

### **Table of contents**

Executive Summary	3
Detailed Findings	5
Methodology	13
Contact	16





## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Executive summary**

This report includes the results of an April 2024 survey that asked 1,021 U.S. adults age 50 and older their thoughts about artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare.

Most adults age 50 and older say they are not familiar with the use of Al in healthcare and are unsure if their providers use Al. Adults age 65 and older are more likely than adults age 50 to 64 to say they are not at all familiar with the use of Al in healthcare (42% vs. 33%). This lack of familiarity with Al may help to

healthcare providers use AI.

Even though most older adults aren't familiar with the use of Al in healthcare, most say they would be comfortable if their primary care physician (PCP)

explain why the vast majority of all older adults (75%) say they are unsure whether their

used AI. Adults age 65-plus are more likely than their counterparts to say they are comfortable with their PCP using AI to help with diagnoses (57% vs. 46%) and/or treatment recommendations (55% vs. 46%). Similarly, men 50-plus are more likely than women 50-plus to say they are comfortable with AI being used for diagnoses (57% vs. 46%) and/or treatment recommendations (57% vs. 44%).

### **Executive summary (cont.)**

In fact, men age 50-plus are significantly more likely than women age 50-plus to say they would be okay if their PCP used AI in several ways. In addition to being okay with the use of AI in recommending treatment and/or diagnoses, older men are more likely than older women to say they are comfortable with their PCP using AI to analyze their medical imaging data (53% vs. 38%) and in screening for skin cancer (49% vs. 35%).

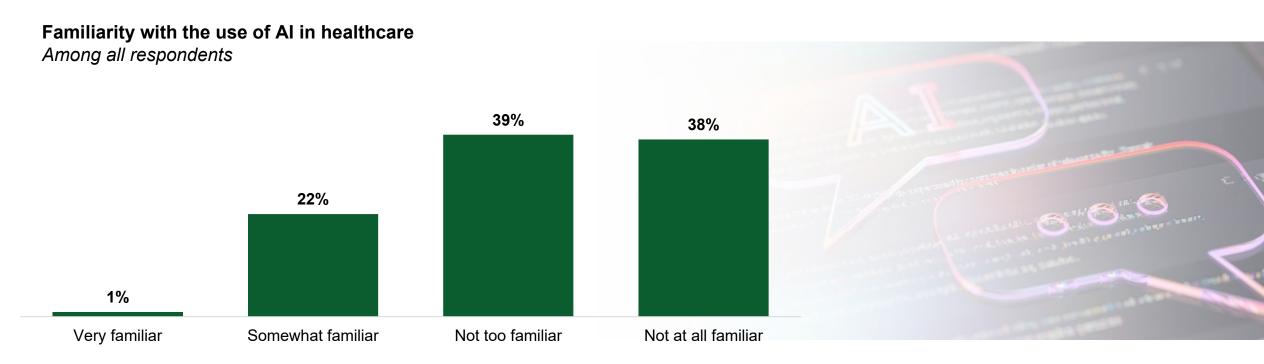
Generally, older adults say they can see possible positive outcomes from the use of AI in healthcare. Three-quarters (73%) say AI could be useful in helping healthcare workers with some tasks, thus giving the workers more time to focus on the patients. Four in 10 say the use of AI would ensure the most accurate diagnosis (41%) and the most effective treatment (40%).

However, adults 50-plus also express concerns and prefer limitations when it comes to the use of Al in healthcare. The vast majority (82%) of older adults say if a healthcare provider uses Al, the provider should make the final decision on the most appropriate diagnosis or treatment for the patient. Nearly seven in 10 (68%) are concerned that the use of Al may lead to a healthcare provider spending less time with patients, and over six in 10 are concerned that the use of Al may lead healthcare providers to rely more on Al than their medical training for recommending treatments (65%) and/or diagnosing diseases (63%).



## Most adults age 50 and older say they are not familiar with the use of Al in healthcare and are unsure if their providers use Al.

Adults age 65 and older are more likely to say they are not at all familiar with the use of AI in healthcare (42% vs. 33% of adults age 50 to 64). Three quarters (75%) of all older adults say they are unsure whether their healthcare providers use AI (not shown).

