ongoing living expenses, investment returns, healthcare costs, and a retirement budget into their plans. However, fewer than 30 percent had factored inflation, pursuing retirement dreams, estate planning, long-term care insurance, tax planning, or contingency plans for retiring sooner than expected and/or savings shortfalls.

## Included in Retirement Strategy **Before Retiring (%)**



# Components of Retirement Strategy Before Retiring

Among retirees who had a retirement strategy before retiring, those age 65+ are more likely to have factored Social Security and Medicare benefits into their strategy than younger retirees. Retirees under age 65 are more likely than older retirees to have factored in a retirement budget that includes basic living expenses into their strategy, and retirees in their fifties are more likely to have included pursuing their retirement dreams.

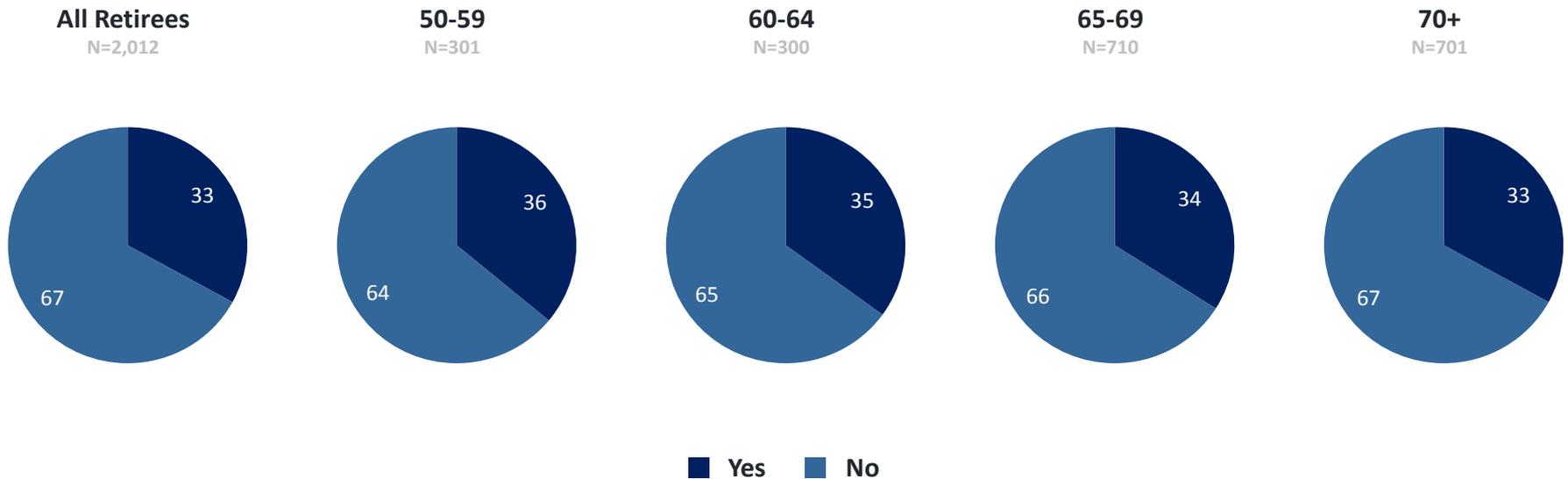
## Included in Retirement Strategy Before Retiring (%)

By Age Range	50-59 N=190	60-64 N=175	65-69 N=451	70+ N=446
Social Security and Medicare benefits	69	78	88	91
On-going living expenses	63	68	63	67
Investment returns	60	61	56	62
Total retirement savings and income needs	62	67	65	54
Healthcare costs	50	57	57	53
A retirement budget that includes basic living expenses	66	73	55	47
Inflation	36	27	31	28
Pursuing retirement dreams	50	33	29	25
Estate planning	24	23	26	24
Long-term care insurance	13	25	22	26
Tax planning	30	20	19	18
Contingency plans for retiring sooner than expected and/or savings shortfalls	25	19	13	14
Other	6	2	5	3
Not sure	6	4	2	3

# Pre-Retirement Use of a Financial Advisor

Approximately one-third of retirees used a professional financial advisor to help them manage their savings or investments before retiring. Little difference exists across age ranges of retirees.

