



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW SURVEY REVEALS CAREGIVING EPIDEMIC IN NEW JERSEY

TRENTON: Caregivers of New Jersey is holding a press conference to reveal the results of a brand new survey conducted by Monmouth University Polling Institute about caregiving issues on November 19, 2007 at 12:00 noon in Assembly Room 109 at the State House in Trenton.

A new survey released today found that 16% of New Jersey residents have provided unpaid care to an aging, mentally or physically disabled, or chronically ill family member, which means there are an estimated 1.06 million family caregivers in New Jersey alone. This is well over the 836,000 that was estimated by the Department of Health and Senior Services, and means that the current resources, funding and government platforms are not going to be enough to support everyone who is caring for a parent, spouse, child or loved one at home.

On the upside, the majority of the random sample of 801 New Jersey residents supports programs that would provide extra support for caregivers, such as training, resources and government support. 92% of those questioned thought it was important for caregivers to be trained in tending for an individual with a specific illness or disability and 93% believe it is also important for caregivers to have better resources to care for themselves while caring for others. The sample also showed that nearly 80% of New Jersey residents would support legislation to help make services a reality.

The survey involved telephone interviews conducted between September 27 and 30, 2007 with a random probability sample of 801 New Jersey residents, 18 years old and older. Percentages for this survey have a sampling error of ± 3.5 percent at a 95 percent confidence level with 50/50 proportions. Attached please find the verbatim survey questions and the top line results. For more detailed statistics regarding this particular survey please contact Dana Goldberg at (732) 262-8020. For information regarding Monmouth University Polling Institute please contact Patrick Murray at (732) 263-5858.

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Statement for Public Release of Data:

This survey was conducted by telephone September 27 to 30, 2007 with a scientifically selected random sample of 801 New Jersey adults. The figures in this release are based on this sample size. All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error is + 3.5 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey residents were found to think the state was in good economic condition, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 46.5 and 53.5 percent (50 + 3.5) had all New Jersey residents been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported by race or age, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects. The verbatim wording of all questions asked is reproduced in this memo. The sample has been stratified based on county and the data have been weighted on age and education to insure an accurate proportional representation of the state. The questions referred to in this release are as follows. This study was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

About Caregivers of New Jersey:

Caregivers of New Jersey is dedicated to providing a central point of contact for all individuals with caregiving issues, including the aging, developmental and physical disability, chronic illness and mental health communities. The result is more effective information dissemination, increased support and advocacy to create a stronger voice in Trenton, together. Please visit our website, www.njcaregivers.org, for more information.



New Jersey Poll
Caregivers of New Jersey
General Population (adults age 18+)
September 27-30, 2007
N=801

1. Now I'd like to ask you some questions about informal caregivers. These are people who provide unpaid assistance to relatives or friends who have a disability, chronic illness, or are aging. Such assistance may include help with personal needs, household chores, meals, and transportation. Do you know anyone who has provided this type of care in the past 12 months? [IF YES, ASK: Is this you, someone else in your household, or another relative or friend?]

12% Yes, self
4 Yes, self AND other
6 Yes, someone else in household
23 Yes, other relative/friend
24 53No
<1 (VOL) Don't know/refused

2. How important do you feel it is that these caregivers receive support and training to help them deal with the specific illnesses and disabilities they care for – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

75% Very important
17 Somewhat important
3 Not too important
2 Not at all important
3 (VOL) Don't know/refused

3. How important do you feel it is that these caregivers receive support and training to maintain their own physical health and emotional well-being – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

75% Very important
18 Somewhat important
3 Not too important
2 Not at all important
2 (VOL) Don't know/refused

4. Currently, New Jersey has training programs for caregivers dealing with specific types of illness or disability. Do you favor or oppose creating a statewide task force to coordinate support and training services for all caregivers, regardless of the type of illness or disability?

79% Favor
15 Oppose
6 (VOL) Don't know/refused