
Chartpack



The Kaiser Family Foundation

Views on the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit

August 2005

Methodology

The *Kaiser Health Poll Report Survey* was conducted and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. A nationally representative sample of 1,205 respondents ages 18 and older, including 300 respondents 65 years of age and older, was contacted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between August 4 and August 8, 2005.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents; for respondents age 65 and older it is plus or minus 6 percentage points. For results based on 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.

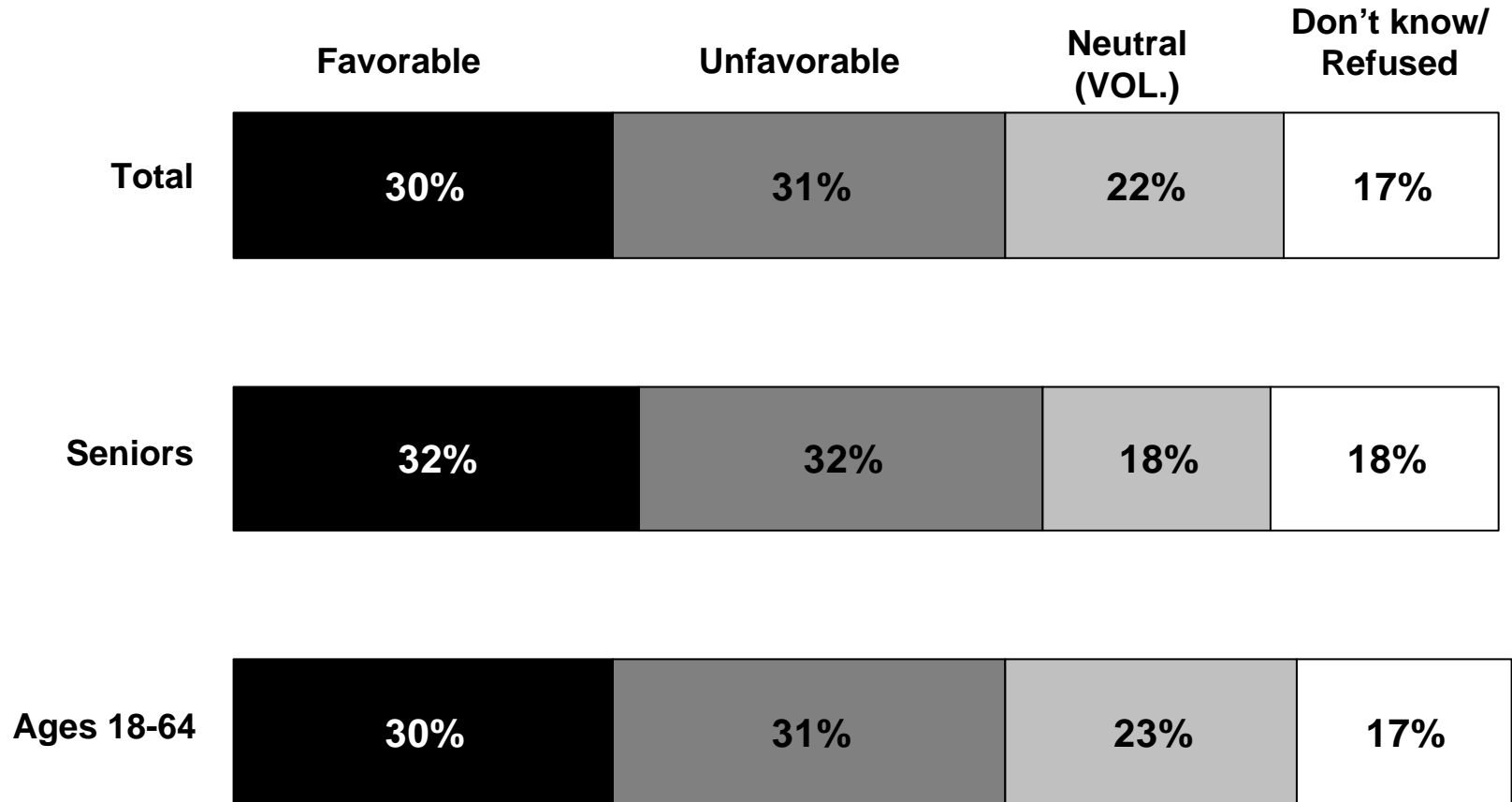
“Vol.” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice. Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

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

VIEWS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEW MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT

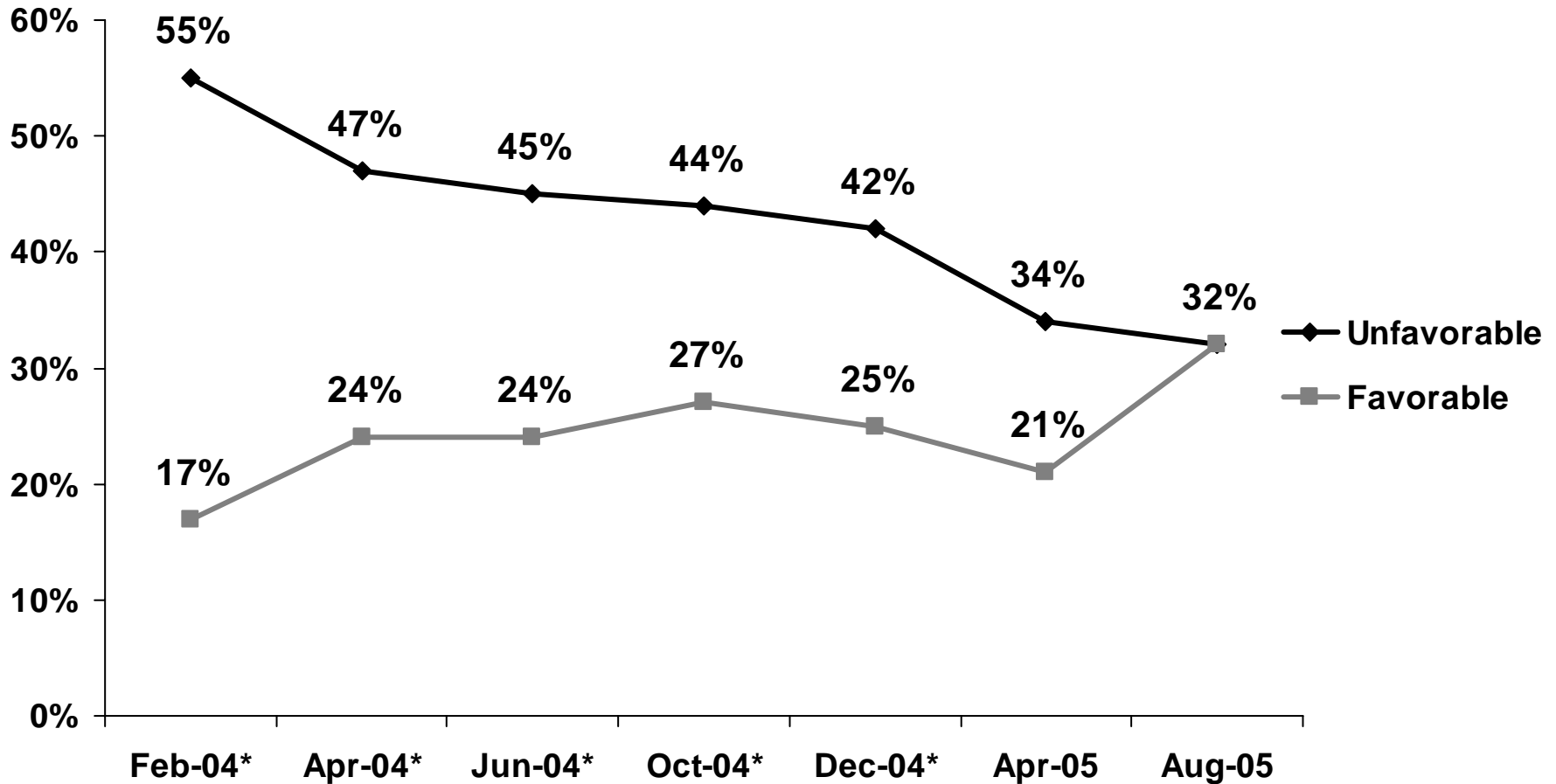
Impressions of Medicare Drug Benefit

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



Trends in Seniors' Impressions Of Drug Benefit

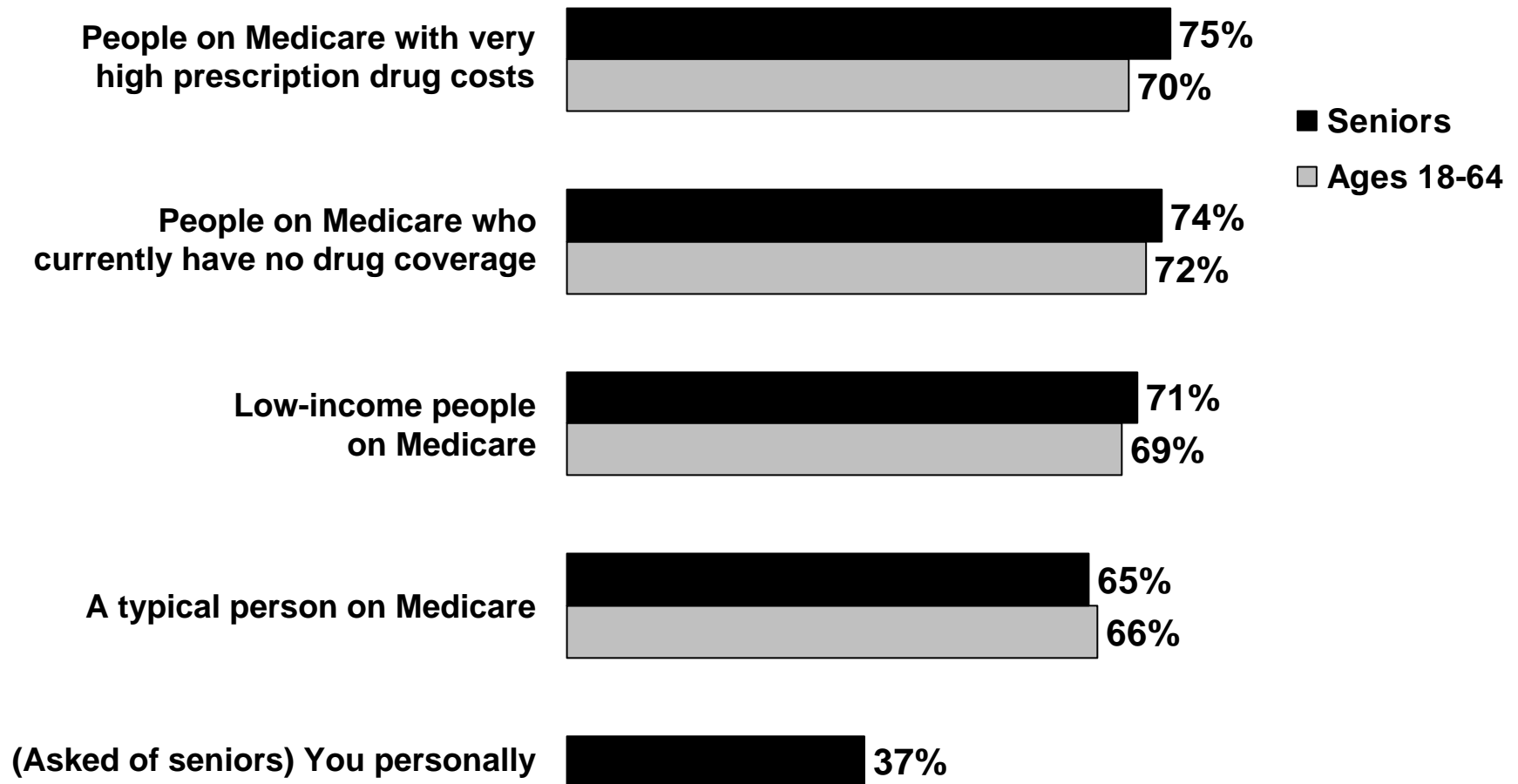
Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare drug benefit?