Pre-Retirement Use of a Financial Advisor (%)



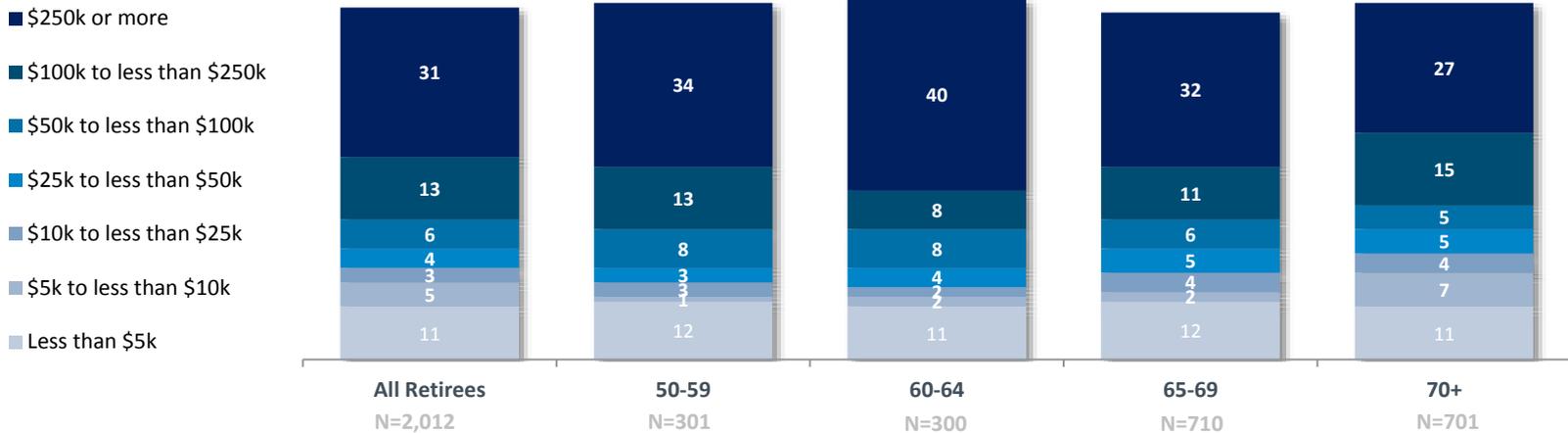
BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q1521. Before retiring, did you use a professional financial advisor to help manage your retirement savings or investments?

# Household Retirement Savings at Time of Retirement

At the time of their retirement, retirees indicate that they had saved \$131,000 (estimated median) in all household retirement accounts. Age 60 to 64 retirees (\$222,000) had saved the most and age 70+ retirees (\$115,000) had saved the least. Thirty-one percent of retirees indicate that they had saved \$250,000 or more at the time of their retirement.

**All Retirees Household Retirement Savings at Retirement (%)**



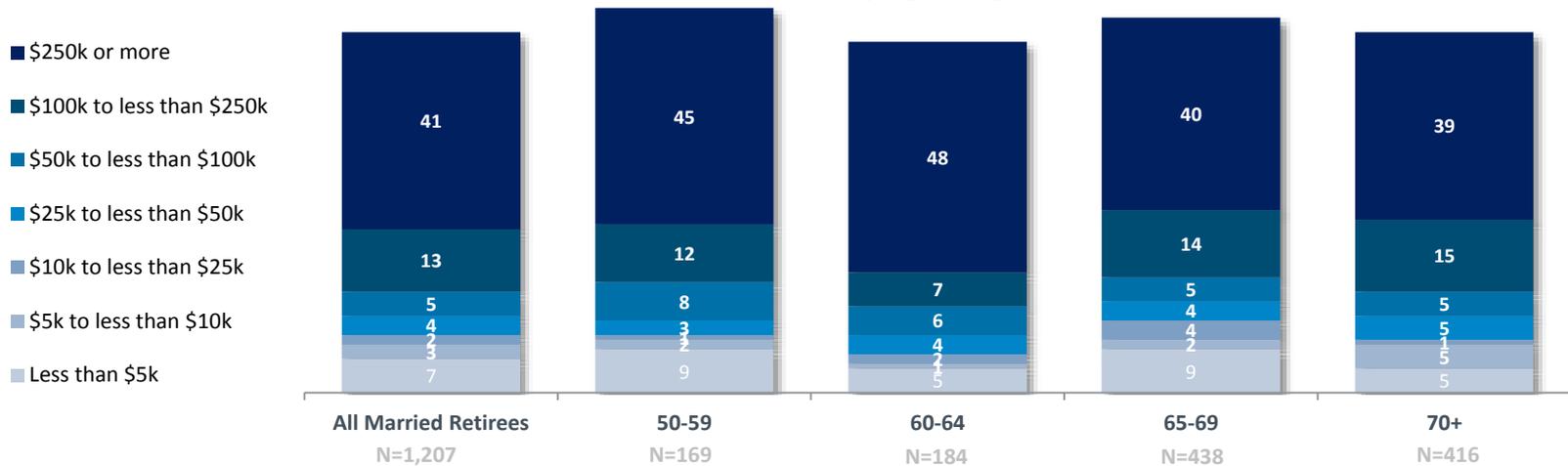
<b>Not sure</b>	9	10	8	8	9
<b>Decline to answer</b>	18	16	17	20	17
<b>Estimated Median</b>	\$131,000	\$149,000	\$222,000	\$145,000	\$115,000