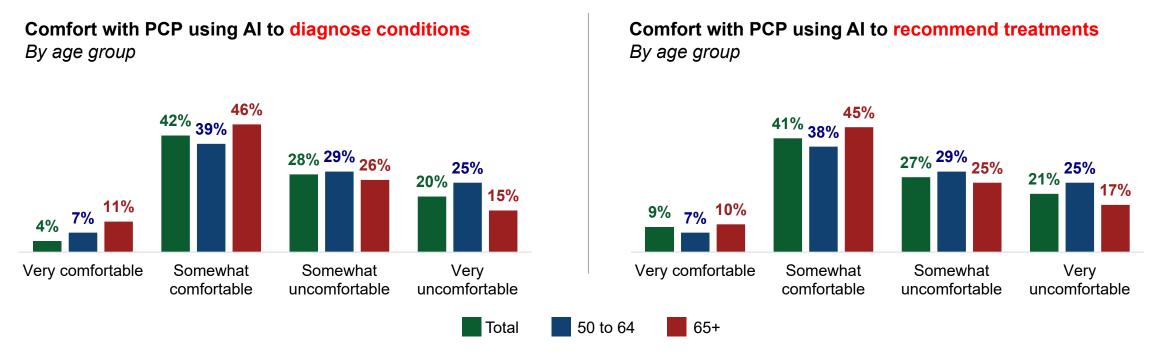


Q1. How familiar are you with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare? Base: Total respondents (n=1,021)

Q2. Artificial intelligence (AI) is being used in healthcare in a variety of ways, including to help diagnose patients, for drug development, and to transcribe medical documents. Do any of your healthcare providers use AI in their practice? Base: Total respondents (n=1,021)

# About half of older adults say they are at least somewhat comfortable with their physician using Al for help with diagnoses and treatment recommendations.

Adults age 65-plus are more likely than their counterparts to say they are comfortable with their PCP using AI to help with diagnoses (57% vs. 46%) and/or treatment recommendations (55% vs. 46%). Similarly, men are more likely than women to say they are comfortable with AI being used (57% vs. 46% are comfortable with AI being used for diagnoses; 57% vs. 44% with treatment).

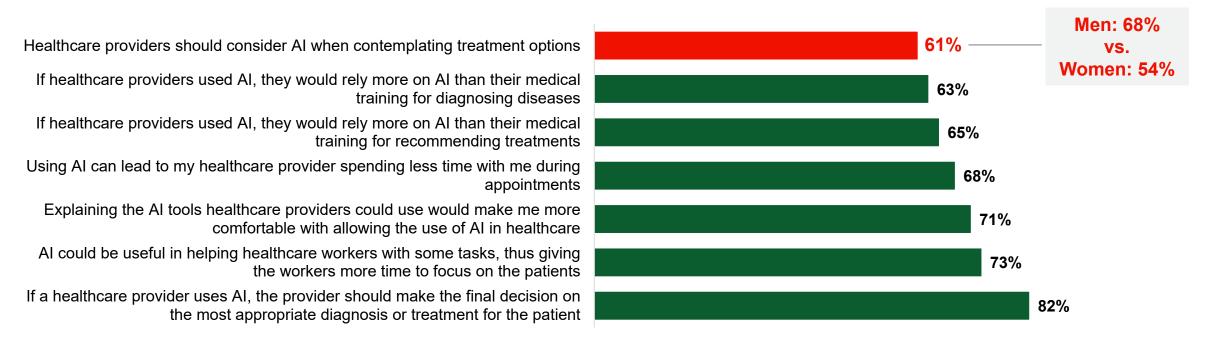


Q3. How comfortable are you, or would you be, if your primary care provider used AI as an input into your provider's a) diagnosis of diseases/conditions, b) recommended treatments? Base: Total respondents (n=1,021)

## Most older adults agree the medical professional should make the final decision when using Al for diagnosis or treatment.

While the majority of older adults say providers should consider AI when thinking about treatment options, men are more likely than women to agree with this statement.

#### Percentage of respondents who agree (very or somewhat) with the following statements

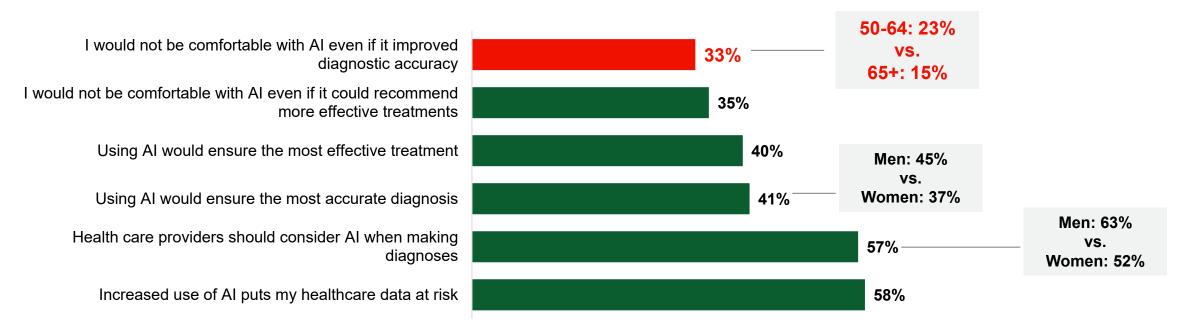


Q4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Base: All respondents (n=1,021)

### Concern about Al and the potential for data risks is on the minds of older adults.

A third (33%) of older adults say they would not be comfortable with AI even if it could improve diagnostic accuracy and/or treatment recommendations. Interestingly, this is more the case for those age 50 to 64, with about a quarter (23%) saying they would not be comfortable with the use of AI even if it improved diagnostic accuracy, compared to only about one in seven (15%) adults 65-plus.

