Most Rhode Island registered voters age 45 and older (79%) believe that being cared for at home with caregiver assistance is the ideal situation when the basic tasks of life become more difficult due to aging or illness. In fact, two-thirds of Rhode Island registered voters age 45 and older say they have provided care—either currently (20%) or in the past (45%)—on an unpaid basis for an adult loved one who is ill, frail, elderly or who has a disability. Of those who have never provided care, one-half (50%) think it is at least somewhat likely they will be a caregiver for a relative or friend in the future. Typical current family caregivers in Rhode Island are women (56%) and over 55 years old (70%). They are likely to be married (67%), college-educated (53%) and employed (48%). The average age of the person they care for is 80 years old.

Among the top community services that Rhode Island registered voters age 45 and older believe are extremely or very important to have to help people remain in their own homes as they age are hospice (88%), visiting nurses (87%), well-trained certified home health care providers (86%), special transportation services (85%), a central place for caregiving information (75%), home delivered meals (75%), senior centers (75%) and breaks for family caregivers (74%).

AARP Rhode Island commissioned a telephone survey of 800 registered voters age 45 and older to learn about their experiences with family caregiving. This report highlights results from registered voters interviewed between December 3rd and December 19th, 2014. The data in this report has been weighted by age and gender to reflect the Rhode Island population age 45 and older registered to vote. The survey has a margin of error of ±3.5 percent.
AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.

State Research brings the right knowledge at the right time to our state and national partners in support of their efforts to improve the lives of people age 50+. State Research consultants provide strategic insights and actionable research to attain measurable state and national outcomes. The views expressed herein are for information, debate, and discussion, and do not necessarily represent official policies of AARP.

AARP staff from the Rhode Island State Office, Campaigns, State Advocacy and Strategy Integration and State Research contributed to the design, implementation and reporting of this study. Special thanks go to AARP staff including Deanna Casey, John Martin, and Kathleen Connell, AARP Rhode Island; Chryste Hall, Campaigns; Glen Fewkes, State Advocacy and Strategy Integration; Rachelle Cummins, Katherine Bridges, Aisha Bonner, Darlene Matthews and Cheryl Barnes, State Research. Please contact Cassandra Burton at 202-434-3547 for more information regarding this survey. The survey will be available at www.aarp.org/research.