Note: The median is estimated based on the approximate midpoint of the range of each response category. Non-responses are excluded from the estimate.

# Household Retirement Savings at Time of Retirement for Married Retirees

At their time of retirement, married retirees indicate that they had saved \$225,000 (estimated median) in all retirement accounts. Those who are currently younger than age 65 had more in retirement savings at their time of retirement compared to those who are age 65 and older. Forty-one percent of married retirees indicate they had saved \$250,000 or more.

**Retirement Savings at Time of Retirement for Married Retirees (%)**  
By Age Range



<b>Not sure</b>	7	7	7	5	8
<b>Decline to answer</b>	18	13	20	17	17
<b>Estimated Median</b>	\$225,000	\$288,000	\$371,000	\$191,000	\$193,000

Note: The median is estimated based on the approximate midpoint of the range of each response category. Non-responses are excluded from the estimate.

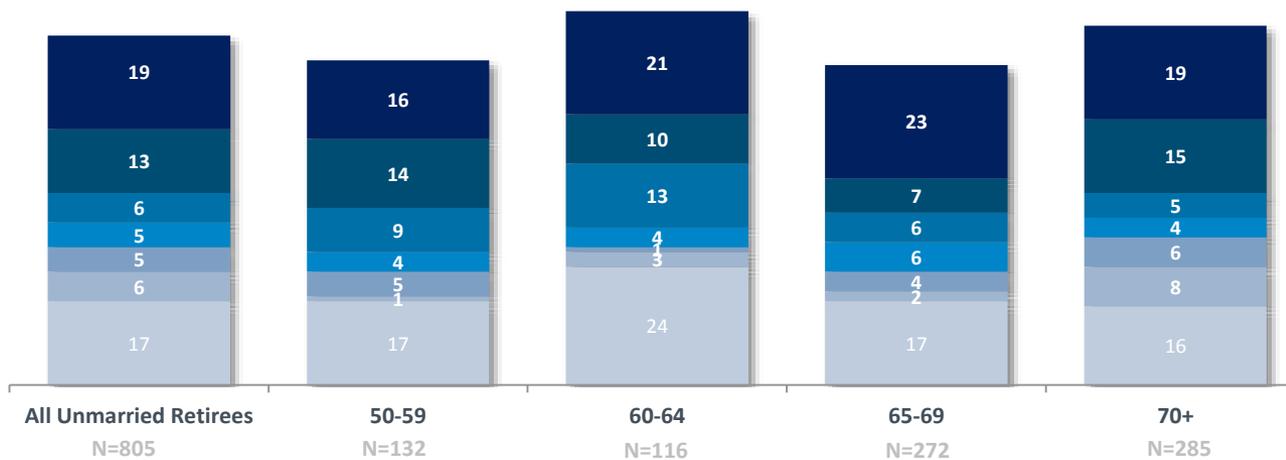
# Household Retirement Savings at Time of Retirement for Unmarried Retirees

At their time of retirement, unmarried retirees indicate that they had saved \$53,000 (estimated median) in all retirement accounts, representing a wide disparity between their retirement savings and those of married retirees with \$225,000 (see page 109). Nearly one in four (24 percent) of unmarried retirees age 65-69 had saved less than \$5,000 at their time of retirement.

**Retirement Savings at Time of Retirement for Unmarried Retirees (%)**

**By Age Range**

- \$250k or more
- \$100k to less than \$250k
- \$50k to less than \$100k
- \$25k to less than \$50k
- \$10k to less than \$25k
- \$5k to less than \$10k
- Less than \$5k



<b>Not sure</b>	11	14	12	12	10
<b>Decline to answer</b>	18	20	12	23	17
<b>Estimated Median</b>	\$53,000	\$64,000	\$54,000	\$56,000	\$50,000

Note: The median is estimated based on the approximate midpoint of the range of each response category. Non-responses are excluded from the estimate.

