



Chartpack

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey*

Selected Findings on the Medicare Drug Law

January 2005

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between December 2 and December 5, 2004, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,203 adults ages 18 and older, including 237 adults ages 65 and older and 953 adults ages 18 to 64.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents; for respondents ages 65 and older it is plus or minus 7 percentage points; and for respondents ages 18 to 64 it is plus or minus 4 percentage points. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of sampling error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

This chartpack also includes findings from other Kaiser Family Foundation surveys conducted throughout 2004, including:

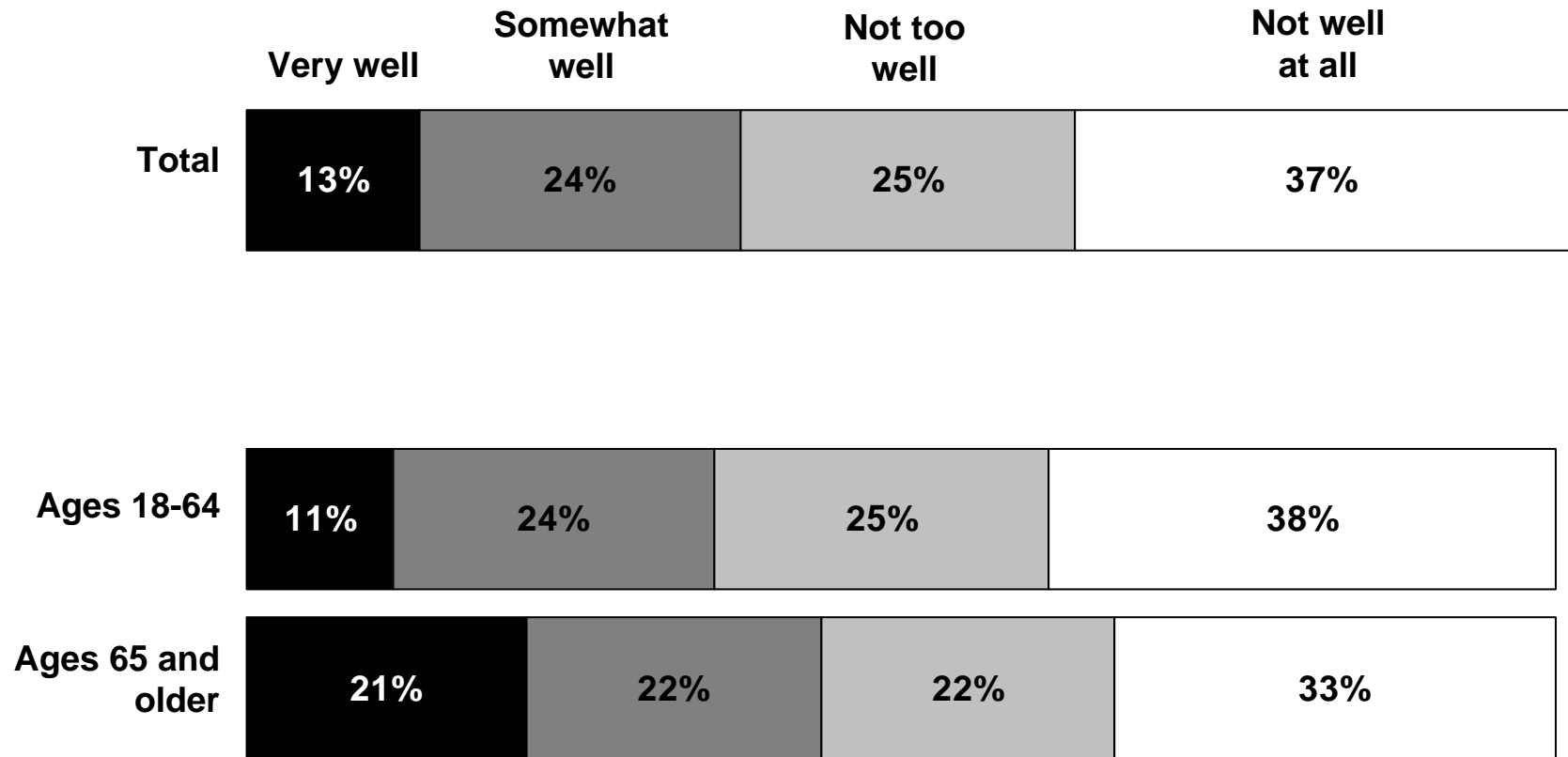
- February 2004: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey*, conducted Feb. 5-8, 2004 among a nationally representative random sample of 1,201 adults ages 18 and older, including 237 adults ages 65 and older.
- April 2004: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey*, conducted Apr. 1-5, 2004 among a nationally representative random sample of 1,201 adults ages 18 and older, including 262 adults ages 65 and older.
- June 2004: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Views of the New Medicare Drug Law: A Survey of People on Medicare*, conducted June 16-July 21, 2004 among a nationally representative random sample of 973 adults ages 65 and older.
- October 2004: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey*, conducted Oct. 14-17, 2004 among a nationally representative random sample of 1,202 adults ages 18 and older, including 264 adults ages 65 and older.

Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

Full question wording and results for all surveys are available separately at www.kff.org.

Understanding of New Medicare Law

As you may know, at the end of 2003, President Bush and the U.S. Congress approved a new Medicare law that includes some coverage of prescription drug costs for seniors. How well would you say you understand this new law?

