



HARVARD
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Toplines

Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

National Survey of the Public's Views on Medicare



Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of the Public's Views on Medicare* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health. The Kaiser/Harvard survey research team included Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., Tricia Neuman, Ph.D., Kristina Hanson, Ph.D., and Liz Hamel from the Kaiser Family Foundation; and Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., and John Benson, M.A. of the Harvard School of Public Health. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates between April 25 and June 1, 2003, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,424 respondents 18 years of age and older. The survey included an oversample of respondents ages 65 and older (a total of 441 respondents ages 65 and older were interviewed). Results for all age groups have been weighted to reflect the actual distribution in the nation.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents; for respondents ages 18-64 it is plus or minus 3 percentage points; and for respondents ages 65 and older it is plus or minus 5 percentage points. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

In order to get trend data, three questions were added to an omnibus survey between May 23 and May 27, 2003. See the last section of this document for more details and the results.

Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (*). "VOL" indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice.

- 1A. What do you think is the most important health care issue for the government to address?
- 1B. What do you think is the NEXT most important health care issue for the government to address?¹

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
18	19	13	Universal coverage/coverage for the uninsured
17	14	32	Cost of prescription drugs/medicines
15	16	8	Cost of health care
12	13	7	Medical conditions/procedures – other specified
11	11	10	Senior citizens’ care/issues (including Social Security)
10	9	14	Coverage of prescription drugs (for elderly and disabled)
9	10	4	Cost of insurance/affordable insurance
8	8	5	Cancer/cancer research
7	7	6	Health care availability (general)
7	6	11	Medicare
7	7	3	Children’s care/issues
6	7	1	AIDS/AIDS research/HIV
5	5	3	Access to health care – other specified

“Don’t know” and responses mentioned by less than 5 percent are not shown. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

2. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, or a program like Medicare or (Medicaid)/(Medi-Cal)?
3. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it...

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
84	81	98	Total Insured
62	71	21	Private Insurance
15	3	72	Medicare
6	6	2	Medicaid/Other government program
1	1	2	Not sure what type of insurance
16	19	1	Not insured
1	*	1	(DO NOT READ) Don’t know/Refused

¹ Unless otherwise noted, results are based on the full sample of 1,424 respondents (971 ages 18-64, 441 ages 65+, 12 respondents did not give their age). For questions asked of subsets of respondents, the N for each group is indicated in parentheses following the results.

4. Do you have a Medicare supplement or Medigap policy that pays for costs not covered by Medicare?

Based on those who say Medicare is their main source of health insurance (Total includes 27 respondents ages 18-64 who say Medicare is their main source of health insurance)

	<u>Total</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
	71	74	Yes
	29	25	No
	1	1	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
N =	(358)	(329)	

- 5A. Do you have any insurance that pays at least part of your prescription drug costs?
- 5B. Is that a plan that pays for your prescription drug costs from an employer or union, or from some other source?

	<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
	68	69	64	Total have prescription drug coverage
	55	59	34	From employer or union
	13	10	29	From some other source
	*	*	1	Don't know what source
	30	30	33	Don't have drug coverage/No insurance
	1	1	2	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

6. Based on all your experience with your current MAIN health insurance plan, what letter grade would you give it for its performance? "A" for excellent, "B" for good, "C" for average, "D" for poor, or "F" for failing?

Based on those who are insured

	<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
	27	26	32	A – Excellent
	40	40	43	B – Good
	23	24	19	C – Average
	5	5	2	D – Poor
	2	2	2	F – Failing
	2	2	3	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
	(1,246)	(802)	(434)	

7. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Medicare?
8. Is that a very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
51	45	80	Total Favorable
21	17	43	Very favorable
28	27	34	Somewhat favorable
21	23	10	Total Unfavorable
6	7	3	Very unfavorable
14	16	7	Somewhat unfavorable
29	33	10	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

9. How concerned are you that, in the future, you will not continue to receive the current level of Medicare benefits you now receive? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

Based on those who say Medicare is their main source of health insurance (Total includes 27 respondents ages 18-64 who say Medicare is their main source of insurance)

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
50	50	Very concerned
25	25	Somewhat concerned
11	12	Not too concerned
11	11	Not at all concerned
2	2	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(358)	(329)	

10. How concerned are you that the Medicare benefits seniors have today will not be available for you when you retire? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

Based on those who do not say Medicare is their main source of health insurance

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
58	58	54	Very concerned
27	28	19	Somewhat concerned
7	7	6	Not too concerned
7	6	13	Not at all concerned
1	1	8	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(1,066)	(944)	(112)	

11. To the best of your knowledge, is Medicare primarily a federal government program, a state government program, or a private insurance program?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
74	73	78	Federal government program
16	18	9	State government program
2	3	2	Private insurance program
7	7	11	Don't know
*	*	*	Refused

12. How well do you think...(INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE) run? Do you think (it is/they are) run -- very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all, or don't you know enough about that to say?

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Somewhat well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not well at all</u>	<u>DK enough to say</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
a. The Medicare program is							
Total:	8	32	19	10	31	*	(1,424)
Age 18-64:	5	31	20	11	32	*	(971)
Age 65+:	24	38	10	4	22	*	(441)

Based on half sample

b. Private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs, that people get through their jobs are							
Total:	7	36	19	14	22	1	(711)
Age 18-64:	6	41	19	13	19	1	(500)
Age 65+:	12	14	19	17	38	1	(206)

Based on half sample

c. The health plan offered to federal government workers is							
Total:	10	17	6	5	61	1	(713)
Age 18-64:	9	19	6	5	60	1	(471)
Age 65+:	13	11	7	3	63	2	(235)

13. Which do you think offers more generous health benefits, (ROTATE ANSWER CATEGORIES) (Medicare) or (private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs, that people get through their jobs), or do you think they both offer benefits that are about equally generous?

