

Reimagine  
Realizing  
Reaching  
Richer  
Rewarding  
Romance  
Responsible  
Rock 'n' Roll  
Relaxing  
Reforming  
Richer  
Real Possibilities

# Disrupting Disparities – An Action Agenda

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Gerri Madrid Davis  
Director, State Financial Security & Consumer Affairs, AARP



# Disrupt Aging to Disrupt Disparities

Through AARP's societal movement to **Disrupt Aging**, we are challenging outdated beliefs and sparking new solutions so we can all choose how we live as we age.

Yet, disparities in health, wealth, and communities have create inequalities that can limit or even impede individual choices and opportunities for healthy aging, successful employment and the ability to make meaningful societal contributions.

AARP's **Disrupt Disparities** efforts are changing this trajectory.

**Disrupt Disparities** is the Action Agenda to address barriers that limit people because of ageism and the compounding effects of racism.

- Disrupt disparities projects in **New York** and **Michigan**
- The following states are beginning new efforts in 2020: Arkansas, DC, Illinois, Kansas, and Pennsylvania



# New York Project Summary

Multi-year effort to identify disparities that exist among ethnic 50 and older communities and fight for solutions to disrupt these disparities.

The project included a series of [policy briefs examining and highlighting disparities](#) in the areas of:

- Health
- Economic Security
- Livable Communities

The project also included a set of **policy recommendations** to address disparities.



## Economic Security: Key Findings

- A greater proportion of employees of color working in New York are in jobs that do not provide a retirement savings plan option.
- Deed theft scams, in which fraudsters steal people's homes out from under them, are on an alarming rise. One stakeholder referred to deed theft as the most harmful type of scam perpetrated against older New Yorkers of color.
- New Yorkers of color of all ages face significant disparities in student loan debt, compared to white New Yorkers.
- Approximately **3 million** caregivers provide more than **2.4 billion hours** of care to loved ones each year. The total estimated economic value of this uncompensated care is **31 billion dollars**. The average caregiver's out of pocket costs for caregiving averages **20% of income**. For Hispanic caregivers, the percentage rises to **44% of income**.



## Economic Security: Policy Changes/Recommendations

- **Enacted** the NYS Secure Choice program, which allows private sector employers to offer their employees the chance to open individual retirement accounts with low-cost options through payroll deduction.
- **Enacted** legislation to shield homeowners from predatory deed theft schemes and exploitation by fraudulent distressed mortgage consultants.
- **Passed** a new law to license, regulate and provide oversight of student loan providers.
- Enact a family caregiver state tax credit to support family caregivers and to recognize their significant financial contributions that reduce the demand for state-funded services.



# Michigan Project Summary

Michigan's disrupt disparities project was a nine-month, in-depth study of health care in the state culminating in a report by AARP Michigan entitled: "[Disrupting Disparities: A Continuum of Care for Michiganders 50 and Older.](#)"

The report examines disparities across several domains:

- In the prevalence of chronic disease among older adults in Michigan.
- In the availability of home and community-based long-term services and supports including family caregiver support.
- In access to broadband and telehealth.
- Across age, race, and geography.



**DISRUPTING  
DISPARITIES:  
THE CONTINUUM  
OF CARE FOR  
MICHIGANDERS  
50 AND OLDER**



# Key Findings

- Two-thirds of Michigan seniors said in an 2018 AARP survey that they suffer from one or more health conditions. Most common among them was high blood pressure (45 percent), diabetes (22 percent), heart disease (14 percent) and depression or other mental health issues (14 percent). 12 percent reported having gone without needed care because of cost, lack of transportation, or no available timely appointments.
- Black senior Michiganders have poorer health status than their white counterparts. They have greater rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, and an increased likelihood to skip follow-up care. A decrease in the prevalence of diabetes among the senior population (65+) by **one percent** could **decrease treatment costs by over \$32.5 million**.
- Family members are the primary caregivers for seniors. Michigan has **1.28 million family caregivers** who provide **1.2 billion hours** of care to loved ones each year. The total estimated economic value of this uncompensated care is **\$14.5 billion** a year. ([state by state data on family caregivers](#))
- Michigan fails to provide sufficient home and community-based options for seniors and persons with physical disabilities. Michigan ranks 40<sup>th</sup> among states in the percentage of Medicaid and state long-term services and supports funding going to home and community-based services for seniors and other adults with physical disabilities.