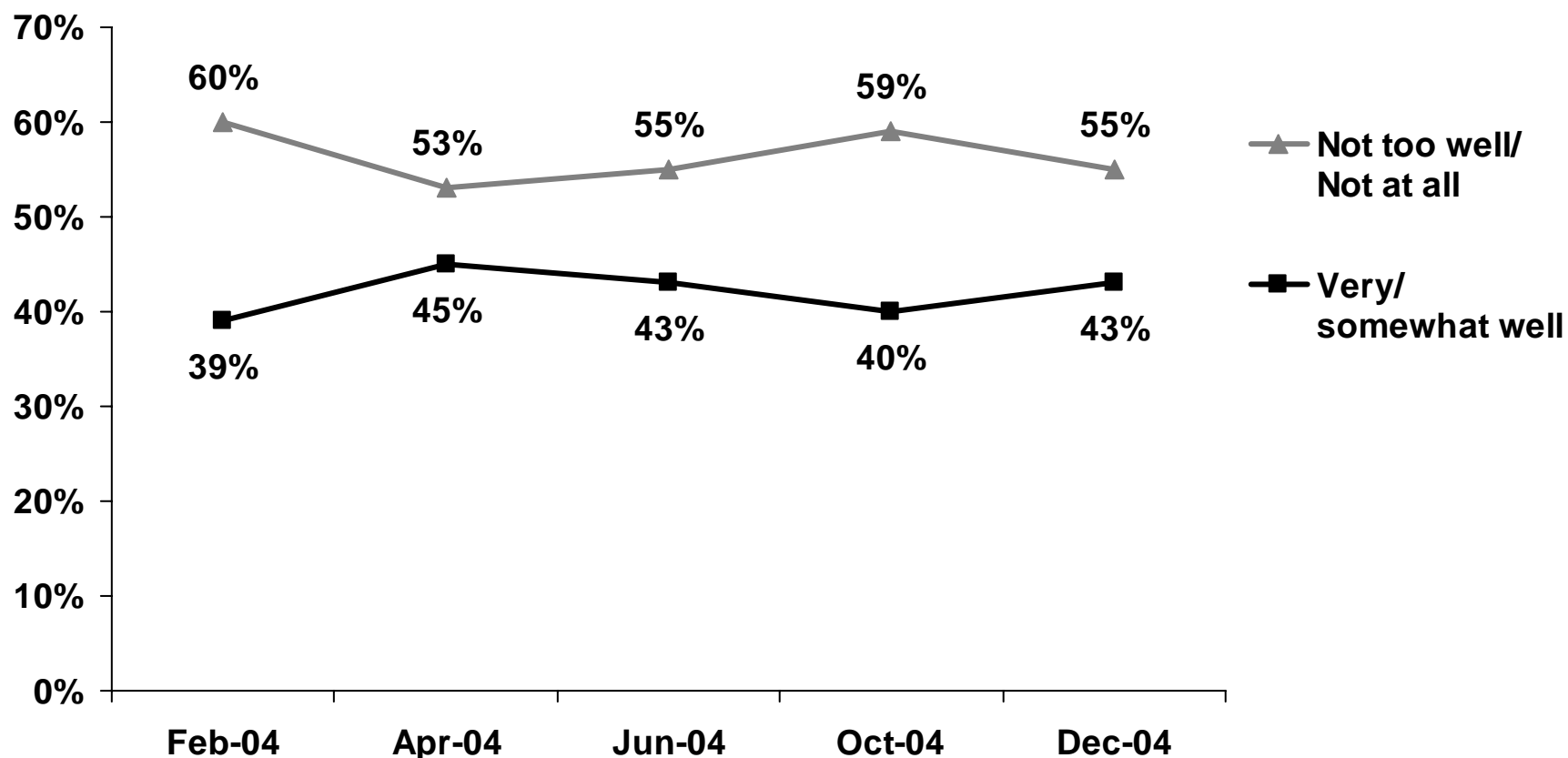


* Don't know responses not shown

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report* survey (conducted December 2-5, 2004)

Seniors' Understanding of New Medicare Law - Trend

AMONG SENIORS: As you may know, at the end of 2003, President Bush and the U.S. Congress approved a new Medicare law that includes some coverage of prescription drug costs for seniors. How well would you say you understand this new law?



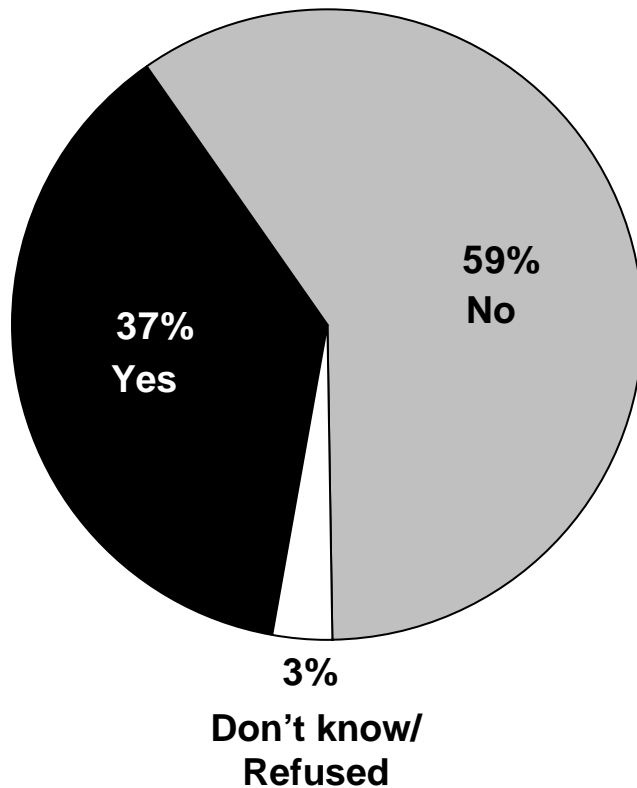
* Don't know responses not shown

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

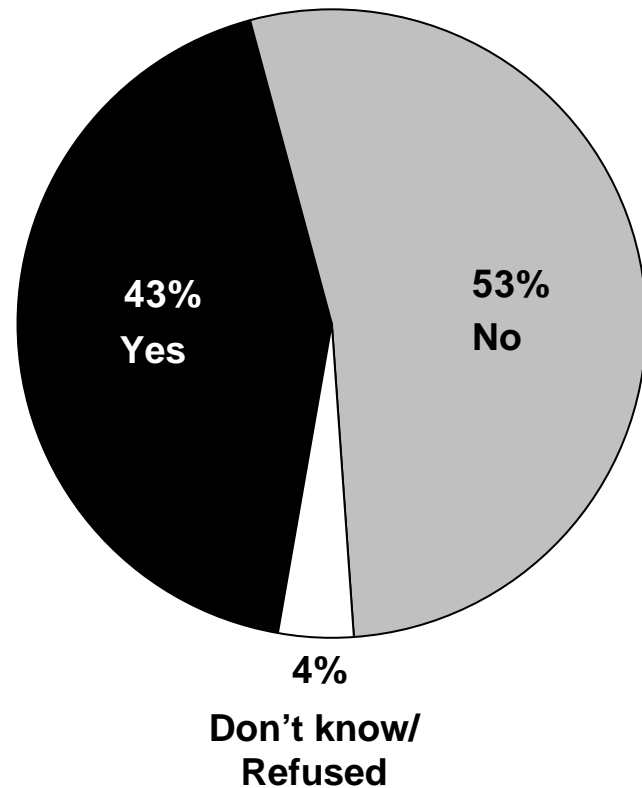
Seniors' Understanding Of New Medicare Law

AMONG SENIORS: Do you feel you have enough information about the law to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?