Based on half sample

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
14	14	17	Medicare
41	46	16	Private plans
31	28	45	About equal
14	12	22	Don't know/Refused
(711)	(500)	(206)	

14. Which do you think offers more choice among doctors and hospitals, (ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.13) (Medicare) or (private health plans that people get through their jobs), or do you think they both offer about the same amount of choice among doctors and hospitals?

Based on half sample

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
20	18	27	Medicare
38	41	20	Private plans
30	29	38	About the same
12	11	15	Don't know/Refused
(711)	(500)	(206)	

15. Which costs do you think are rising faster, (ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.13) (the costs of Medicare) or (the costs of private health plans that people get through their jobs), or do you think the costs are rising about the same for both?

Based on half sample

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
10	10	9	Medicare
43	45	36	Private plans
35	34	37	About the same
12	11	18	Don't know/Refused
(711)	(500)	(206)	

16. Which do you think offers more generous health benefits, (ROTATE ANSWER CATEGORIES) (Medicare) or (the health plan offered to federal employees), or do you think they both offer benefits that are about equally generous?

Based on half sample

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
7	7	7	Medicare
38	41	23	Federal employee health plan
23	23	23	About equal
32	28	47	Don't know/Refused
(713)	(471)	(235)	

17. Which do you think offers more choice among doctors and hospitals, (ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.16) (Medicare) or (the health plan offered to federal employees), or do you think they both offer about the same amount of choice among doctors and hospitals?

Based on half sample

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
10	9	13	Medicare
35	41	10	Federal employee health plan
24	22	32	About the same
31	28	44	Don't know/Refused
(713)	(471)	(235)	

18. Which costs do you think are rising faster, (ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.16) (the costs of Medicare) or (the costs of the health plan offered to federal employees), or do you think the costs are rising about the same for both?

Based on half sample

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
26	29	12	Medicare
13	14	5	Federal employee health plan
33	34	32	About the same
28	23	50	Don't know/Refused
(713)	(471)	(235)	

19. To the best of your knowledge, are people on Medicare generally able to choose any doctor they want, are they required to choose a doctor from a list, or are they required to see a doctor chosen for them by Medicare?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
36	28	73	Choose any doctor they want
33	38	11	Choose a doctor from a list
13	15	5	Required to see a doctor chosen for them
18	19	11	Don't know/Refused

20. Please tell me whether -- to the best of your knowledge -- the current Medicare program NOW pays each of the following kinds of health care bills for people aged 65 and older. (First,) does current Medicare now help pay for...(INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE), or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>	
a. The cost of extended long-term care, such as nursing home and home care				
	Total:	39	38	23
	Age 18-64:	40	37	23
	Age 65+:	32	45	24
b. Prescription drug bills				
	Total:	49	40	12
	Age 18-64:	55	32	13
	Age 65+:	16	76	7

21. (When you retire,) If you had a choice, would you prefer to get your Medicare health insurance benefits from the current government Medicare program, or from a private health plan, such as a PPO or HMO?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
36	31	63	Current government Medicare program
49	56	19	Private health plan, such as PPO or HMO
14	13	17	Don't know/Refused

22. Which of the following comes closest to the main reason you would prefer to get your Medicare health insurance benefits from the current government Medicare program, rather than from a private health plan? Is it... (READ AND RANDOMIZE ANSWER CATEGORIES 1-4, READ ITEM 5 LAST)?

Based on those who prefer to get benefits from current Medicare program

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
29	28	33	You trust Medicare more than private plans
28	34	13	You think Medicare would be more cost-efficient than private plans
21	19	27	You think Medicare offers more choice of doctors and hospitals than would private plans
9	9	7	You think Medicare offers more generous benefits than would private plans
5	4	8	Some other reason I haven't mentioned
8	6	12	Don't know/Refused
(576)	(289)	(281)	

There is no question 23

24. Which of the following comes closest to the main reason you would prefer to get your Medicare health insurance benefits from a private health plan, rather than from the current government Medicare program? Is it... (READ AND RANDOMIZE ANSWER CATEGORIES 1-4, READ ITEM 5 LAST)?

Based on those who prefer to get benefits from private health plan

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
33	33	30	You think private plans would offer more choice of doctors and hospitals than Medicare
27	27	23	You think private plans would offer more generous benefits than Medicare
16	16	17	You trust private plans more than Medicare
13	13	15	You think private plans would be more cost-efficient than Medicare
7	7	2	Some other reason I haven't mentioned
4	4	13	Don't know/Refused
(644)	(555)	(85)	

There is no question 25

26. Please tell me whether you would have a favorable or unfavorable reaction if you heard a government official say each of the following things about Medicare. (First/Next,) what if a government official said... (INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE)? (Would you have a favorable or unfavorable reaction?)