# Policy Recommendations



- Michigan should enact a Family Caregiver Tax Credit to help offset the financial costs associated with providing care for a loved one.
- Michigan should spend more of its Medicaid long-term supports and services funding on home and community-based services. The majority of older adults living in the state prefer to receive care in their homes and communities and, on average, **three** Michiganders can be served in their own homes for every **one person** served in a nursing home. If Michigan can delay entrance for 1 percent of the 38,801 Medicaid recipients currently in certified nursing care for one year, the state could **save \$3.15 million** in general fund Medicaid expenditures.
- The state should expand access to broadband high-speed Internet in underserved and/or remote, rural communities, as well as consider a telehealth pilot program to assess whether it is effective in helping to improve access to quality health care. An estimated **368,000 rural** Michigan households do not have access to broadband internet. Just over **\$2.5 billion in potential economic benefit** is left unrealized among disconnected households.

# AARP's Longevity Economy Report

- AARP commissioned Oxford Economics to produce **state level economic contribution analysis** of the Longevity Economy in the U.S.
- The **Longevity Economy** is the sum of all economic activity driven by the needs of Americans aged 50 and older including purchased products, services, taxes, and labor force participation.
- This data **disrupts** the misconception that the 50 and older population is an economic burden and a lackluster-consumer group. Consider:
  - RI: 37% of the population; 48% total economic contribution equaling \$27.8 billion
  - LA: 34% of the population; 38% total economic contribution equaling \$93.3 billion
- Report will be updated in 2020 using 2018 data
- <https://www.aarp.org/research/topics/economics/info-2017/2017-longevity-econ-all-state-reports.html>

The Longevity Economy is the sum of all economic activity in Florida that is supported by the consumer spending of households headed by someone age 65 or older – both in Florida and, as well as spending on supplies from Florida sent to other states and DC. This includes the direct, indirect supply chain, and induced economic effects of this spending. The induced portion covers the ripple effects from the spending of those employed either directly or indirectly.

Private over 60 contribute to the economy in a positive, and substantial to the welfare of the population. Despite being 17% of Rhodos Islands population in 2015 (expected to be 37% in 2040), the total economic contribution of the Largelyly Elderly Economy accounted for 46% of Rhodos Islands GNP, 20% is all time. This supported 55% of Rhodos Islands jobs (3-3,000), 50% of labor income (\$19 billion), and 49% of state and local taxes (\$2.8 billion). The greatest number of jobs accounted for by the Largelyly Economy were in education & health services.

(104,000), trade, transportation & utilities (99,000), and leisure & recreation (151,000).

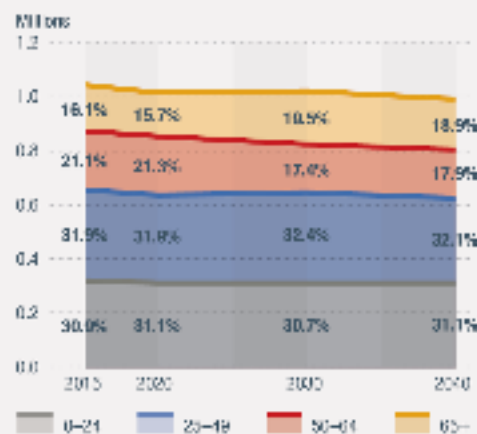
This 2017-18 RSE impact of the company's Economy cash drive by \$32.1 billion in consumer spending by over 60 households in Florida (e.g., at \$50 of total companywide consumer spending). The categories where Longevity Economy spending accounted for the largest share of total consumer spending were health care (65%), at times (55%), and entertainment (55%).