* Question referred to "new Medicare prescription drug law"

Perceived Helpfulness of Medicare Drug Benefit

Percent who say the new Medicare benefit will be very or somewhat helpful for...



Seniors' Views On Personal Impact Of Benefit

Among seniors:

Percent who say they have enough information about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit to understand how it will impact them personally...

August 2005

33%

April 2005*

27%

Percent who say the new Medicare prescription drug benefit will be “very” or “somewhat” helpful to them personally

August 2005

37%

April 2005*

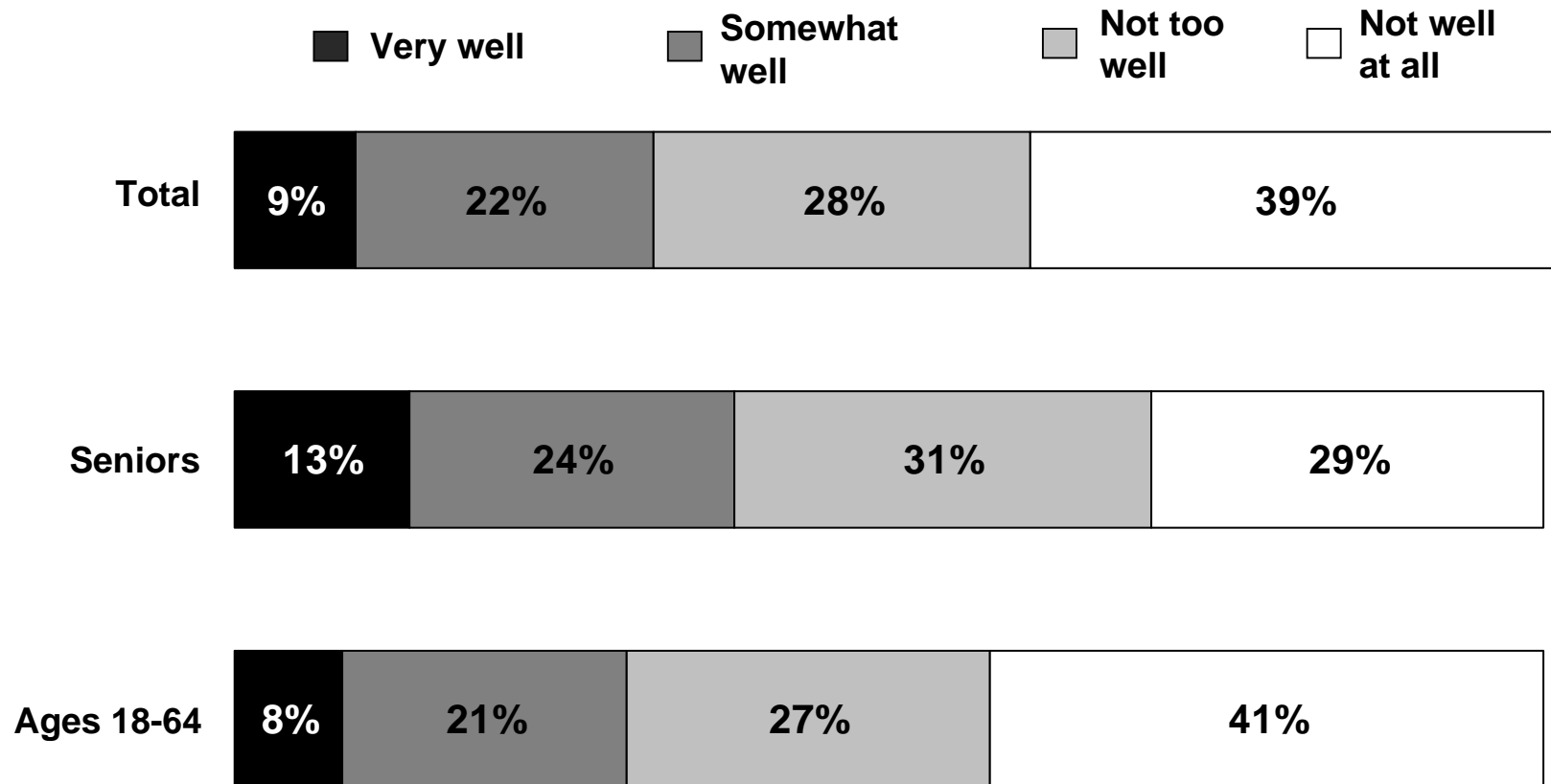
37%

*Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted March 31 – April 3, 2005)