27. Is that a VERY (favorable/unfavorable) reaction or a SOMEWHAT (favorable/unfavorable) reaction?

a. Medicare should be modernized

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
70	75	49	Total Favorable
40	44	23	Very favorable
30	31	24	Somewhat favorable
14	13	22	Total Unfavorable
5	4	9	Very unfavorable
10	9	12	Somewhat unfavorable
15	12	29	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

b. There needs to be more consumer choice in Medicare

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
86	90	65	Total Favorable
56	61	36	Very favorable
29	29	29	Somewhat favorable
7	6	16	Total Unfavorable
3	2	6	Very unfavorable
5	4	9	Somewhat unfavorable
7	4	19	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

c. Medicare should be reformed

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
68	72	48	Total Favorable
40	43	26	Very favorable
27	29	21	Somewhat favorable
19	16	30	Total Unfavorable
8	7	14	Very unfavorable
11	10	16	Somewhat unfavorable
13	11	22	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Q26/27 continued

d. Medicare should be privatized

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
29	32	16	Total Favorable
13	15	7	Very favorable
16	17	10	Somewhat favorable
58	56	68	Total Unfavorable
33	30	45	Very unfavorable
25	25	23	Somewhat unfavorable
13	12	16	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

e. Any changes to Medicare should build on the success of the current program

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
65	65	63	Total Favorable
24	24	28	Very favorable
40	41	34	Somewhat favorable
23	24	17	Total Unfavorable
8	8	7	Very unfavorable
15	16	10	Somewhat unfavorable
12	11	19	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

28. If you heard the statement that there needs to be more consumer choice in Medicare, do you think it refers mainly to offering seniors... (READ AND ROTATE ANSWER CATEGORIES 1 & 2)?

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
45	46	40	Greater choice among doctors and hospitals
38	40	30	Greater choice among different health plans
8	9	3	Both (VOL.)
1	*	3	Neither (VOL.)
7	4	24	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

29. In thinking about your OWN health insurance, which of these is most important to you PERSONALLY... (READ AND ROTATE ANSWER CATEGORIES 1 & 2 IN SAME ORDER AS Q.33)?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
62	61	68	Having greater choice among doctors and hospitals
29	31	19	Having greater choice among different health plans
6	6	4	Both (VOL.)
1	1	2	Neither (VOL.)
2	1	6	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

30. I'd like to ask you what comes to mind when you hear the term "Medicare reform." Please tell me whether or not it means each of the following to you. Does "Medicare reform" mean...(INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE), or not?

Based on half sample

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
a. Making prescription drugs more affordable				
Total:	82	14	4	(714)
Age 18-64:	83	14	3	(481)
Age 65+:	77	13	11	(226)
b. Offering seniors more choice of competing private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs				
Total:	63	25	12	(714)
Age 18-64:	68	23	9	(481)
Age 65+:	40	36	24	(226)
c. Improving coverage for preventive health care				
Total:	73	19	8	(714)
Age 18-64:	75	20	5	(481)
Age 65+:	65	15	20	(226)
d. Reducing fraud and abuse in Medicare				
Total:	75	18	7	(714)
Age 18-64:	76	19	5	(481)
Age 65+:	70	17	13	(226)
e. Ensuring that Medicare is financially sound for future generations				
Total:	76	18	6	(714)
Age 18-64:	77	18	5	(481)
Age 65+:	70	17	13	(226)

Q.30 continued

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
f.	Cutting Medicare benefits				
	Total:	29	65	6	(714)
	Age 18-64:	29	66	5	(481)
	Age 65+:	32	59	9	(226)
g.	Having seniors pay more of their health care costs				
	Total:	26	67	7	(714)
	Age 18-64:	26	68	6	(481)
	Age 65+:	31	58	11	(226)

31. Next, I'd like to read you a list of things that some people say are problems with the current Medicare program. For each, I'd like you to tell me how big a problem you think it is. (First,) what about...(INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE)? Do you think this a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all with Medicare?

Based on half sample

		<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
a.	Lack of prescription drug coverage					
	Total:	76	16	4	4	(710)
	Age 18-64:	76	17	3	4	(490)
	Age 65+:	74	10	10	6	(215)
b.	The financial condition of the Medicare program as the baby boom generation reaches age 65					
	Total:	72	16	4	7	(710)
	Age 18-64:	74	17	4	6	(490)
	Age 65+:	63	14	9	14	(215)
c.	Not enough choice among private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs, under Medicare					
	Total:	45	35	10	10	(710)
	Age 18-64:	49	37	6	8	(490)
	Age 65+:	28	25	28	19	(215)
d.	Seniors paying too much for their own health care					
	Total:	75	16	5	5	(710)
	Age 18-64:	78	15	3	5	(490)
	Age 65+:	59	21	15	5	(215)

Q.31 continued

		<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
e.	Too much fraud and abuse					
	Total:	64	24	3	9	(710)
	Age 18-64:	65	25	3	8	(490)
	Age 65+:	60	19	7	13	(215)
f.	Doctors and hospitals refusing to see Medicare patients					
	Total:	67	19	8	6	(710)
	Age 18-64:	71	19	5	5	(490)
	Age 65+:	50	21	18	11	(215)
g.	Not enough coverage for long-term care services					
	Total:	71	16	3	10	(710)
	Age 18-64:	71	18	3	8	(490)
	Age 65+:	69	11	5	15	(215)

31. Next, I'd like to read you a list of things that some people say are problems with the current Medicare program. For each, I'd like you to tell me how big a problem you think it is. (First,) what about...(INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE)? Do you think this a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all with Medicare?

32. You said the following things were major problems with the current Medicare program. Which of these do you think is the biggest problem?

Based on half sample

<u>Total²</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
18	17	26	Lack of prescription drug coverage
18	19	11	The financial condition of the Medicare program as the baby boom generation reaches age 65
18	19	11	Seniors paying too much for their own health care
16	15	18	Too much fraud and abuse
14	16	8	Doctors and hospitals refusing to see Medicare patients
9	8	16	Not enough coverage for long-term care services
2	3	*	Not enough choice among private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs, under Medicare
3	2	5	Don't know/Refused
2	2	4	No Major Problems
(710)	(490)	(215)	

² Also includes those who said only one issue was a major problem.