June 2004

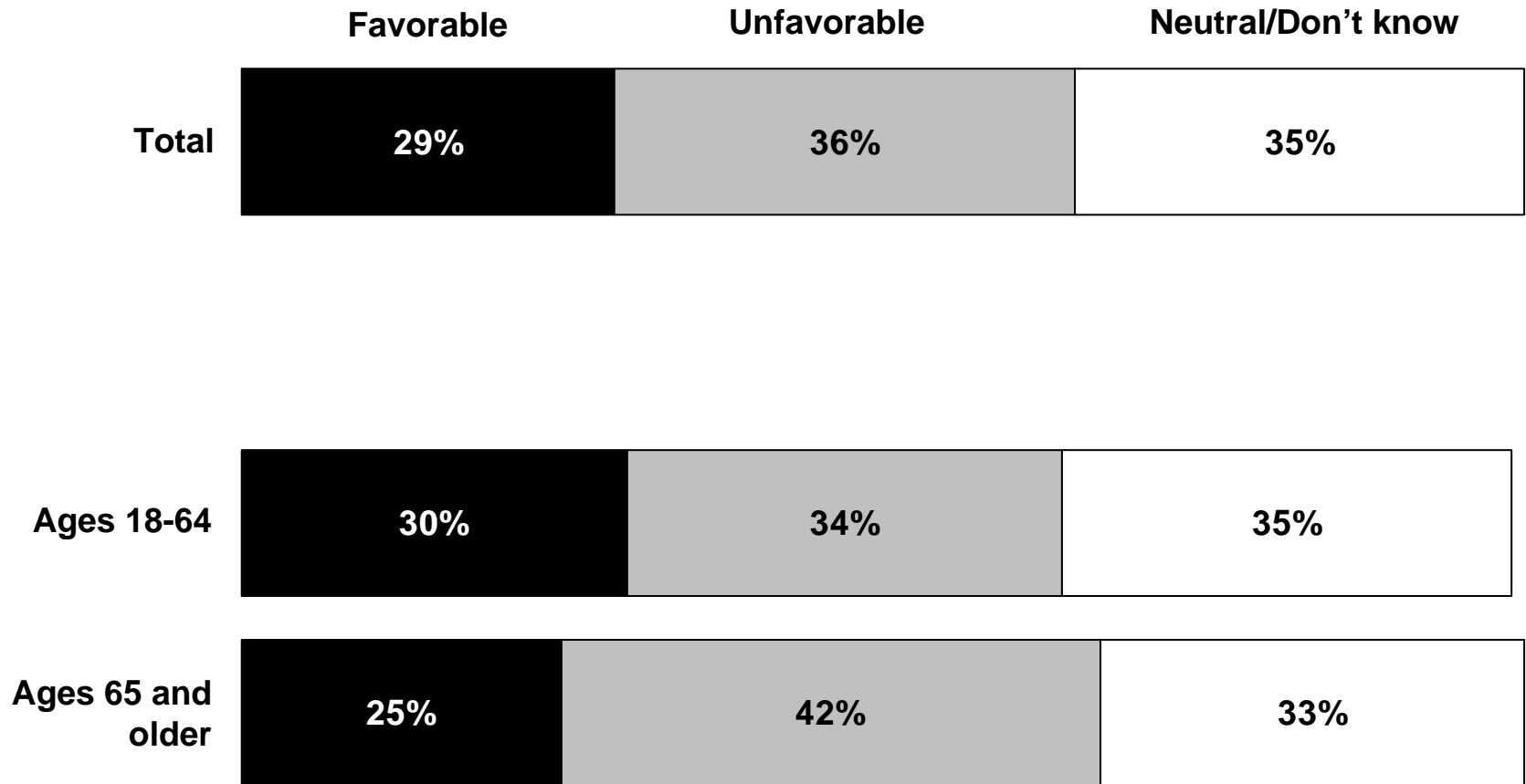


December 2004



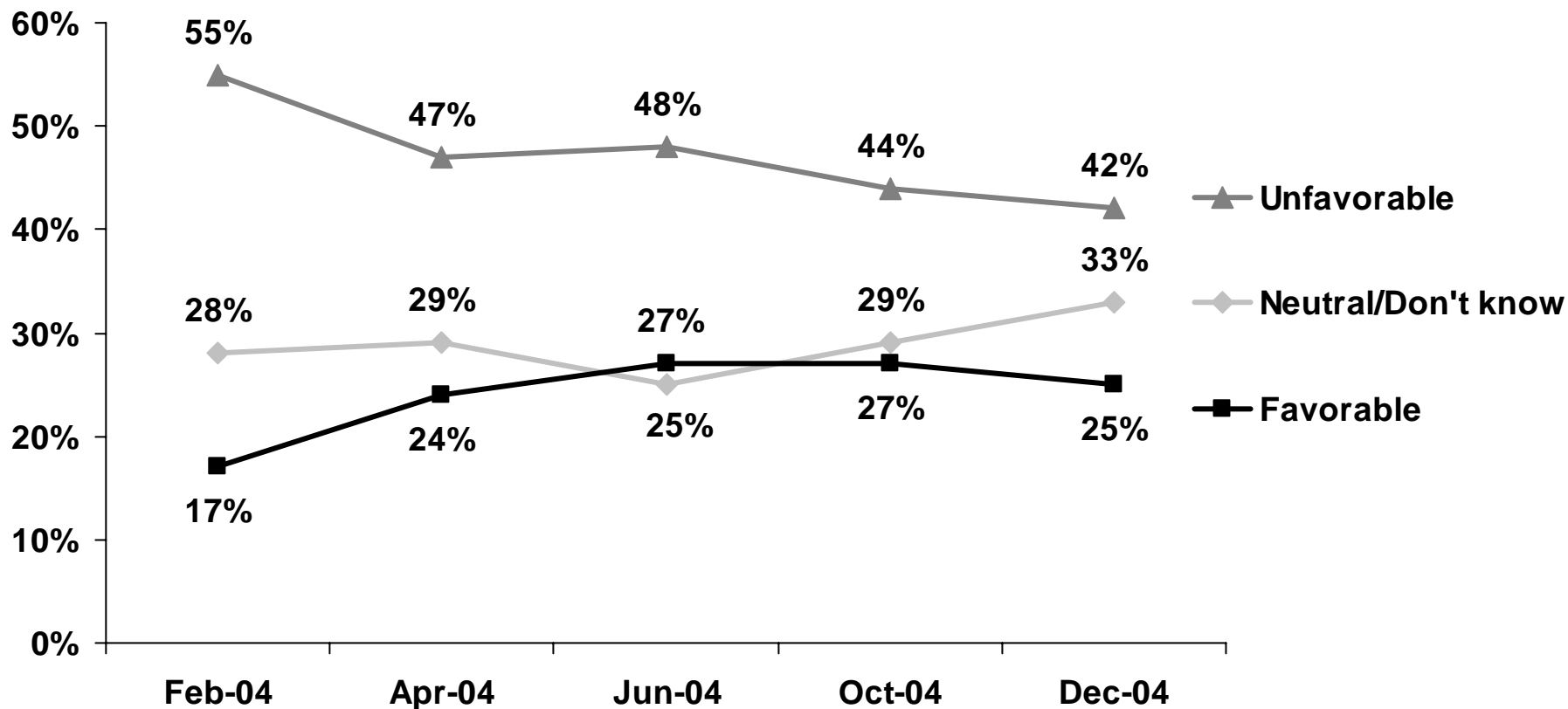
Impressions of New Medicare Law

Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare law?



Seniors' Impressions of New Medicare Law - Trend

AMONG SENIORS: Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare law?



Perceived Helpfulness of New Medicare Law

AMONG SENIORS: How helpful do you think the new Medicare law will be for the following people?

Very helpful
 Somewhat helpful
 Not too helpful
 Not at all helpful

Low-income people on Medicare



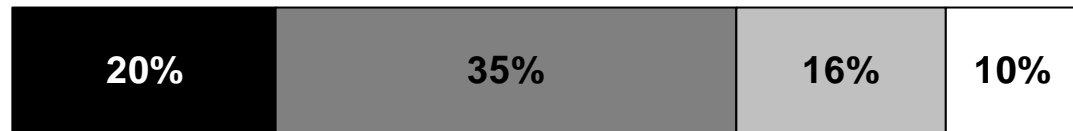
People on Medicare who currently have no drug coverage



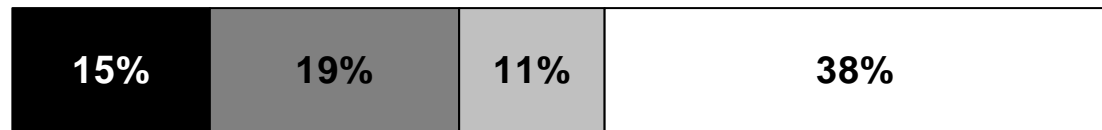
People on Medicare with very high prescription drug costs