People over 50 also make a significant contribution to Pitcairn Island's workforce, with 71% of people 50-64 employed, compared to 74% of people 45-49. Conversely, people over 50 represent 33% of Pitcairn Island's workforce. Among employed people, 12% of those 50-64 are self-employed/entrepreneurs, compared with 5% of those 25-49. Additionally, 16% of those 50-64 work in professional occupations, compared to 47% of those 25-49.

% of population over 50



### Population by age

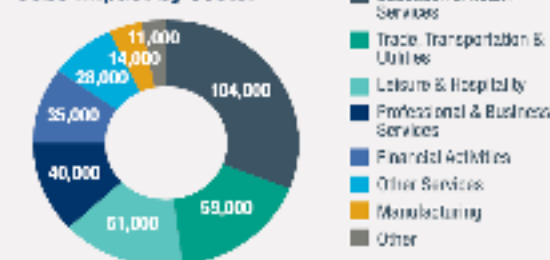
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## Rhode Island

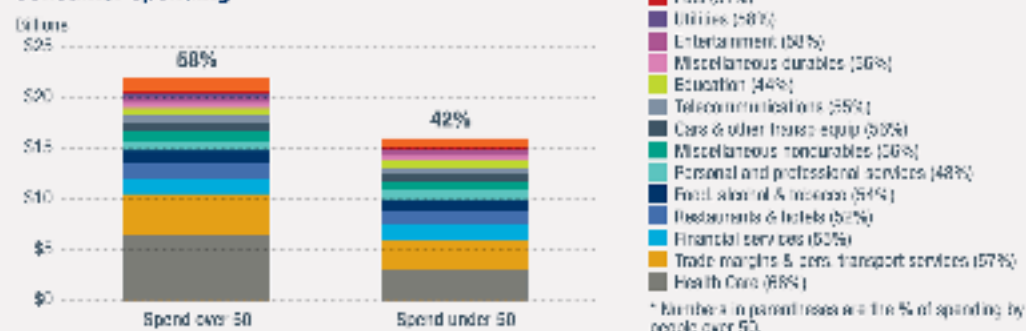
## Economic Impact of the Longevity Economy

	Impact	% of total
State GDP	\$27.8 billion	48%
Employment	343,000	56%
Labor income	\$18.0 billion	50%
State & local tax	\$2.0 billion	49%

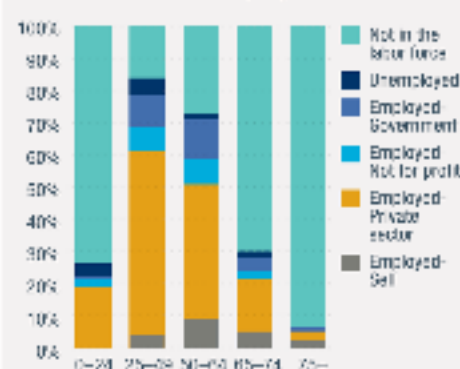
### Jobs impact by sector



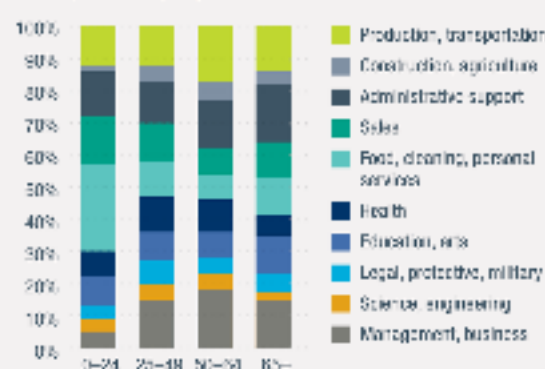
### Consumer spending



### Labor force status by age



### Occupation by age







Gerri Madrid Davis,  
Director, State Financial Security & Consumer Affairs  
AARP  
[gmadrid@aarp.org](mailto:gmadrid@aarp.org)