



▶ BOSTON MARATHON REMEMBERS

This year the world's oldest annual marathon commemorates the fifth anniversary of the deadly attack on the race. Many runners on April 16 will be 50 or older: Last year, of about 30,000 runners, 8,700 (about 30 percent) were 50-plus. Nine were 80-

UBER AND LYFT DISRUPTING AMBULANCE USAGE

Ride services cost less,
but are they safe?

So you feel sick enough for the hospital, but it doesn't feel like a life-or-death emergency. Could Uber or Lyft be the answer? For a growing number of people, apparently so.

Researchers at the University of Kansas found that in places where Uber or other ride services have thrived, the number of ambulance calls fell an average of 7 percent.

"Emergency medical transport in an ambulance can easily exceed \$1,000 ... with insurance often only partially covering the expense or outright refusing to pay for transport deemed not medically necessary," the report said. And Uber drivers take you to any hospital, while ambulances are less accommodating, the report found.

But is it a good idea? The ride-share services, with an eye to potential lia-

bility issues, are not looking for the business. "In any medical emergency, people should be calling 911," said Kate Margolis, a Lyft spokesperson. Uber, in a statement, agreed.

But Greg Friese, a paramedic who edits emsl.com, an online publication for the emergency medical community, said Lyft is being incorporated into some emergency systems. In Fort Worth, Texas, a triage nurse will decide if a person requires an ambulance, and if it's not an emergency, a Lyft driver is called. The Phoenix fire and rescue department gives non-emergency patients a taxi voucher rather than a more costly ambulance. "If it can be determined that the person just needs a ride rather than an ambulance, it is potentially a significant cost savings for everyone for them to use Uber," Friese said.

Support Growth of Medical Marijuana

SURVEY SHOWS 80 PERCENT OF OLDER AMERICANS APPROVE OF THE DRUG FOR TREATMENT

Need help with relieving pain, building appetite or minimizing anxiety? Light up, a majority of older Americans say.

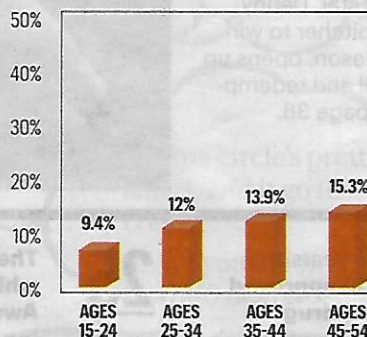
A new University of Michigan study, cosponsored by AARP, looked at attitudes about medical marijuana among 80-year-olds. The results: Older people are more OK with medical marijuana (four-fifths of respondents) than younger people (three-fifths). Older people are more likely to be allowed with a doctor's recommendation (69 percent), anxiety (59 percent) and pain (59 percent). Older Americans also think it's less likely to cause cancer than tobacco. And older people are more likely to be addicted than prescription pain medication.


Twenty-nine states plus the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana, and 11 states (plus D.C.) also allow recreational use. But attitudes toward lax laws are still mixed: 40 percent oppose fully legal weed.



REAL PAGE-TURNERS

Percentage of people who read for pleasure or self-fulfillment on a typical day, according to a recently released U.S. government survey.





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