A typical person on Medicare



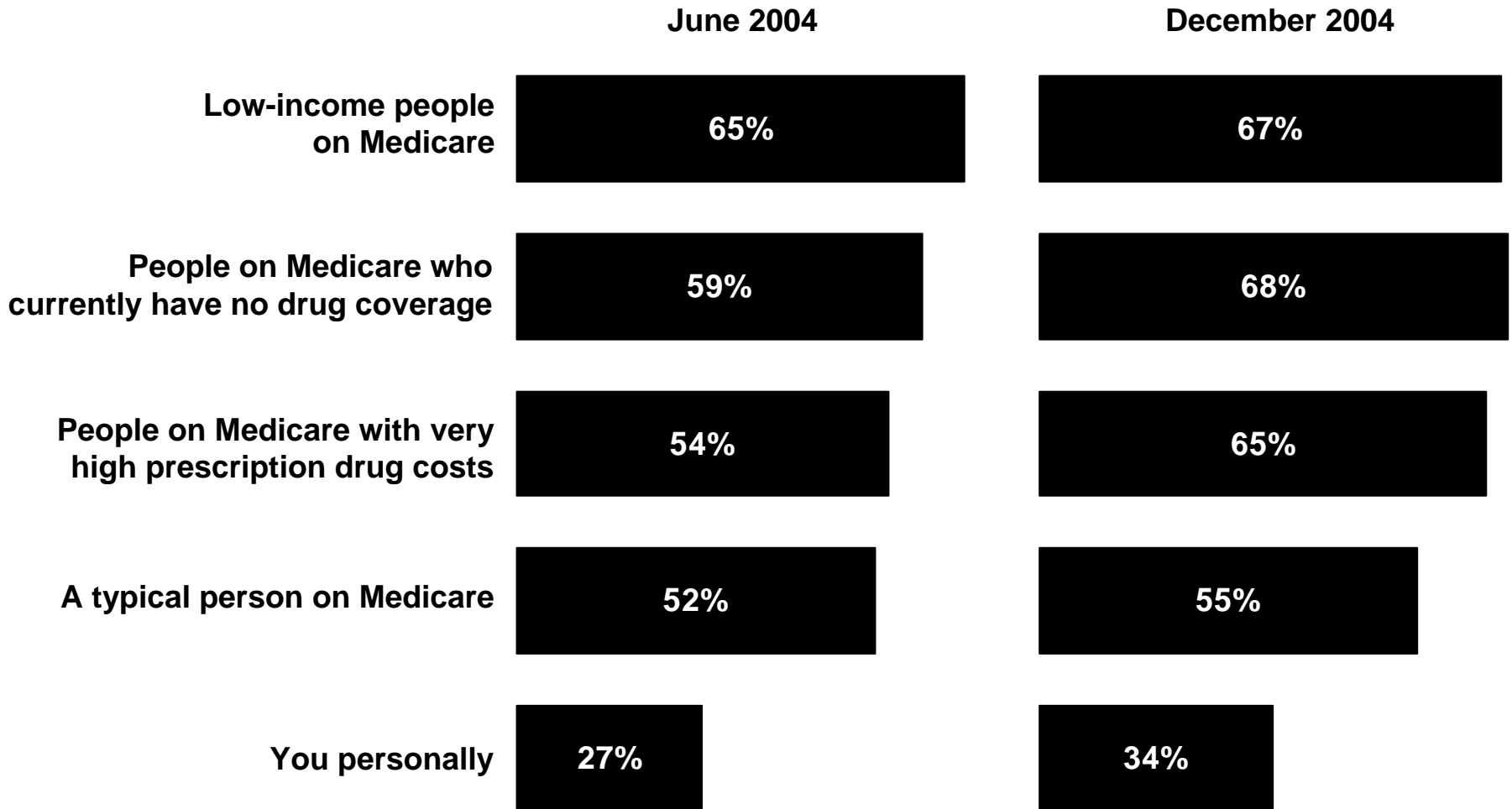
You personally



* Don't know responses not shown

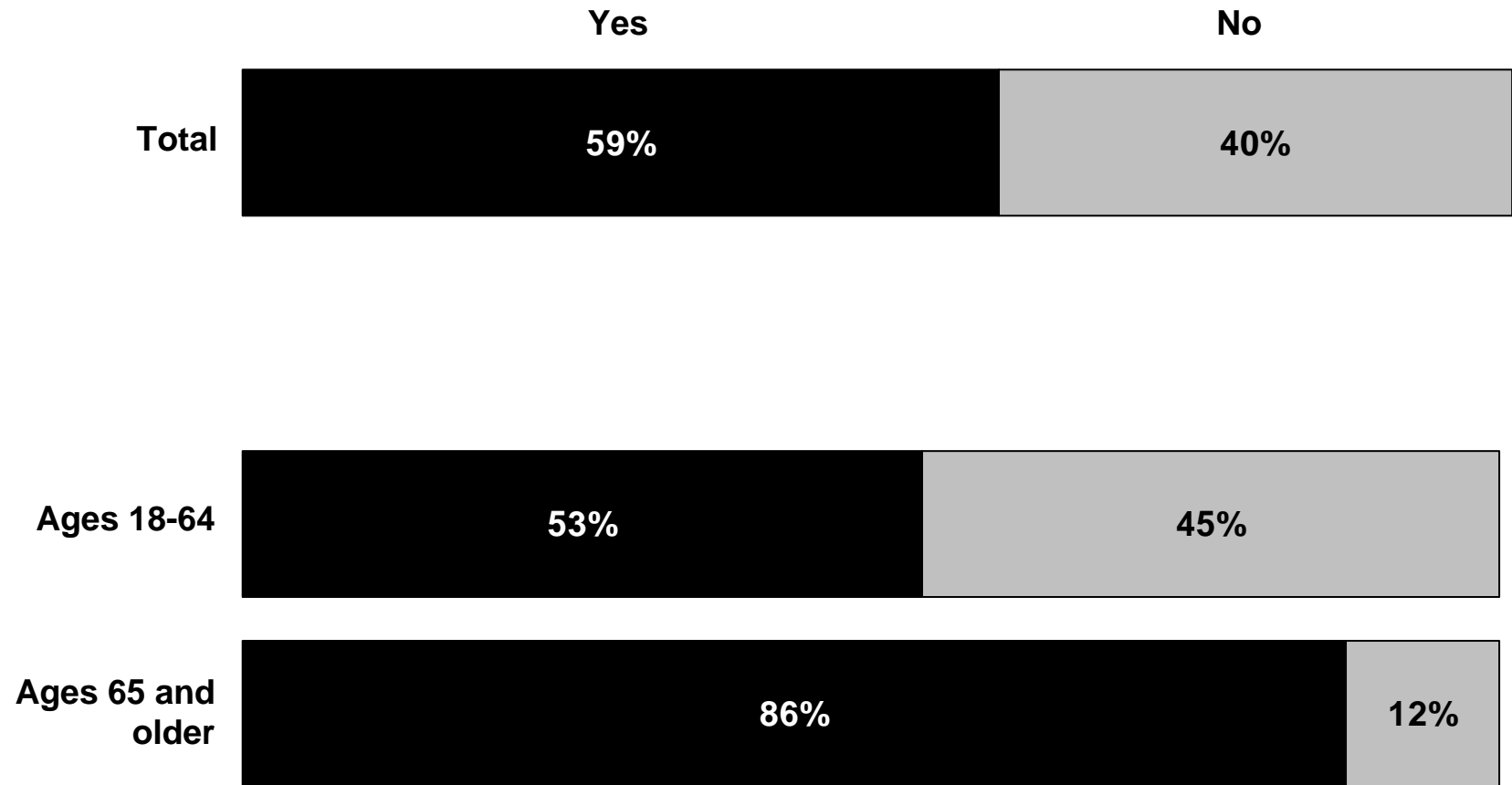
Perceived Helpfulness of New Medicare Law - Trend

AMONG SENIORS: Percent saying the new Medicare law will be very or somewhat helpful for...



Reported Awareness of Discount Drug Card

Medicare began offering prescription drug discount cards to people on Medicare in June of this year. Were you aware of this Medicare-approved drug discount card program, or not?