# Looking Back on Retirement Preparations

Most retirees (76 percent) wish that they would have saved more and on a consistent basis when looking back on their retirement preparations. More than two-thirds (68 percent) wish they had been more knowledgeable about retirement saving and investing. More than half (53 percent) would have liked to have received more information and advice from their employers on how to reach their retirement goals.

## Looking Back on Retirement Preparations Top 2 Box % (Strongly/Somewhat Agree)



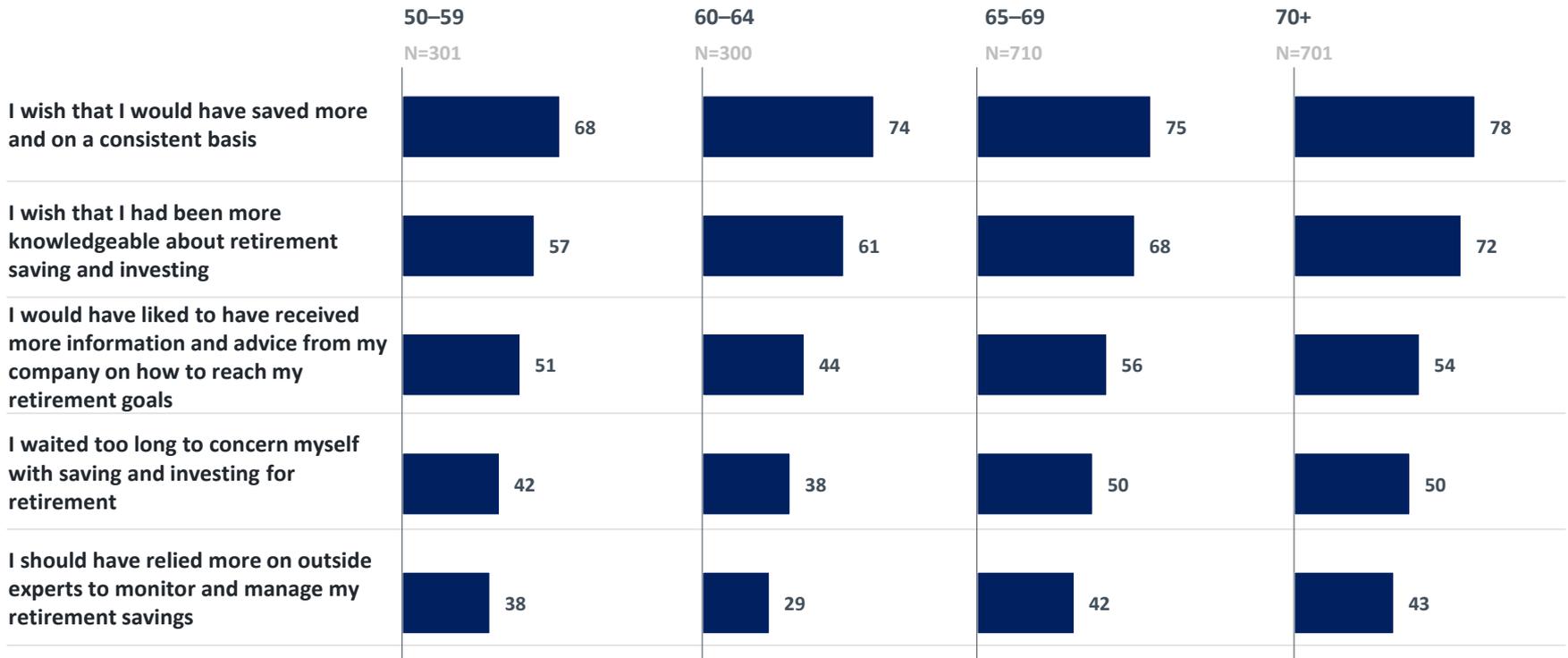
BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q931. Reflecting on your working years before entering into retirement, how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding retirement investing?

# Looking Back on Retirement Preparations

Retirees across age ranges share similar sentiments when looking back on their retirement preparations yet with some interesting differences. Age 70+ retirees (78 percent) are more likely than retirees in their fifties (68 percent) to wish that they had saved more and on a consistent basis. Age 65+ retirees are more likely than those under age 65 to agree that they waited too long to concern themselves with saving and investing for retirement.