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted August 4-8, 2005)

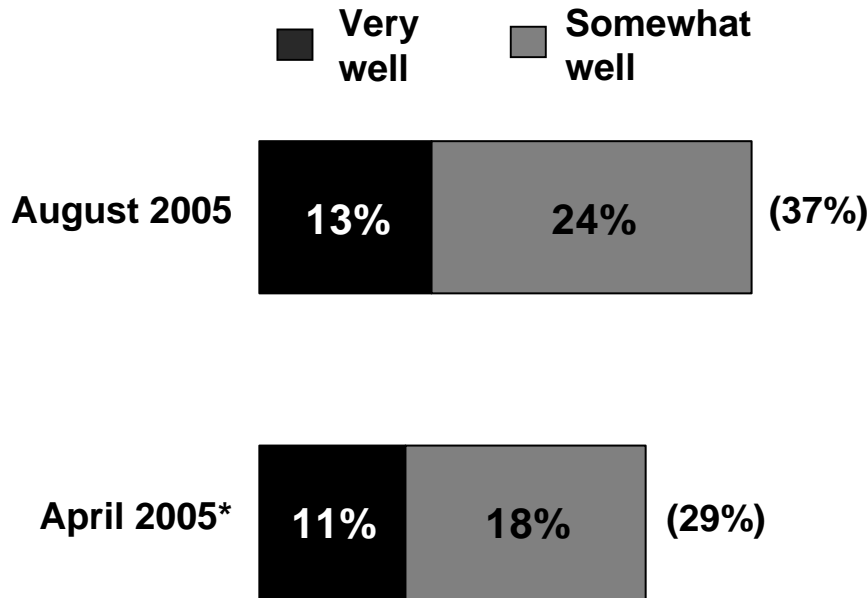
Understanding of Medicare Drug Benefit

How well would you say you understand this new benefit?

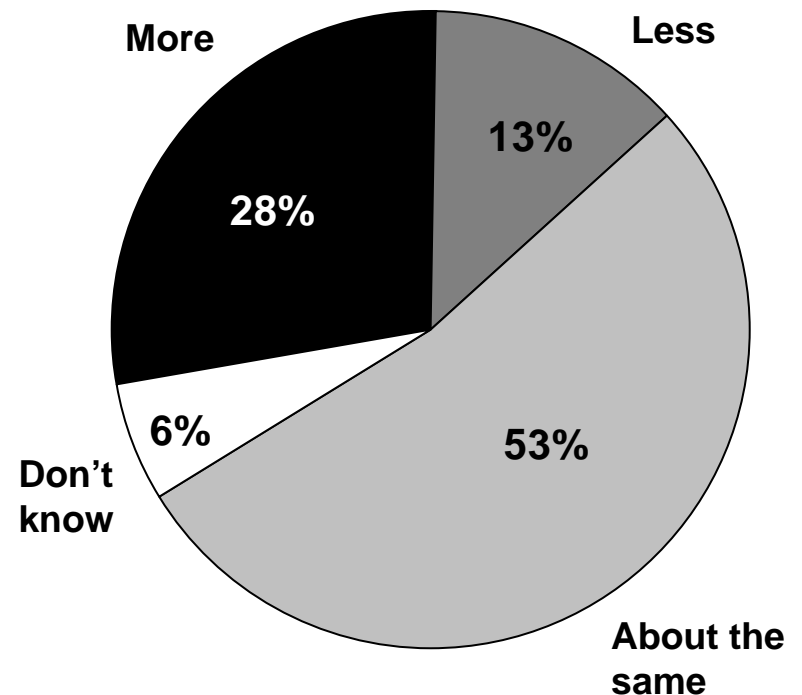


Trends in Seniors' Understanding of Medicare Drug Benefit

Percent of seniors who say they understand the new Medicare drug benefit "very" or "somewhat" well:



Among seniors: Would you say you know more, less or about the same about the Medicare drug benefit as you knew a year ago?