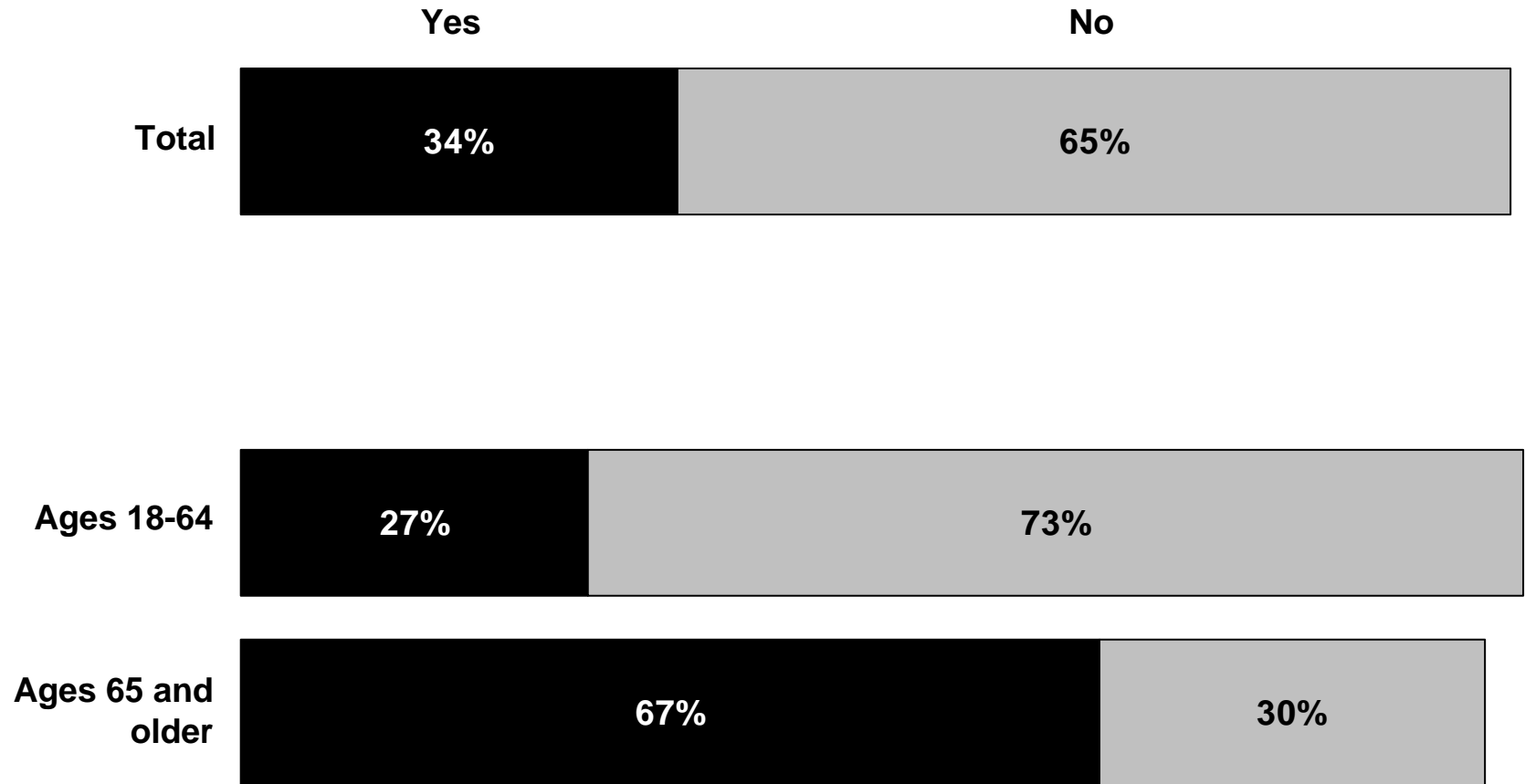


* Don't know responses not shown

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report* survey (conducted December 2-5, 2004)

Reported Awareness of \$600 Subsidy for Drug Costs

Medicare began offering a \$600 subsidy on the cost of prescription drugs to people with very low incomes. Were you aware of this \$600 subsidy, or not?



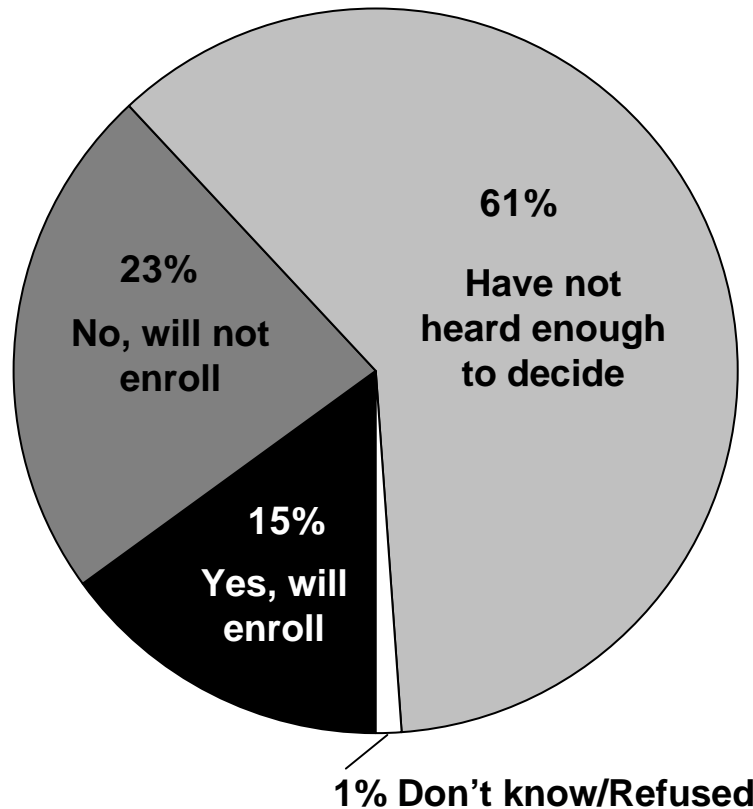
* Don't know responses not shown

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report* survey (conducted December 2-5, 2004)

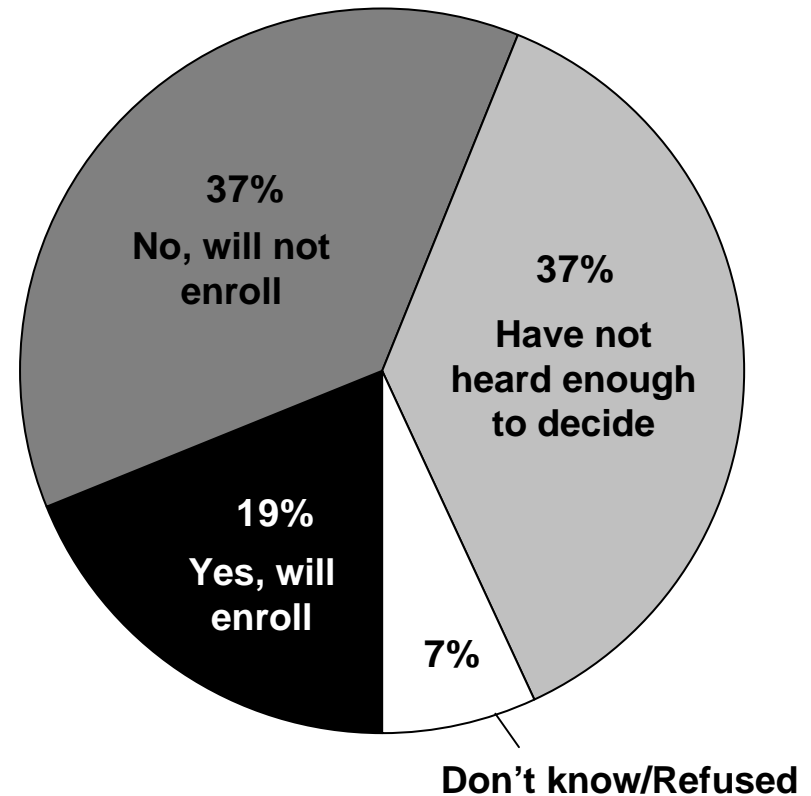
Reported Plans for Enrollment in 2006 Benefit

AMONG SENIORS: Thinking ahead to 2006 – when the new Medicare drug benefit becomes available – do you think you will enroll in a Medicare drug plan, you will not enroll in a Medicare drug plan, or have you not yet heard enough to decide?