**Looking Back on Retirement Preparations**  
**Top 2 Box % (Strongly/Somewhat Agree)**  
**By Age Range**



BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

Q931. Reflecting on your working years before entering into retirement, how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding retirement investing?

# Retirees' Advice for Younger People

Work in a job that you love. Invest in personal education as well as financial investments. Start saving early, even if just a small amount of each paycheck.

For women, have your own savings account. Plan for your own future – and for unexpected life changes

Save early, save often, save more than you think you can afford.

Take good care of your health.

Take chances when you are young. Travel and take advantage of what is available to you. Don't wait for retirement to enjoy life. Enjoy life every day. Do what you know is right and you will have no regrets.

Learn as much as possible about investing and finances; go to seminars on optimizing Social Security benefits.

# Appendix: A Demographic Portrait of Retirees

# Profile of Retirees

	All Retirees	Age				Retirement Type	
	N=2,012	50-59 N=301	60-64 N=300	65-69 710	70+ N=701	Fully N=1741	Semi N=271
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	48%	53%	47%	47%	49%	47%	58%
Female	52%	47%	53%	53%	51%	53%	42%
<b>Age</b>							
50 – 54	2%	24%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%
55 – 59	5%	76%	0%	0%	0%	5%	12%
60 – 64	13%	0%	100%	0%	0%	12%	22%
65 – 69	23%	0%	0%	100%	0%	23%	29%
70 – 74	22%	0%	0%	0%	41%	22%	21%
75 – 79	16%	0%	0%	0%	28%	17%	8%
80 – 84	13%	0%	0%	0%	22%	14%	2%
85 – 89	5%	0%	0%	0%	8%	5%	2%
90 – 94	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%
95 – 99	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
100 and over	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
MEAN	71.1	56.0	62.6	67.0	76.8	71.6	66.7
MEDIAN	71	56	63	67	76	71	67

<b>Ethnicity</b>							
White, non-Hispanic	74%	71%	71%	70%	78%	74%	71%
Hispanic	9%	9%	8%	10%	8%	9%	11%
African American	10%	12%	12%	12%	9%	10%	11%
Asian/Pacific	6%	6%	7%	6%	5%	6%	6%
Other/Mixed	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Decline to answer	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%

	All Retirees	Age				Retirement Type	
	N=2,012	50-59 N=301	60-64 N=300	65-69 710	70+ N=701	Fully N=1741	Semi N=271
<b>Level of Education</b>							
Less than high school graduate	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%	2%	0%
High school graduate	42%	32%	35%	37%	47%	44%	21%
Some college or trade school	27%	27%	32%	31%	24%	26%	33%
College graduate	17%	27%	22%	17%	14%	17%	20%
Some grad. school/grad. Degree	12%	11%	9%	11%	13%	11%	26%
<b>Marital Status</b>							
Married	52%	58%	63%	58%	47%	51%	59%
Single, never married	8%	15%	13%	9%	5%	8%	10%
Divorced/widowed/separated	38%	23%	19%	31%	47%	39%	29%
Civil union/domestic partnership	2%	4%	5%	2%	1%	2%	2%
<b>Type of Area Lived In</b>							
Large city	17%	20%	19%	20%	15%	17%	19%
Small city	21%	19%	17%	21%	23%	22%	14%
Suburbs	43%	41%	43%	40%	43%	41%	52%
Rural area	19%	20%	21%	19%	19%	20%	15%

# Profile of Retirees, continued

	All Retirees	Age				Retirement Status	
	N=2,012	50-59 N=301	60-64 N=300	65-69 710	70+ N=701	Fully N=1741	Semi N=271
<b>HH Income</b>							
Less than \$25,000	25%	19%	18%	22%	29%	26%	17%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	29%	14%	27%	28%	31%	28%	28%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	14%	14%	16%	17%	13%	15%	9%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	9%	13%	12%	10%	7%	9%	11%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	9%	18%	16%	10%	5%	8%	13%
\$150,000 or more	4%	12%	5%	4%	3%	4%	9%
Not sure	1%	3%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Decline to answer	9%	7%	6%	9%	10%	9%	12%
MEDIAN (\$000)	32	56	41	35	29	32	37