33. Please tell me which of the following four statements comes closest to your own view of the financial condition of the Medicare program. Would you say...? (READ)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
18	20	8	Medicare is in financial crisis
51	53	42	Medicare has major financial problems, but is not in crisis
17	16	24	Medicare has minor financial problems
5	4	11	Medicare has no financial problems
9	8	15	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

34. I'm going to read you some proposals to keep the Medicare program financially sound in the future. Please tell me whether you would generally favor or oppose each one. (First,) would you favor or oppose...(INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE)?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Requiring seniors to pay a larger share of Medicare costs out of their own pockets			
Total:	8	89	3
Age 18-64:	8	89	3
Age 65+:	9	86	5
b. Creating a sliding scale for Medicare, so that the more income seniors have, the more they pay in Medicare premiums			
Total:	57	40	3
Age 18-64:	57	40	3
Age 65+:	54	39	7
c. Reducing payments to doctors and hospitals for treating people covered by Medicare			
Total:	49	46	5
Age 18-64:	51	45	4
Age 65+:	39	51	10
d. Increasing the payroll taxes workers now pay to fund the Medicare program			
Total:	39	56	5
Age 18-64:	40	57	4
Age 65+:	36	53	11

Q.34 continued

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
e. Gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67 for future retirees			
Total:	30	67	3
Age 18-64:	28	70	2
Age 65+:	41	53	6
f. Rolling back recent tax cuts and using the money to help keep the Medicare program financially sound			
Total:	70	24	6
Age 18-64:	71	24	5
Age 65+:	68	21	11

35. Which of these two statements comes closer to your view of what health insurance for seniors should look like in the future... (READ AND ROTATE ANSWER CATEGORIES 1 & 2)?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
50	45	72	Most seniors in Medicare would receive their health insurance through the Medicare program the way it works today
41	46	16	Most seniors in Medicare would receive their health insurance through various private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs
2	2	1	Neither (VOL.)
8	7	11	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

There is no question 36

37. How familiar are you with the various proposals being discussed in Washington that would help seniors pay for prescription drugs? Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not at all familiar with these proposals?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
3	3	5	Very familiar
26	25	29	Somewhat familiar
35	35	36	Not too familiar
35	36	28	Not at all familiar
1	1	1	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

38. Based on your general impressions of the various proposals to help seniors pay for prescription drugs, do you think there are big differences, small differences, or no differences between the Democratic and Republican proposals?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
43	44	40	Big Differences
21	23	15	Small Differences
9	8	12	No Differences
27	25	32	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

39. Now thinking about some of the specific aspects of Democratic and Republican proposals to help seniors pay for prescription drugs...Do you think there are big differences, small differences, or no differences between the Democratic and Republican proposals in...(INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE)?

	<u>Big Differences</u>	<u>Small Differences</u>	<u>No Differences</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>	
a. How much each would help seniors with their drug costs					
	Total:	41	28	6	25
	Age 18-64:	42	29	6	24
	Age 65+:	38	23	7	32
b. The role of private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs in providing drug coverage					
	Total:	37	25	8	30
	Age 18-64:	39	27	7	27
	Age 65+:	32	17	11	40
c. The cost of these prescription drug proposals to taxpayers and the government					
	Total:	42	25	7	26
	Age 18-64:	42	27	6	25
	Age 65+:	41	17	10	32

40. Now, I'm going to describe two plans that have been proposed to help seniors pay for prescription drugs. After I read them both, tell me which ONE you would prefer. (READ 1-2) Assuming these plans each cost the government the same amount of money, which do you prefer – A or B?

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
44	45	41	Plan A would pay a LARGE share of drug costs, but for only the lowest income seniors, that is, those with incomes below \$18,000 a couple
52	52	53	Plan B would pay a SMALLER share of drugs costs, but for ALL seniors, no matter what their income
4	4	6	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

41. Suppose Congress and the president decided on a prescription drug plan for seniors in which the government pays HALF of the cost of each prescription. Is (INSERT AMOUNT) per month a reasonable amount for seniors to pay in additional premiums for this new Medicare benefit, or is this too much for seniors to pay?

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
39	41	31	\$50 is reasonable
14	13	17	\$40 is reasonable, but not \$50
20	19	24	\$30 is reasonable, but not \$40
13	13	14	\$20 is reasonable, but not \$30
5	5	5	\$10 is reasonable, but not \$20
6	6	5	\$10 is not reasonable
2	2	4	Don't know

42. Now I'm going to describe two more plans to help seniors pay for prescription drugs. Which of the following plans would you prefer? (READ 1-2)

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
38	38	40	Plan A would provide basic prescription coverage for all seniors that would be LESS generous than what most workers get through their employer, and there would be a lower cost to the government and taxpayers
54	56	46	Plan B would provide prescription drug coverage for all seniors that would be AS generous as what most workers get through their employer, but it would cost the government and taxpayers much more than Plan A
8	6	13	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

43. Would you still prefer Plan A if it meant that some seniors would not fill their prescriptions because of the cost, or would you now prefer plan B?

Based on those who prefer Plan A in Q.42

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
37	39	28	Yes, still prefer Plan A
59	58	59	Now prefer plan B
5	3	13	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(561)	(366)	(188)	

44. Would you still prefer Plan B if it meant that less money would be available to spend on other national priorities, or would you now prefer plan A?