June 2004



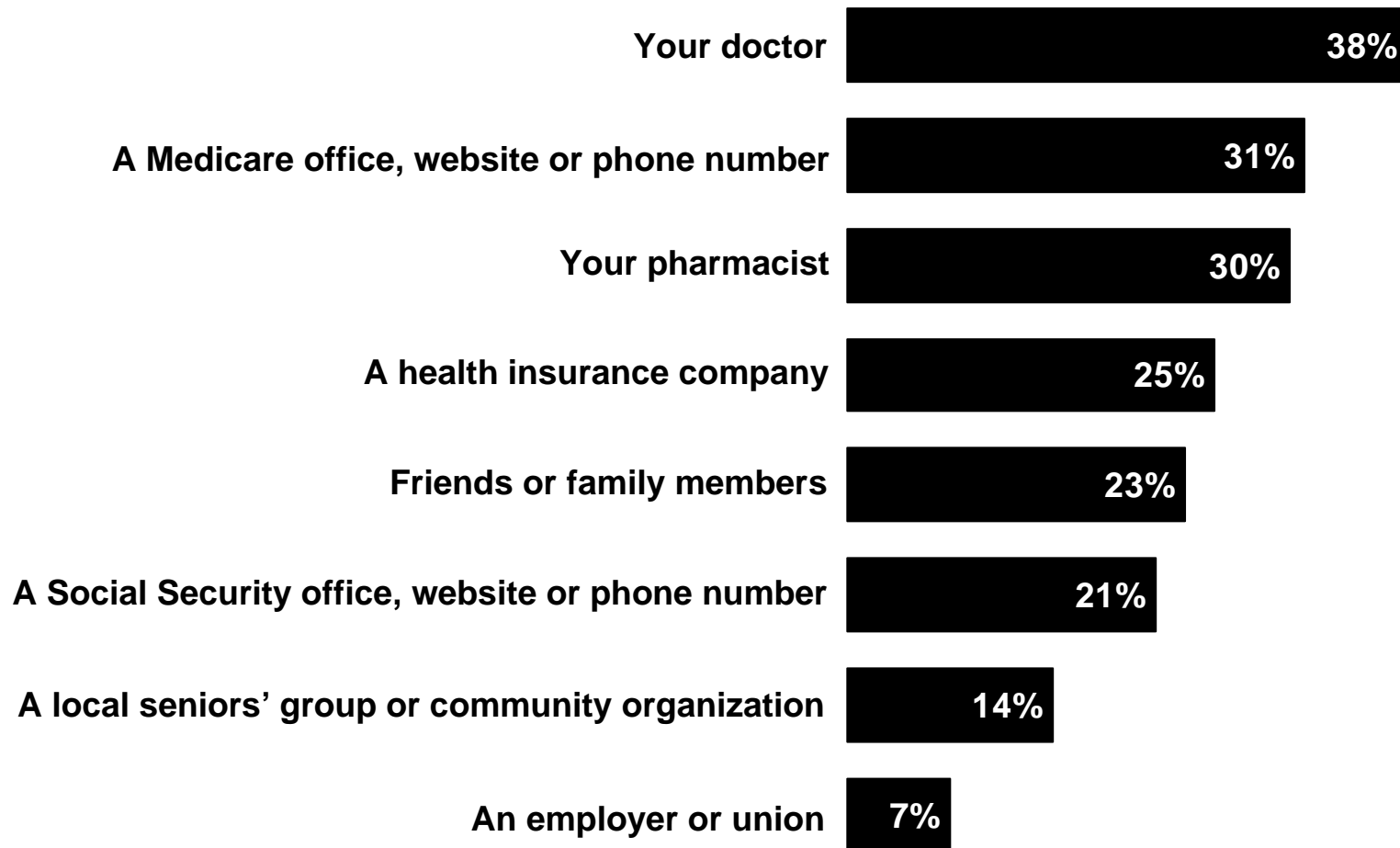
December 2004



Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Views of the New Medicare Drug Law: A Survey of People on Medicare* (conducted June 16-July 21, 2004); Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report* survey (conducted December 2-5, 2004)

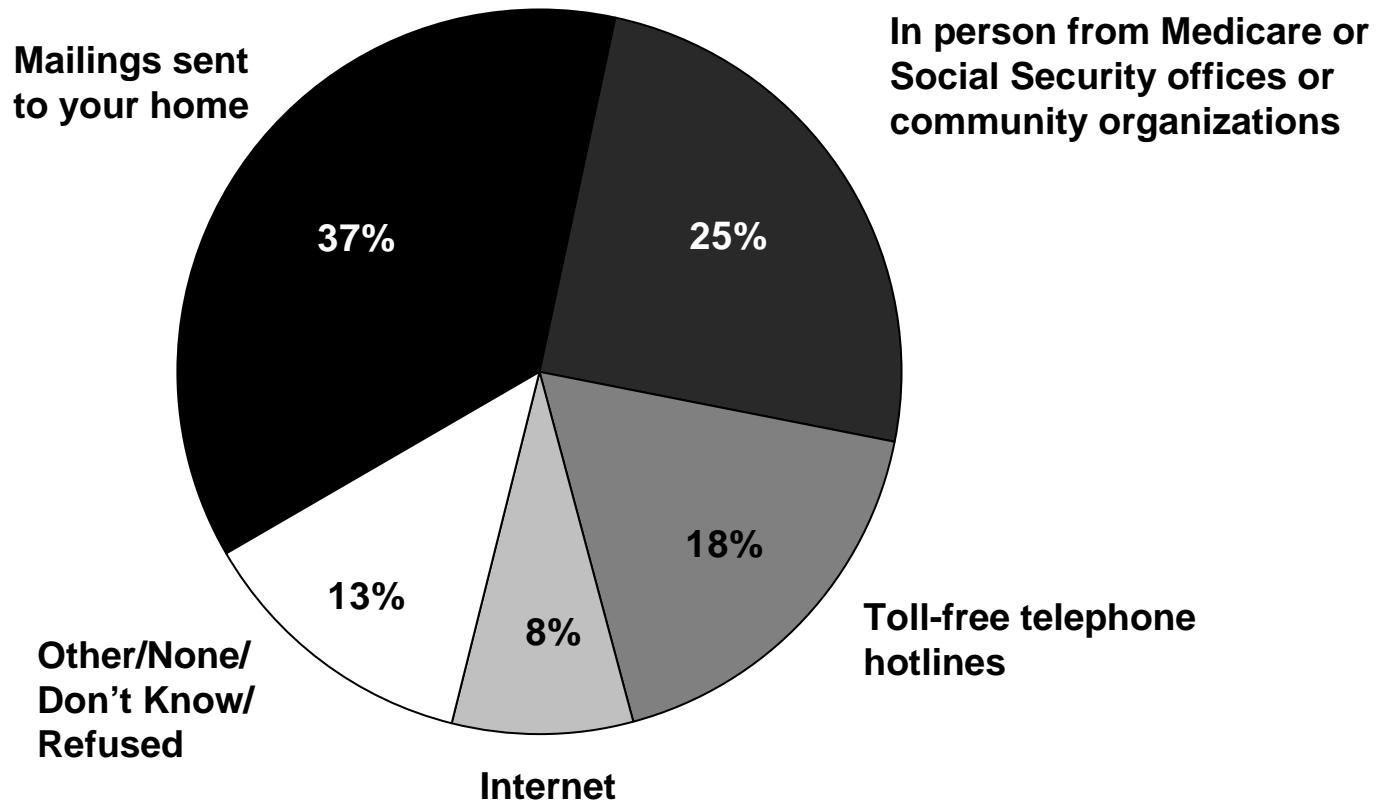
Sources For Information About Medicare Drug Plan

AMONG SENIORS: Percent who say they would be very likely to turn to each of the following for help in deciding whether to enroll in a Medicare drug plan...