<b>Occupation</b>							
Managerial or business owner	15%	17%	10%	16%	15%	14%	21%
Professional/Medical/Technical	20%	20%	23%	19%	20%	19%	28%
Sales	9%	11%	8%	8%	9%	9%	11%
Clerical/ Service/Administration	25%	17%	27%	23%	26%	26%	13%
Blue-Collar/Production	12%	17%	15%	14%	10%	12%	12%
Teacher/Education	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Some Other Occupation	19%	17%	16%	19%	19%	19%	14%

	All Retirees	Age				Retirement Status	
	N=2,012	50-59 N=301	60-64 N=300	65-69 710	70+ N=701	Fully N=1741	Semi N=271
<b>Amount Currently Saved in Retirement Accounts</b>							
Less than \$5,000	14%	16%	13%	15%	14%	15%	12%
\$5,000 to less than \$10,000	4%	3%	3%	3%	5%	4%	2%
\$10,000 to less than \$25,000	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	4%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%
\$50,000 to less than \$100,000	6%	6%	6%	5%	7%	6%	5%
\$100,000 to less than \$250,000	12%	9%	9%	10%	13%	11%	18%
\$250,000 or more	30%	36%	39%	32%	26%	30%	31%
Not sure	8%	8%	6%	7%	9%	8%	8%
Decline to answer	20%	16%	20%	21%	20%	20%	16%
MEDIAN (\$000)	119	154	202	142	97	116	134

<b>Company's Primary Business</b>							
Manufacturing	25%	22%	25%	25%	26%	26%	17%
Agriculture/Mining/ Construction	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	2%	4%
Transportation/Comm./ Utilities	13%	16%	13%	13%	12%	13%	10%
Professional services	21%	20%	26%	21%	21%	21%	28%
Service industries	16%	18%	21%	15%	16%	16%	21%
Some other type of business	22%	21%	13%	22%	24%	22%	20%

<b>Number of Employees</b>							
10-499 (NET)	41%	33%	41%	39%	43%	42%	34%
10 to 24	10%	9%	7%	8%	12%	10%	12%
25 to 99	14%	7%	16%	17%	12%	14%	13%
100 to 499	18%	17%	17%	14%	20%	19%	9%
500+ (NET)	59%	67%	59%	61%	57%	58%	66%
500 to 999	10%	13%	7%	12%	10%	11%	9%
1,000 or more	48%	53%	52%	49%	46%	47%	57%
MEAN	746	824	763	759	726	738	818
MEDIAN	999	1500	1500	999	999	999	1500

# Profile of Retirees, continued

	All Retirees						All Retirees							
	Age						Age							
	50-59		60-64		65-69		70+		Fully		Semi		Retirement Type	
	N=2,012	N=301	N=300	710	N=701	N=1741	N=271	N=2,012	N=301	N=300	710	N=701	N1741	N=271
<b>Employment status</b>														
Employed full-time	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%							
Employed part-time	3%	2%	4%	4%	2%	0%	28%							
Self-employed	2%	3%	4%	3%	1%	0%	21%							
Not employed, but looking for work	3%	7%	5%	4%	2%	2%	17%							
Not employed and not looking for work	92%	88%	87%	89%	95%	98%	33%							
<b>Been retired and then come out of retirement</b>														
Yes	15%	17%	9%	12%	18%	12%	49%							
No	85%	83%	91%	88%	82%	88%	51%							
<b>Consider yourself</b>														
Fully retired								91%	78%	84%	89%	95%	100%	0%
Semi-retired								9%	22%	16%	11%	5%	0%	100%
None of the above								0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Current profession</b>														
I am working in my primary profession and career								29%	23%	30%	28%	31%	0%	31%
I have started a new profession and career since entering retirement								13%	44%	8%	8%	14%	15%	13%
I am working but do not consider it to be in either my primary profession or a new profession								50%	32%	55%	50%	49%	41%	50%
Other								8%	1%	6%	14%	6%	44%	6%
<b>Race or Ethnic group</b>														
White, non-Hispanic								74%	70%	72%	69%	77%	74%	71%
Hispanic								9%	9%	8%	10%	8%	9%	11%
African American								10%	12%	12%	12%	9%	10%	11%
Asian/Pacific								6%	6%	7%	6%	5%	6%	6%
Other/mixed								1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Decline to answer								0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
<b>Where You Live</b>														
Large city								17%	20%	19%	20%	15%	17%	19%
Small city								21%	19%	17%	21%	23%	22%	14%
Suburbs								42%	41%	44%	40%	43%	41%	52%
Rural area								19%	20%	21%	19%	19%	20%	15%

**TRANSAMERICA CENTER**

**FOR RETIREMENT STUDIES®**