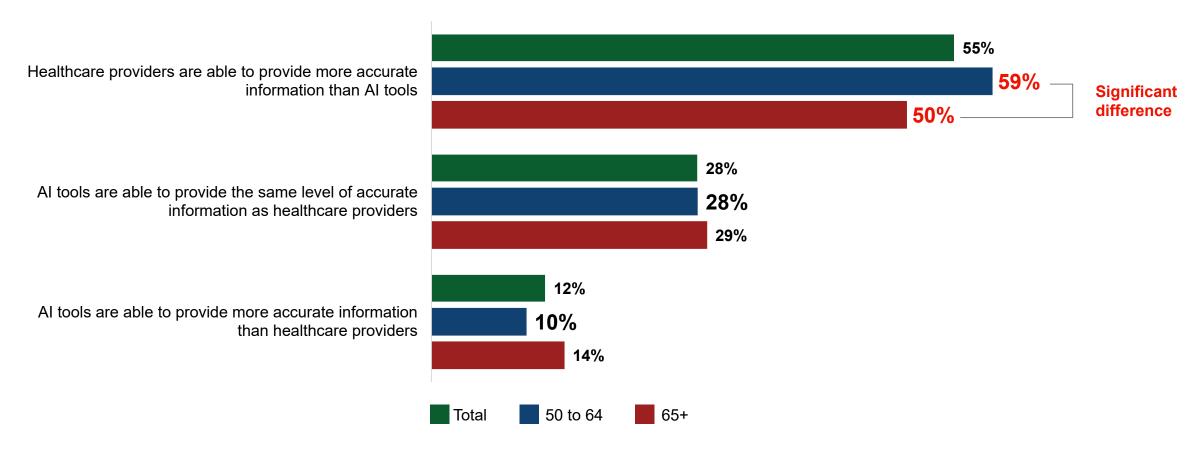
#### Percentage of respondents who agree (very or somewhat) with the following statements



Q4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Base: All respondents (n=1,021)

## While the majority of adults believe healthcare providers can provide more accurate information than Al tools, still one in 10 says Al is superior.

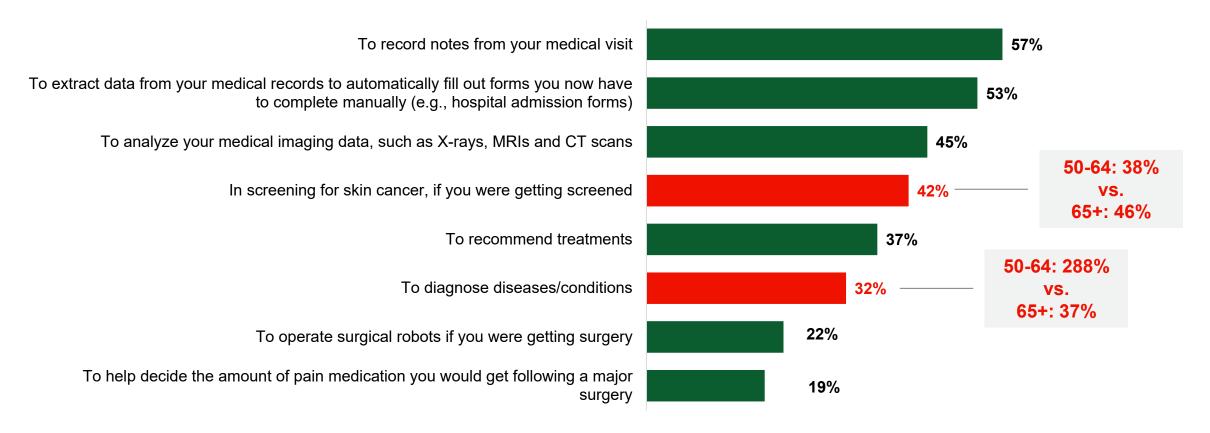
Percentage of respondents endorsing the following statements



Q5. Which of the following statements comes closest to your way of thinking? Base: All respondents (n=1,021)

## The majority of older adults say they would want their healthcare provider to use Al to record notes and extract data for forms.