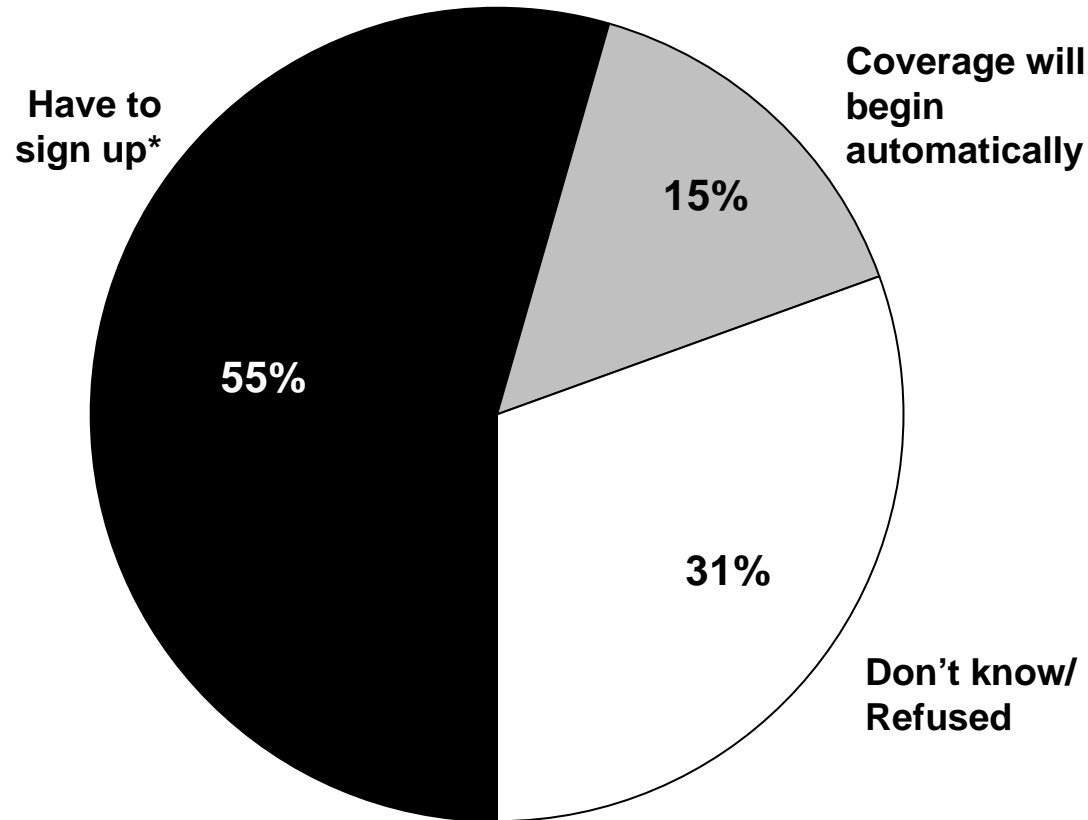


*Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted March 31 – April 3, 2005)

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted August 4-8, 2005)

Seniors' Beliefs About Enrollment

Asked of seniors: To the best of your knowledge, do seniors need to sign up to get their new Medicare prescription drug benefit, or will coverage automatically begin by January 1, 2006?



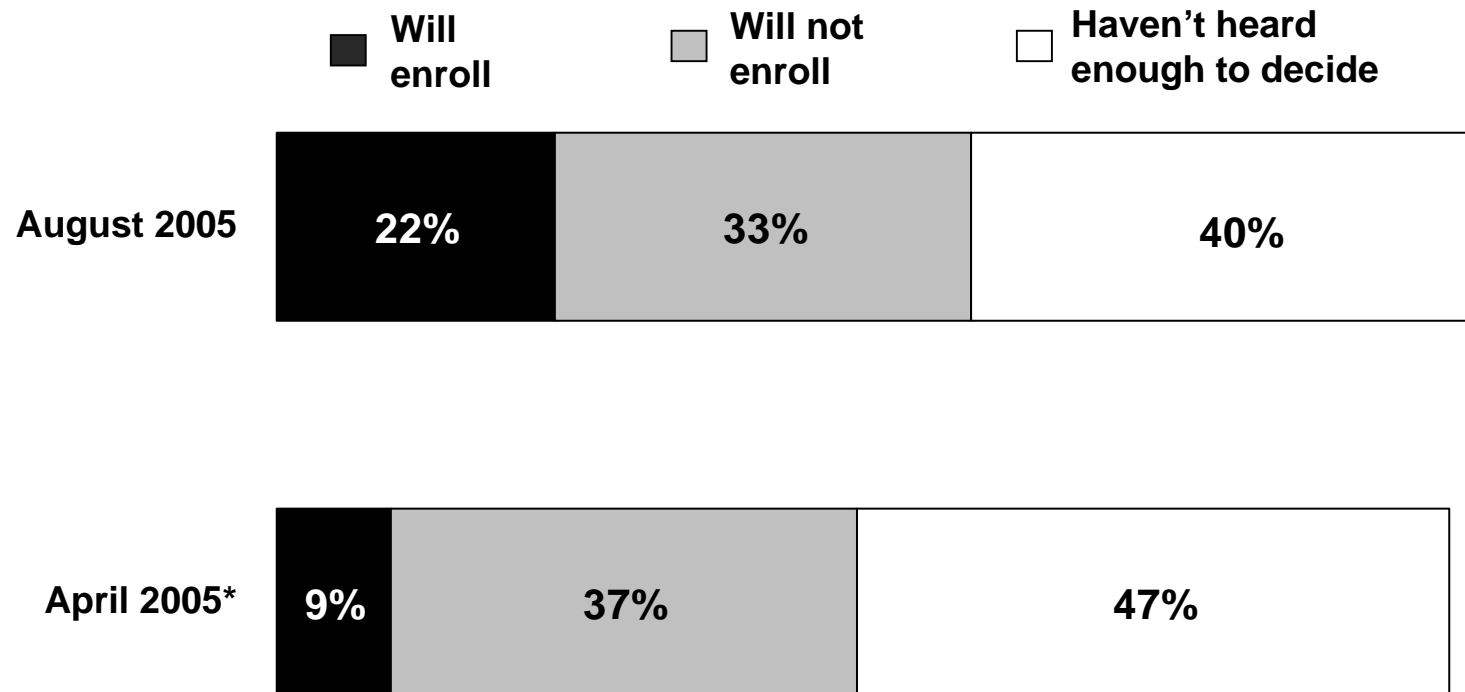
•In general, seniors have to sign up and enroll in a plan. However, dual eligibles and others determined eligible for low-income subsidies will be assigned to a plan if they don't enroll on their own.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted August 4-8, 2005)

PLANS FOR ENROLLMENT

Seniors' Reported Plans for Enrollment in Benefit

Asked of 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?