Based on those who prefer Plan B in Q.42

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
77	80	58	Yes, still prefer Plan B
17	16	25	Now prefer plan A
7	5	17	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(744)	(544)	(197)	

45. Would you still prefer Plan B if it meant giving up further tax cuts, or would you now prefer plan A?

Based on those who prefer Plan B in Q.42

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
79	82	64	Yes, still prefer Plan B
15	14	22	Now prefer plan A
5	4	14	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(744)	(544)	(197)	

42. Now I'm going to describe two more plans to help seniors pay for prescription drugs. Which of the following plans would you prefer?
- Plan A would provide basic prescription coverage for all seniors that would be LESS generous than what most workers get through their employer, and there would be a lower cost to the government and taxpayers
 - Plan B would provide prescription drug coverage for all seniors that would be AS generous as what most workers get through their employer, but it would cost the government and taxpayers much more than Plan A
43. Would you still prefer Plan A if it meant that some seniors would not fill their prescriptions because of the cost, or would you now prefer plan B?
45. Would you still prefer Plan B if it meant giving up further tax cuts, or would you now prefer plan A?

Summary Table 1 – Questions 42,43,45

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
38	38	40	Favor Plan
14	15	11	Still favor plan
23	22	24	Now oppose plan
2	1	5	Not sure
54	56	46	Oppose Plan
43	45	30	Still oppose plan
8	8	10	Now favor plan
3	2	6	Not sure
8	6	13	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Summary Table 2 – Questions 42,43,45

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
22	23	22	Favor after counter-arguments
65	68	53	Oppose after counter-arguments
12	10	25	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

46. Now I'm going to describe two more plans to help seniors pay for prescription drugs. In both of these plans, seniors would have to pay a monthly premium for drug coverage. (READ AND ROTATE). Which of these plans would you prefer?

Based on half sample

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
56	56	55	Plan A would offer drug coverage to seniors by adding a new benefit to the existing Medicare program
34	36	29	Plan B would offer drug coverage to seniors separately through private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs
10 (711)	9 (500)	15 (206)	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

47. Now I'm going to describe two more plans to help seniors pay for prescription drugs. In both of these plans, seniors would have to pay a monthly premium for drug coverage. (READ AND ROTATE). Which of these plans would you prefer?

Based on half sample

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
50	48	63	Plan A would offer drug coverage to seniors by adding a new benefit to the existing Medicare program
42	46	23	Plan B would offer drug coverage and all other benefits, including coverage for hospital and physician services to seniors separately through private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs
8 (713)	7 (471)	15 (235)	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

48. Now I'm going to describe another plan to help seniors pay for prescription drugs. This plan would pay a smaller part of drug costs for seniors who stay in the current Medicare program, but a larger share of drug costs for seniors who join private health plans, such as PPOs or HMOs. Would you favor or oppose this plan?

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
48	51	32	Favor
42	40	51	Oppose
11	9	17	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

49. Opponents of this proposal say that seniors shouldn't have to enroll in a private plan with less choice of doctors and hospitals in order to get better drug benefits. After hearing this argument, would you still favor this proposal, or would you now oppose it?

Based on those who favor plan in Q.48

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
53	56	34	Still favor
42	40	54	Now oppose
5	4	13	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(643)	(493)	(145)	

50. Supporters of this proposal say that seniors who choose a private plan should get a larger prescription drug benefit because they believe these plans are more cost-efficient than Medicare. After hearing this argument, would you still oppose this proposal, or would you now favor it?

Based on those who oppose plan in Q.48

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
64	64	61	Still oppose
28	30	22	Now favor
8	6	17	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(626)	(393)	(226)	

48. Now I'm going to describe another plan to help seniors pay for prescription drugs. This plan would pay a smaller part of drug costs for seniors who stay in the current Medicare program, but a larger share of drug costs for seniors who join private health plans, such as PPOs or HMOs. Would you favor or oppose this plan?
49. Opponents of this proposal say that seniors shouldn't have to enroll in a private plan with less choice of doctors and hospitals in order to get better drug benefits. After hearing this argument, would you still favor this proposal, or would you now oppose it?
50. Supporters of this proposal say that seniors who choose a private plan should get a larger prescription drug benefit because they believe these plans are more cost-efficient than Medicare. After hearing this argument, would you still oppose this proposal, or would you now favor it?

Summary Table 1 – Questions 48-50

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
48	51	32	Favor Plan
25	28	11	Still favor plan
20	21	17	Now oppose plan
2	2	4	Not sure
42	40	51	Oppose Plan
26	25	31	Still oppose plan
12	12	11	Now favor plan
3	2	9	Not sure
11	9	17	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Summary Table 2 – Questions 48-50

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
37	40	22	Favor after counter-arguments
47	46	48	Oppose after counter-arguments
16	14	30	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

51. Recently the Bush Administration proposed to provide discount drug cards to seniors that may save them about ten to twenty-five percent on their prescriptions. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
79	82	65	Favor
16	13	27	Oppose
5	4	8	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

52. If this drug discount card proposal becomes law, do you think it will be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not at all helpful to seniors who don't have any prescription drug coverage?

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
33	34	25	Very helpful
45	45	43	Somewhat helpful
12	12	16	Not too helpful
7	7	10	Not at all helpful
3	2	6	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

53. Suppose Medicare paid for prescription drugs, but only after seniors pay \$4000 in drug costs out of their own pocket in a year. In addition, the government would provide all seniors with a drug discount card that could lower their costs by 10 to 25%. Do you think this would be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not at all helpful to seniors who don't have any other drug coverage?