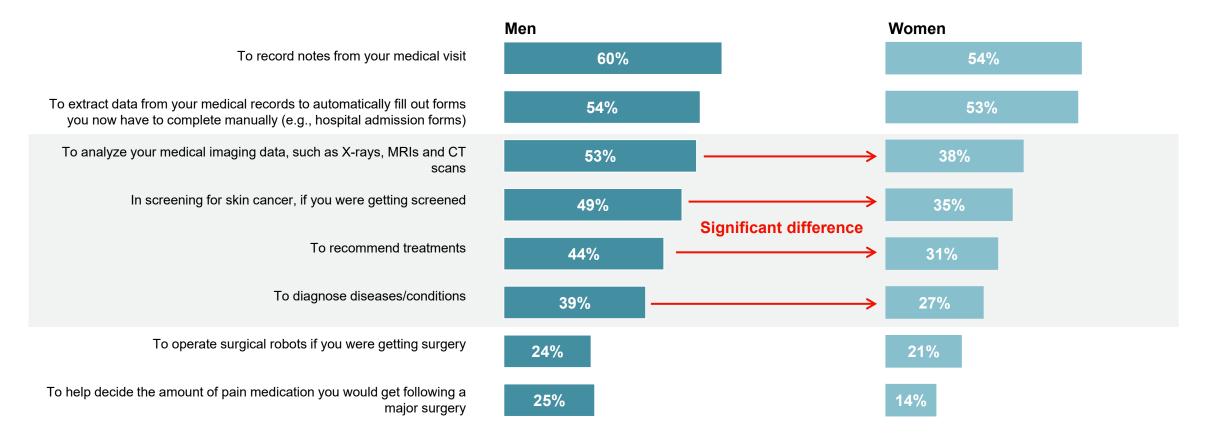
Percentage of respondents who would want their healthcare provider to use AI for the following activities



Q5. Would you want your healthcare provider to use artificial intelligence (AI)...? Base: All respondents (n=1,021)

## Older men are significantly more likely than older women to say they would want their healthcare provider to use Al.

Percentage of respondents who would want their healthcare provider to use AI for the following activities

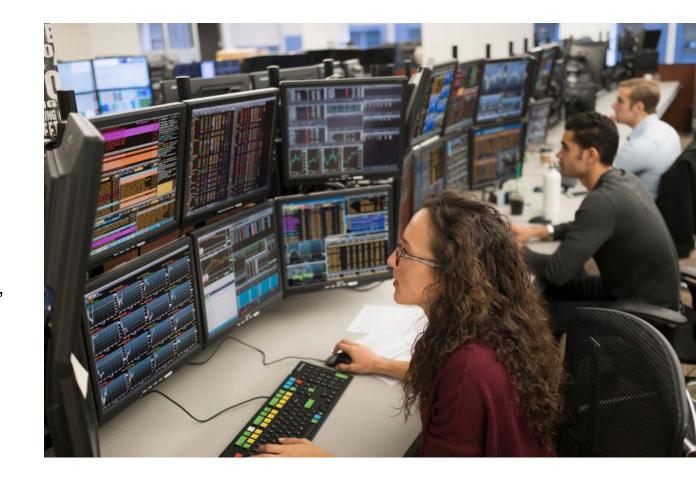


Q5. Would you want your healthcare provider to use artificial intelligence (AI)...? Base: All respondents (n=1,021)



## Methodology

- Objectives: To explore the views of older adults age 50 and older related to artificial intelligence in healthcare
- Methodology: Phone and online survey
- Qualifications: Age 50 or older
- Sample: NORC Foresight 50+ panel, Total: n=1,021
- Interviewing Dates: April 11-16, 2024
- Weighting: Data are weighted to the latest Current Population Survey (CPS) benchmarks developed by the U.S. Census Bureau and are balanced by gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region and AARP membership. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 50 and over.
- Questionnaire length: 5 minutes on average
- Confidence Interval: Total sample: ± 4.09%



### **About AARP**

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to the more than 100 million Americans 50-plus and their families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit <a href="www.aarp.org/about-aarp/">www.aarp.org/about-aarp/</a> or <a href="www.aarp.org/español">www.aarp.org/español</a>. Follow <a href="@AARPadvocates">@AARPadvocates</a> on social media.

### **About NORC**

NORC at the University of Chicago conducts research and analysis that decision-makers trust. As a nonpartisan research organization and a pioneer in measuring and understanding the world, NORC has studied almost every aspect of the human experience and every major news event for more than eight decades. Today, NORC partners with government, corporate and nonprofit clients around the world to provide the objectivity and expertise necessary to inform the critical decisions facing society. Please visit <a href="https://www.norc.org">www.norc.org</a> for more information



## Cheryl L. Lampkin, Ph.D., AARP Research clampkin@aarp.org

For media inquiries, please contact media@aarp.org

This research was designed and executed by AARP Research