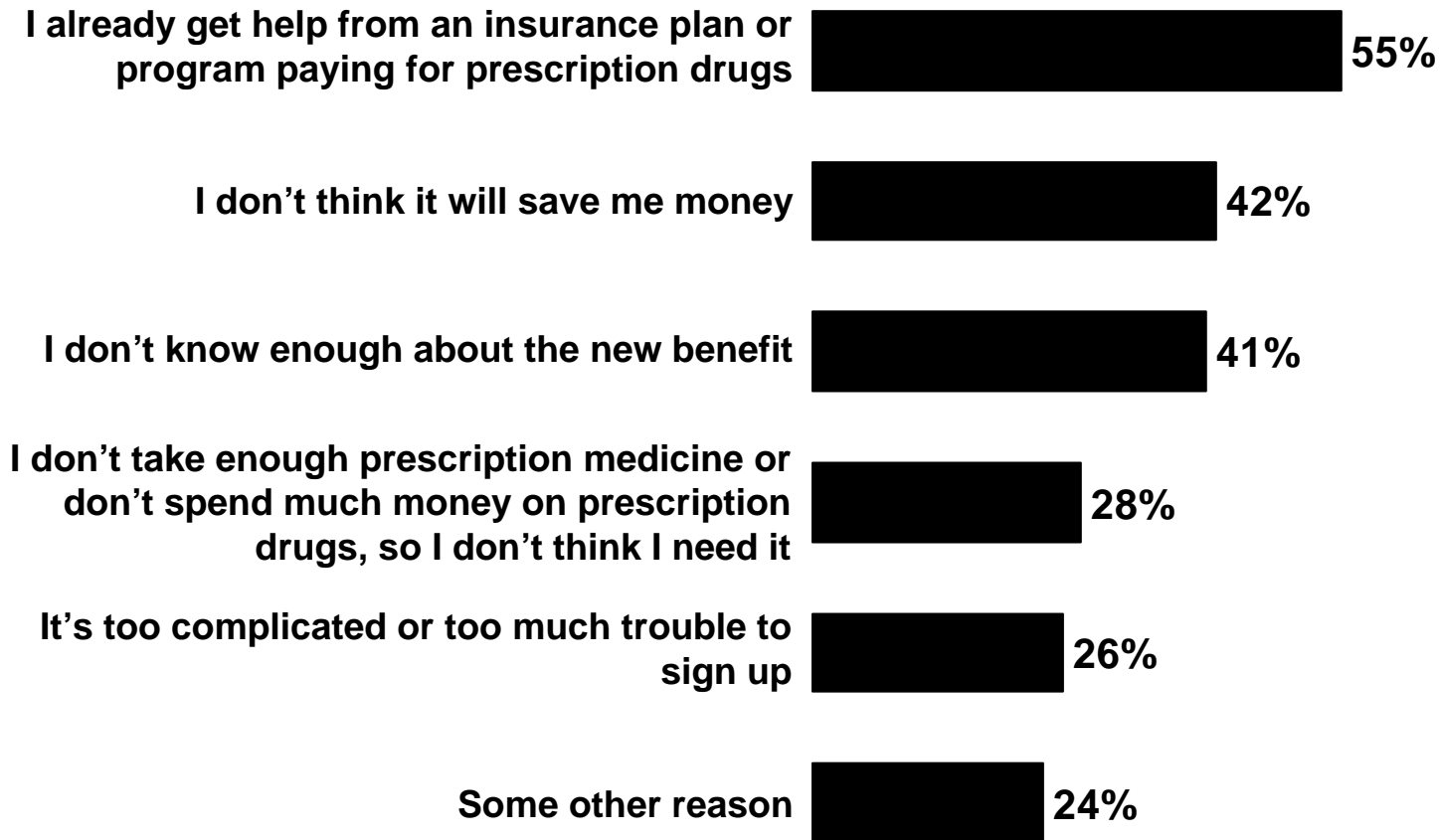


*Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted March 31 – April 3, 2005)

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted August 4-8, 2005)

Seniors' Reported Reasons for NOT Enrolling

Among the 73% of seniors who say they will NOT enroll, or say they haven't heard enough to decide whether to enroll in a Medicare drug plan: Percent who say each of the following is a MAJOR reason...