Based on half sample

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
10	11	6	Very helpful
21	20	25	Somewhat helpful
28	28	28	Not too helpful
38	38	37	Not at all helpful
3	3	4	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(714)	(481)	(226)	

54. Suppose Medicare paid for prescription drugs, but only after seniors pay \$6000 in drug costs out of their own pocket in a year. In addition, the government would provide all seniors with a drug discount card that could lower their costs by 10 to 25%. Do you think this would be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not at all helpful to seniors who don't have any other drug coverage?

Based on half sample

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
6	6	6	Very helpful
20	21	16	Somewhat helpful
27	28	21	Not too helpful
45	43	51	Not at all helpful
3	2	6	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(710)	(490)	(215)	

55. Do you favor or oppose the federal government making it easier for Medicare beneficiaries to buy prescription drugs from Canada if they can get a lower price?

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
78	80	65	Favor
19	17	26	Oppose
4	3	9	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

56. If a Medicare drug benefit were passed, would you favor or oppose having the federal government set limits on the prices of prescription drugs under Medicare?

Based on half sample

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
72	73	72	Favor
22	23	19	Oppose
6	5	9	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(714)	(481)	(226)	

57. What if you heard that setting limits on the prices of prescription drugs might lead drug companies to do LESS research and development of new drugs? Would you still favor having the federal government set limits on prescription drugs prices, or would you now oppose it?

Based on those in half sample who favor the government limiting drug prices

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
54	54	53	Favor
41	42	39	Oppose
5	4	9	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(520)	(354)	(161)	

58. What if you heard that some other countries have been able to lower the cost of prescription drugs by setting limits on prices? Would you still oppose having the federal government set limits on prescription drugs prices, or would you now favor it?

Based on those in half sample who oppose the government limiting drug prices (Total includes 44 respondents age 65+ who oppose the government limiting drug prices)

<u>Total</u>	Age		
	<u>18-64</u>		
50	49		Oppose
42	44		Favor
8	7		(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(146)	(102)		

56. If a Medicare drug benefit were passed, would you favor or oppose having the federal government set limits on the prices of prescription drugs under Medicare?

57. What if you heard that setting limits on the prices of prescription drugs might lead drug companies to do LESS research and development of new drugs? Would you still favor having the federal government set limits on prescription drugs prices, or would you now oppose it?

58. What if you heard that some other countries have been able to lower the cost of prescription drugs by setting limits on prices? Would you still oppose having the federal government set limits on prescription drugs prices, or would you now favor it?

Based on half sample

Summary Table 1 – Questions 56-58

<u>Total</u>	Age		
	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
72	73	72	Favor Plan
39	40	38	Still favor plan
30	30	28	Now oppose plan
3	3	6	Not sure
22	23	19	Oppose Plan
11	11	10	Still oppose plan
9	10	6	Now favor plan
2	2	3	Not sure
6	5	9	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(714)	(481)	(226)	

Summary Table 2 – Questions 56-58

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
49	50	44	Favor after counter-arguments
41	41	38	Oppose after counter-arguments
11	9	18	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(714)	(481)	(226)	

59. If a Medicare drug benefit were passed, would you favor or oppose the federal government negotiating with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for seniors?

Based on half sample

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
91	92	89	Favor
6	6	8	Oppose
3	2	3	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(710)	(490)	(215)	

60. What if you heard that this might lead drug companies to do LESS research and development of new drugs? Would you still favor having the federal government negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for seniors, or would you now oppose it?

Based on those in half sample who favor the government limiting drug prices

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
57	57	54	Favor
39	40	34	Oppose
4	2	12	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(647)	(451)	(192)	

59. If a Medicare drug benefit were passed, would you favor or oppose the federal government negotiating with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for seniors?
60. What if you heard that this might lead drug companies to do LESS research and development of new drugs? Would you still favor having the federal government negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for seniors, or would you now oppose it?
61. What if you heard that some other countries have been able to lower the cost of some prescription drugs by negotiating with drug companies? Would you still oppose having the federal government negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for seniors, or would you now favor it?

Based on half sample

Summary Table 1 – Questions 59-61

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
91	92	89	Favor Plan
52	52	48	Still favor plan
36	37	30	Now oppose plan
4	2	11	Not sure
6	6	8	Oppose Plan
3	3	4	Still oppose plan
2	2	3	Now favor plan
1	1	2	Not sure
3	2	3	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(710)	(490)	(215)	

Summary Table 2 – Questions 59-61

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
54	55	51	Favor after counter-arguments
39	40	34	Oppose after counter-arguments
7	5	15	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(710)	(490)	(215)	

62. Earlier in the survey, you said that most seniors in the future should receive their health insurance through Medicare as it exists today, rather than through various private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs. I'm going to read you some arguments that have been made in FAVOR of providing health insurance to seniors through private health plans. Some people say that seniors should have a choice among health plans that offer benefits more tailored to individuals' health-care needs, rather than the one-size-fits-all Medicare program. They also say that competition among private plans would do a better job than Medicare at keeping health care costs down. Lastly, they say that Medicare is a government-run bureaucracy that needs to be modernized.

After hearing these arguments, do you still prefer Medicare as it exists today, or do you now prefer various private health plans?