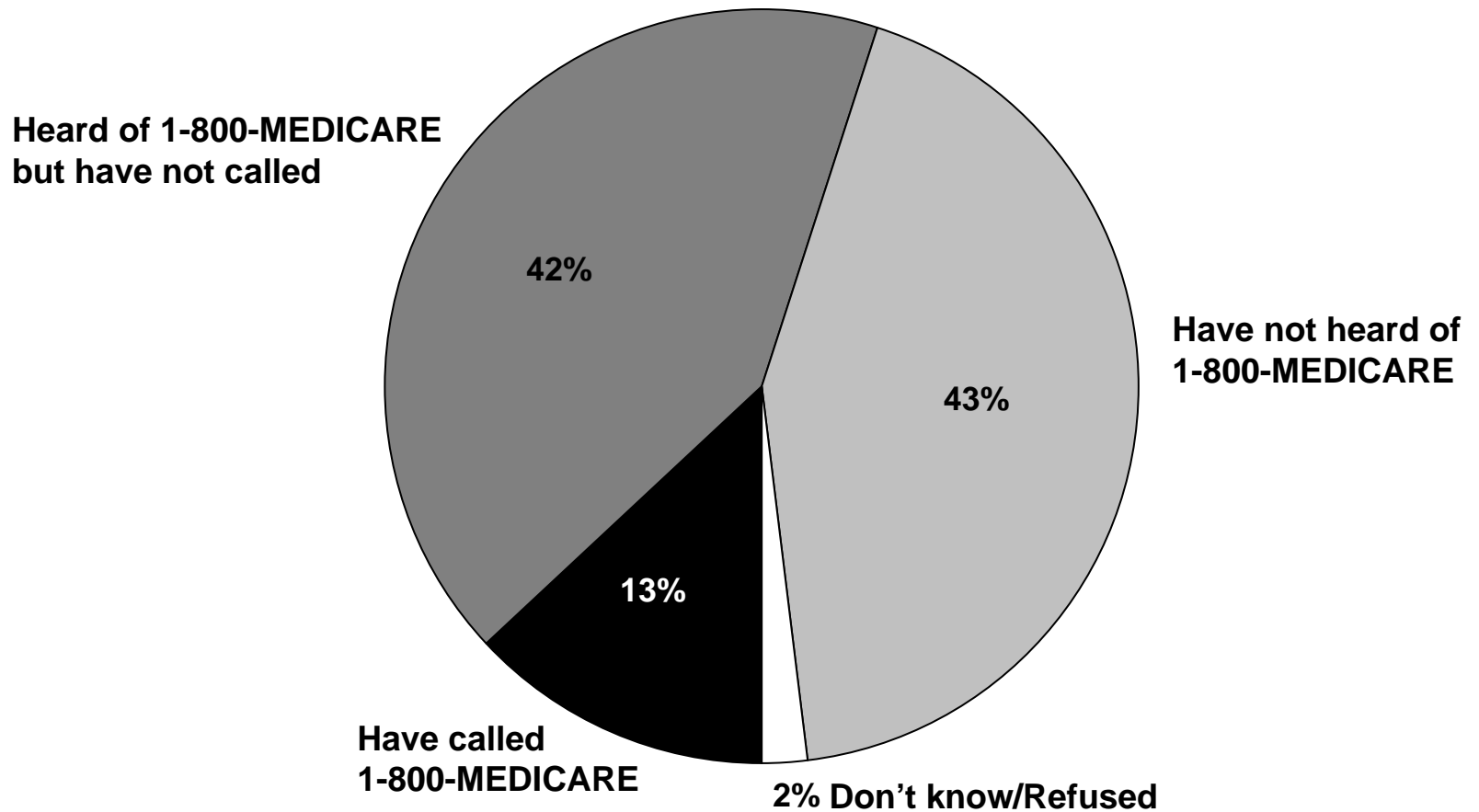
Preferred Way to Get Information

AMONG SENIORS: In which of the following ways would you **MOST** like to get information about Medicare and the new drug benefit?



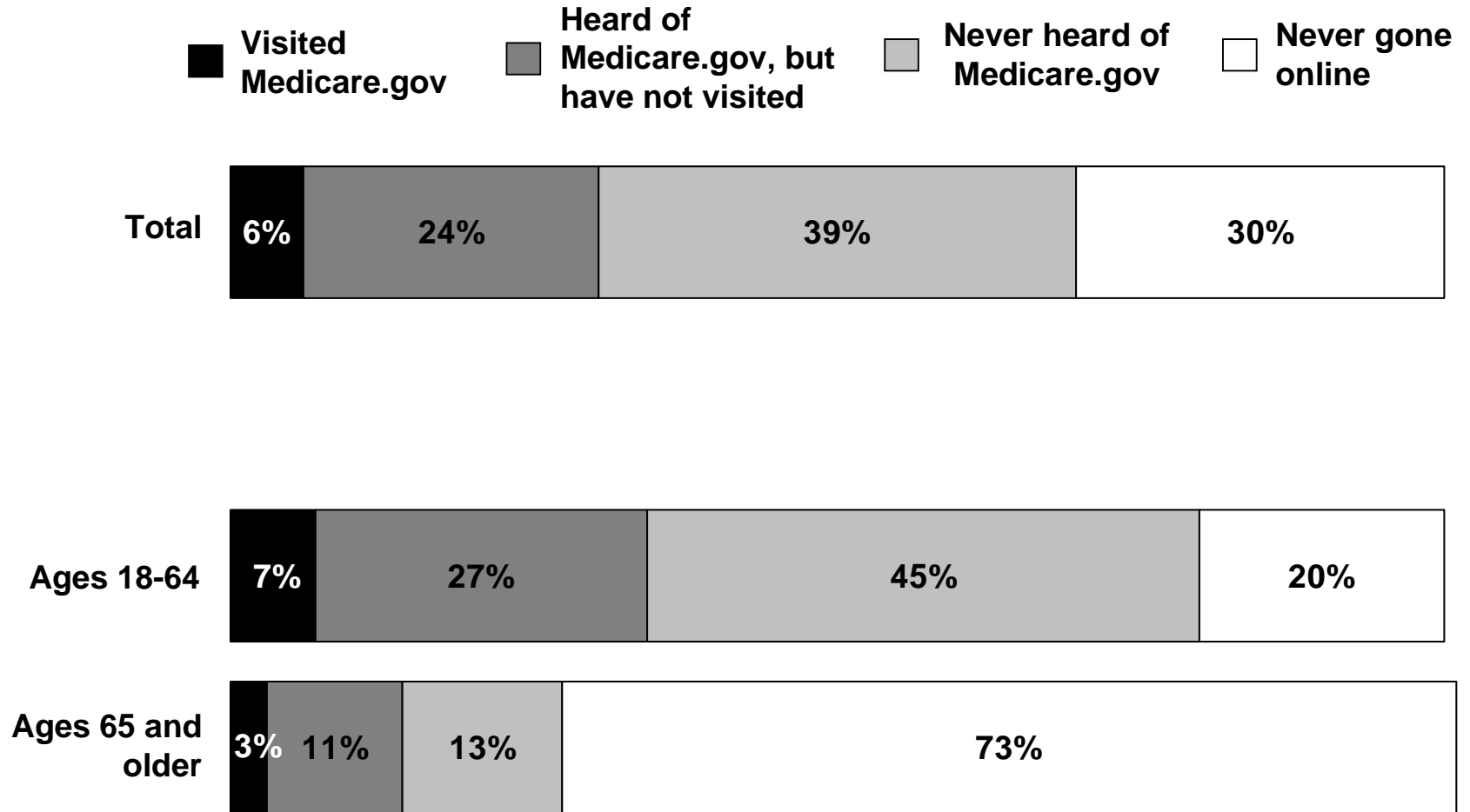
Reported Awareness and Use of 1-800-Medicare