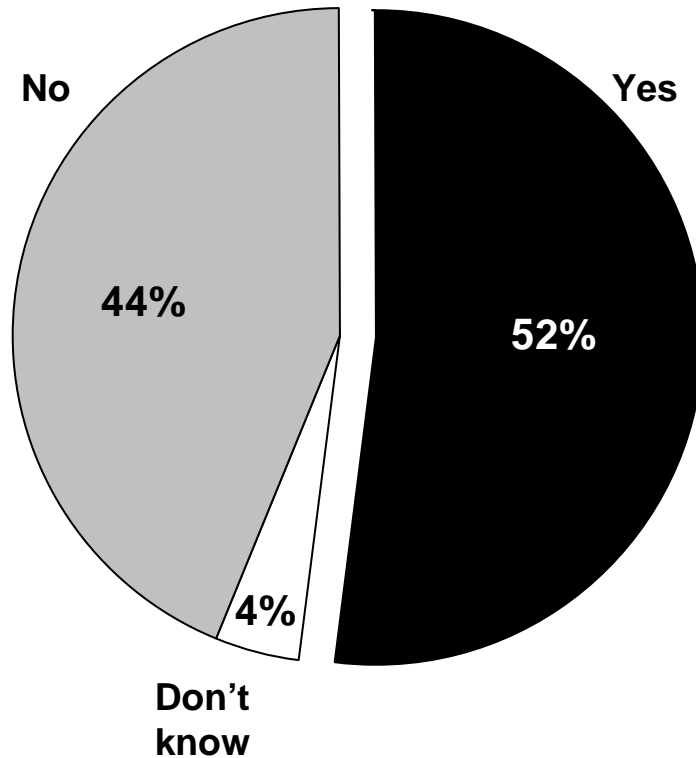


SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW DRUG BENEFIT

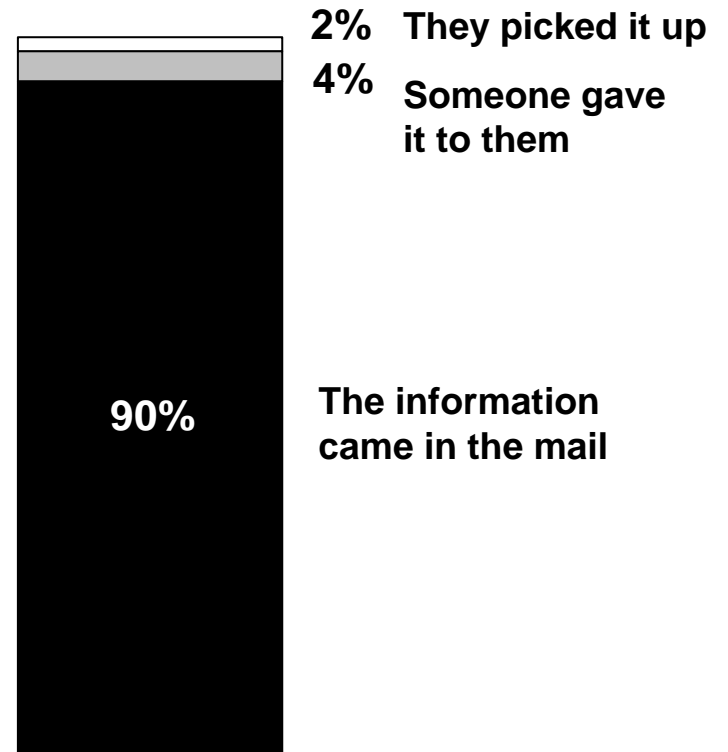
Information About Medicare Drug Benefit

Among seniors:

Have you received any information about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, or not?