Based on those who say most seniors in the future should receive health insurance through Medicare as it exists today (Q.35)

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
64	60	77	Yes, Prefer to keep Medicare as it exists today
25	29	12	No, Prefer health insurance through private plans
2	2	1	(VOL.) Neither
9	9	11	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(752)	(421)	(324)	

63. Earlier in the survey, you said that most seniors in the future should receive their health insurance through various private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs, rather than through Medicare as it exists today. I'm going to read you some arguments that have been made AGAINST providing health insurance to seniors through private health plans. Some people say these plans would be more likely to reduce the benefits or increase costs to seniors in the plans. They also say private plans put profits first, and could drop seniors from the plans because of concerns about losing money. Lastly, they say that seniors in private plans would no longer be able to choose their own doctors and hospitals.

After hearing these arguments, do you still prefer various private health plans, or do you now prefer Medicare as it exists today?

Based on those who say most seniors in the future should receive health insurance through various private health plans (Q.35)

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
45	45	35	Yes, Prefer health insurance through private plans
47	46	53	No, Prefer to keep Medicare as it exists today
3	3	3	(VOL.) Neither
6	6	9	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(538)	(464)	(71)	

35. Which of these two statements comes closer to your view of what health insurance for seniors should look like in the future...?
- Most seniors in Medicare would receive their health insurance through the Medicare program the way it works today
 - Most seniors in Medicare would receive their health insurance through various private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs
62. After hearing these arguments, do you still prefer Medicare as it exists today, or do you now prefer various private health plans?
63. After hearing these arguments, do you still prefer various private health plans, or do you now prefer Medicare as it exists today?

Summary Table 1 – Questions 35, 62-63

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
50	45	72	Medicare as it exists today
32	27	55	Prefer to keep Medicare
12	13	9	Prefer private health plans
5	5	8	Neither/Not sure
41	46	16	Private health plans
18	21	5	Prefer private health plans
19	21	8	Prefer to keep Medicare
4	4	2	Neither/Not sure
2	2	1	Neither
8	7	11	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Summary Table 2 – Questions 35, 62-63

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
51	48	64	Prefer Medicare (as it exists today) after counter-arguments
31	34	14	Prefer private plans after counter-arguments
4	4	2	Neither
15	14	20	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

64. When it comes to doing or recommending the right thing for the Medicare program, how much do you trust each of the following? (First,) what about . . .(INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE)? Do you trust (them/him) on Medicare a lot, a fair amount, not much, or not at all?

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>A fair amount</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
<i>Based on half sample</i>							
a.	Doctors' organizations like the American Medical Association						
	Total:	14	51	19	9	8	(711)
	Age 18-64:	13	51	20	9	7	(500)
	Age 65+:	19	51	13	7	11	(206)
<i>Based on half sample</i>							
b.	Pharmaceutical or drug companies						
	Total:	7	31	34	23	6	(711)
	Age 18-64:	7	30	34	24	5	(500)
	Age 65+:	6	35	31	18	10	(206)
<i>Based on half sample</i>							
d.	Hospital groups, like the American Hospital Association						
	Total:	11	45	17	10	17	(713)
	Age 18-64:	11	48	17	9	15	(471)
	Age 65+:	10	32	21	13	24	(235)
<i>Based on half sample</i>							
e.	Labor unions						
	Total:	10	32	25	20	13	(713)
	Age 18-64:	9	34	25	20	12	(471)
	Age 65+:	14	22	25	22	17	(235)
<i>Based on half sample</i>							
f.	AARP						
	Total:	24	42	12	4	17	(711)
	Age 18-64:	24	42	13	4	17	(500)
	Age 65+:	20	44	8	7	21	(206)
<i>Based on half sample</i>							
g.	President Bush						
	Total:	18	36	20	20	6	(713)
	Age 18-64:	18	37	20	20	6	(471)
	Age 65+:	21	35	20	16	7	(235)
h.	The Democrats in Congress						
	Total:	10	39	26	17	9	(1,424)
	Age 18-64:	9	39	27	17	8	(971)
	Age 65+:	13	38	21	16	11	(441)

Q.64 continued

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A fair amount</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
i. The Republicans in Congress						
Total:	9	35	27	20	9	(1,424)
Age 18-64:	9	34	28	21	8	(971)
Age 65+:	8	36	26	19	11	(441)
Based on half sample						
j. Private health plans, such as PPOs and HMOs						
Total:	5	40	31	17	8	(711)
Age 18-64:	4	42	33	16	5	(500)
Age 65+:	9	28	23	20	19	(206)
Based on half sample						
k. Health insurance companies						
Total:	4	32	36	21	6	(713)
Age 18-64:	3	32	38	21	6	(471)
Age 65+:	9	34	25	22	10	(235)

65. Who do you trust to do a better job of handling the Medicare prescription drug issue...
(READ AND ROTATE ANSWER CATEGORIES 1 & 2)?

Based on half sample

<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 18-64</u>	<u>Age 65+</u>	
39	40	32	President Bush
39	39	39	Democrats in Congress
2	1	3	Both equally (VOL.)
7	8	6	Neither (VOL.)
13	12	21	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(711)	(500)	(206)	

66. Who do you trust to do a better job of handling the Medicare prescription drug issue...
(READ AND ROTATE ANSWER CATEGORIES 1 & 2)?

Based on half sample

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
33	34	25	President Bush
35	36	30	Republicans in Congress
7	7	7	Both equally (VOL.)
14	13	16	Neither (VOL.)
12	9	21	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(713)	(471)	(235)	

67. Who do you trust to do a better job of handling the Medicare prescription drug issue...
(READ AND ROTATE ANSWER CATEGORIES 1 & 2)?