AMONG SENIORS: Percent who say they have heard of/called 1-800-MEDICARE...



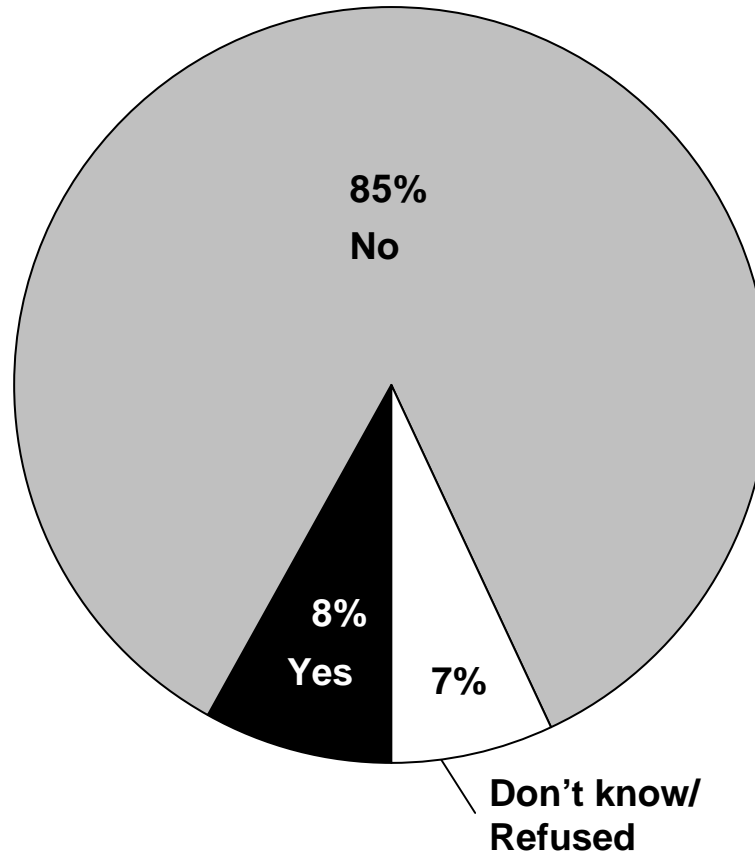
Reported Awareness and Use of Medicare.gov

Percent who say they have heard of/visited Medicare.gov...



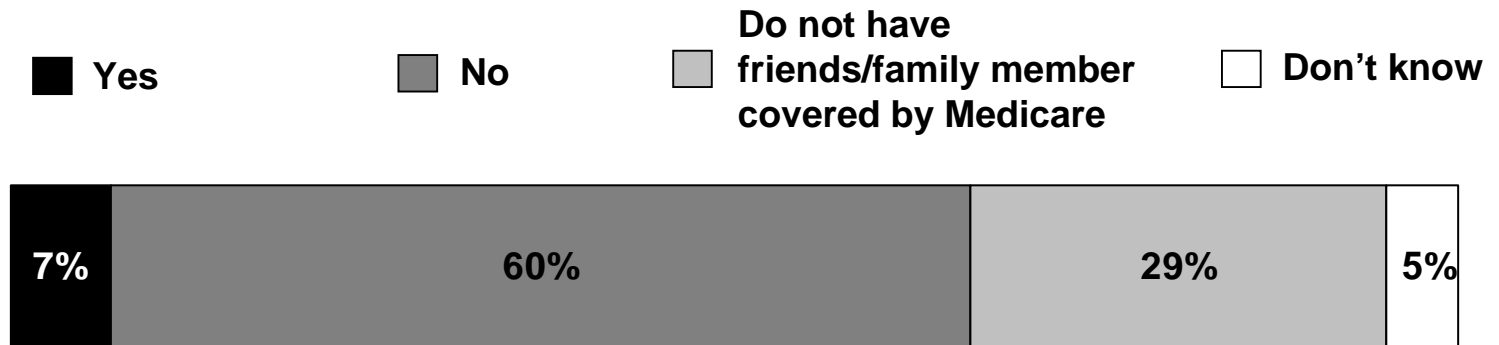
Seniors' Reported Assistance Getting Medicare Information Online

AMONG SENIORS: As far as you know, has a friend or family member ever visited an Internet web site on your behalf for information about Medicare, or not?

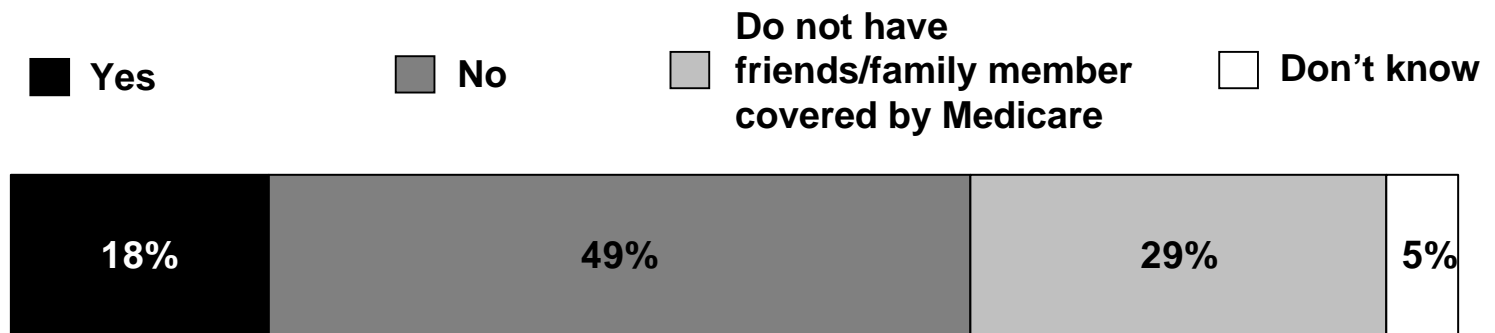


Younger Adults Assisting Elderly in Getting Medicare Information

AMONG ADULTS AGES 18-64: Have you ever visited an Internet web site on behalf of a friend/family member for information about Medicare, or not?



AMONG ADULTS AGES 18-64: Have you ever assisted a friend/family member in any other way in getting information about Medicare, or not?





The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
2400 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Office:
1330 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

www.kff.org

Additional copies of this publication (#7246) are available on
the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation dedicated to providing information and analysis on health care issues to policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public. The Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.