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
33	34	28	Republicans in Congress
41	42	39	Democrats in Congress
5	5	6	Both equally (VOL.)
8	8	7	Neither (VOL.)
14	12	21	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

68. Does anyone in your immediate family, such as parents, grandparents, or siblings receive Medicare benefits, or not?

Based on those who do not say Medicare is their main source of health insurance

<u>Total</u>	Age <u>18-64</u>	Age <u>65+</u>	
57	57	60	Yes
38	39	38	No
4	4	2	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(1,066)	(944)	(112)	

3. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it...?
68. Does anyone in your immediate family, such as parents, grandparents, or siblings receive Medicare benefits, or not?

Summary Table – Questions 3 and 68

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
63	58	89	Self or someone in immediate family on Medicare
33	38	10	No one on Medicare
4	4	1	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

69. How much of a problem is it for you and your family to pay prescription drug costs? Is it very difficult, somewhat difficult, not too difficult, or not at all difficult?

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
18	18	20	Very difficult
29	29	29	Somewhat difficult
25	25	23	Not too difficult
26	26	25	Not at all difficult
2	2	2	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

70. Now thinking about your own health status...In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
23	26	11	Excellent
32	33	26	Very good
23	22	29	Good
15	13	24	Fair
7	6	11	Poor
*	*	0	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

71. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities, or not?

	Age	Age	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
18	14	33	Yes
82	85	65	No
1	*	2	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

DEMOGRAPHICS

D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX:

48 Male
52 Female

D2a. Now I have a few final questions so we can describe the people who took part in this survey... In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

27 Republican
30 Democrat
28 Independent
11 Something else
3 Don't know
2 Refused

D3. Would you say your views in most political matters are very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

7 Very liberal
21 Somewhat liberal
33 Moderate
24 Somewhat conservative
10 Very conservative
3 Don't know
1 Refused

D4. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

78 Yes, registered to vote
22 No, not registered to vote
* Don't have to register (VOL.)
* Don't know/Refused

D5. As you may know, around half the public does not vote in presidential elections. How about you—did you vote in the presidential election in 2000, when George W. Bush ran against Al Gore, Ralph Nader, and Pat Buchanan, or did you skip that one?

- 68 Yes, voted
- 31 No, did not vote
- * Don't remember
- * Refused

D6. Do you remember for sure whether you voted in the November 2002 congressional election in your district?

- 55 Yes, voted
- 40 No, did not
- 5 Don't remember
- * Refused

D7. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 56 Married
- 6 Living with partner
- 8 Widowed
- 9 Divorced
- 3 Separated
- 18 Never married/Single
- 1 Don't know/Refused

22. What is your age?

- 21 18-29
- 40 30-49
- 22 50-64
- 17 65 or older
- 1 Refused

23. What is your current employment status? Are you NOW...(READ)?

- 11 Self-employed
- 51 Employed by someone else
- 18 Retired
- 8 A homemaker
- 5 A student
- 4 Unemployed and looking for work
- 2 Unemployed and NOT looking for work
- 3 Other (VOL.)
- * (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

D8. Do you or your spouse currently belong to AARP, the retired persons' organization?

Based on those age 50 or older (N=759)

- 23 Yes, self
- 4 Yes, spouse
- 21 Yes, both
- 51 No, neither
- 1 Don't know/Refused

D9. What is the last grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ)

- 4 None, or grade 1 to 8
- 11 High school incomplete (grade 9-11)
- 33 High school graduate
- 3 Business, technical or vocational school after high school
- 23 Some college, but no four-year degree
- 16 College graduate, four-year degree
- 10 Post-graduate or professional schooling after college
- 0 Don't know
- * Refused

D10. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

D11. Do you consider yourself to be white, black or African-American, Asian-American, or some other race? IF R SAYS "HISPANIC" OR "LATINO" ASK: Do you consider yourself a WHITE Hispanic/Latino or a BLACK Hispanic/Latino?

- 73 White, non-Hispanic
- 11 Black, non-Hispanic
- 10 Hispanic
- 3 Asian
- 2 Other or mixed race
- * Don't know
- 1 Refused

D12. Last year, that is in 2002, what was your total family income from all sources, BEFORE taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

- 8 Less than \$10,000
- 13 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 13 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 13 \$30,000 to under \$40,000
- 10 \$40,000 to under \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 19 \$75,000 or more
- 4 (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 6 (DO NOT READ) Refused

OMNIBUS QUESTIONS

The following questions were part of an omnibus survey conducted by telephone May 23 – May 27, 2003 among a nationally representative random sample of 1,010 adults 18 years of age and older. Fieldwork was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research.

MC-1. When it comes to dealing with health care, which party do you think would do a better job—the Democratic party, the Republican party, both about the same, or neither?

Based on half sample (N = 508)

	The Democratic party	The Republican party	Both about the same	Neither	Don't know/ Refused
5/27/03	28	14	32	19	6
12/99*	43	17	21	13	6

**NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll, conducted Dec. 9-12, 1999*

MC-2. I'd like to know which party you think generally does a better job of dealing with each of the following issues. Which party do you think does a better job of dealing with (INSERT ITEM) the Republican party, the Democratic party, both parties about the same, or do you think neither party does a good job?
How about (INSERT NEXT ITEM)?

Based on half sample (N = 502)

a. Medicare

	The Republican party	The Democratic party	Both about the same	Neither party does a good job	Don't know/ Refused
5/27/03	15	26	24	25	10
12/99*	19	37	18	12	14

b. Prescription medicine coverage for the elderly

	The Republican party	The Democratic party	Both about the same	Neither party does a good job	Don't know/ Refused
5/27/03	12	24	20	32	13
12/99*	16	33	18	16	18

**Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Survey on Health Care and the 2000 Elections, conducted Dec. 3-13, 1999*



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

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