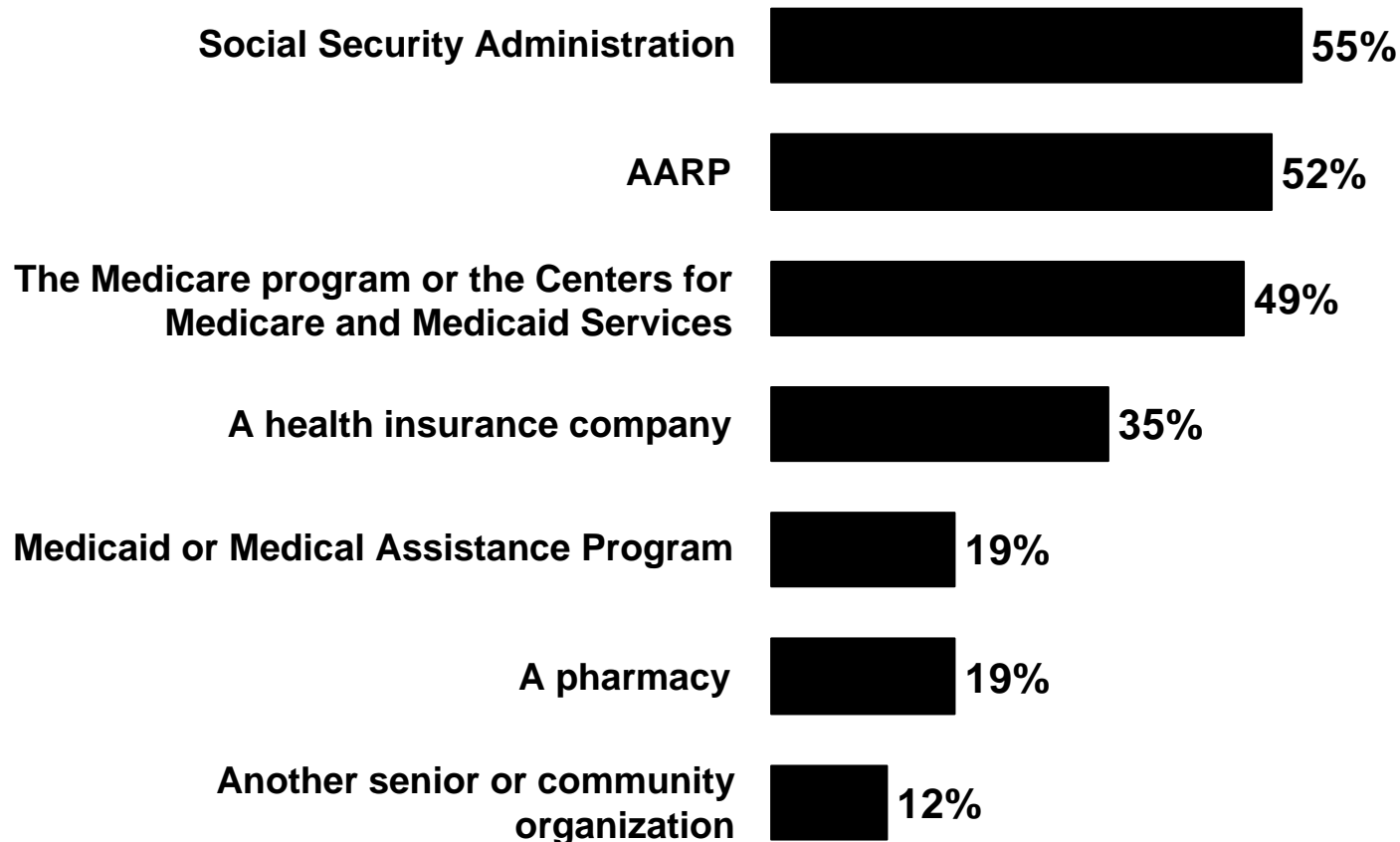


Among the 52% who say they received information: Percent who say...



Seniors' Reported Sources of Information About Medicare Drug Benefit

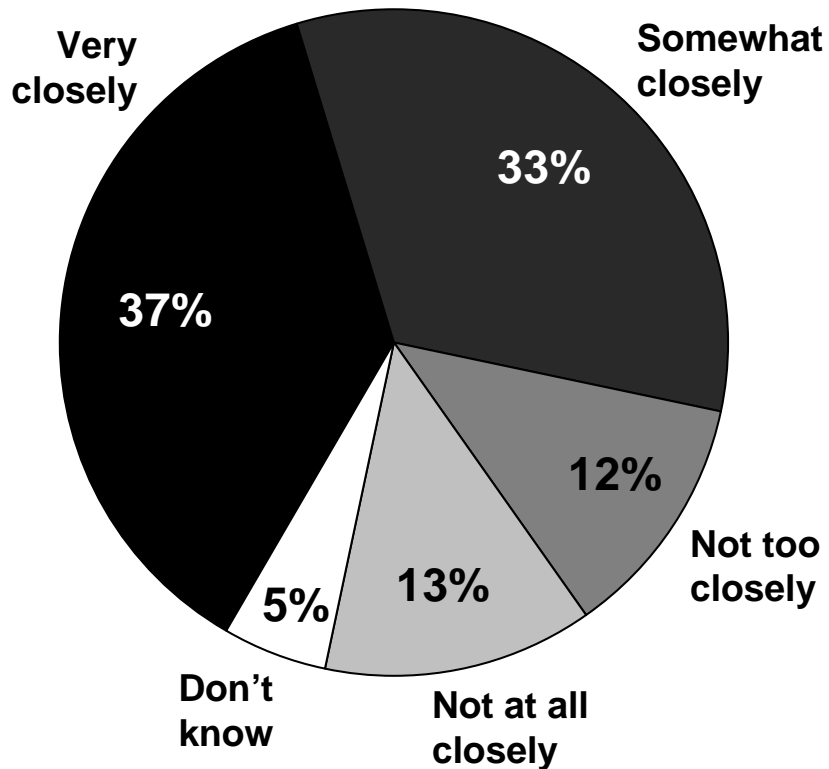
Among the 52% of seniors who say they received information about the Medicare drug benefit: Percent who say they received information from...



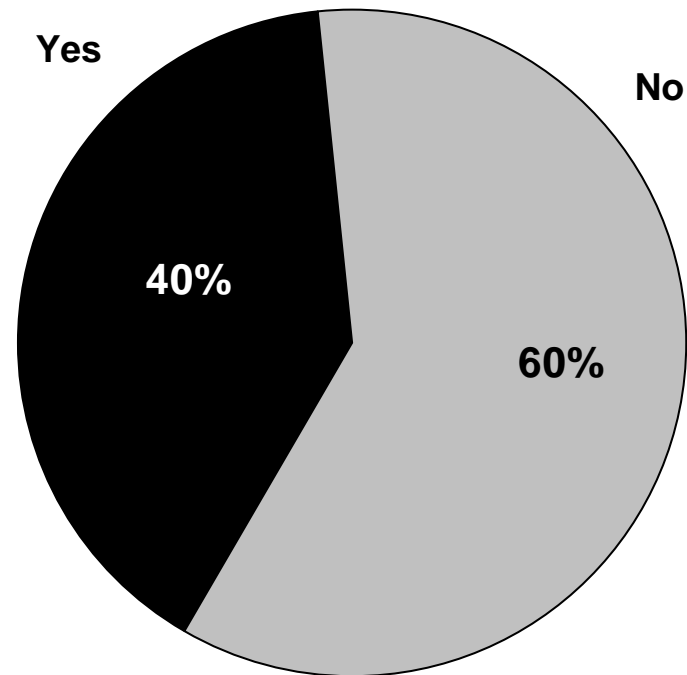
Attention to Information About New Benefit

Among the 52% of seniors who say they received information about the new Medicare drug benefit:

Would you say you read through the information...

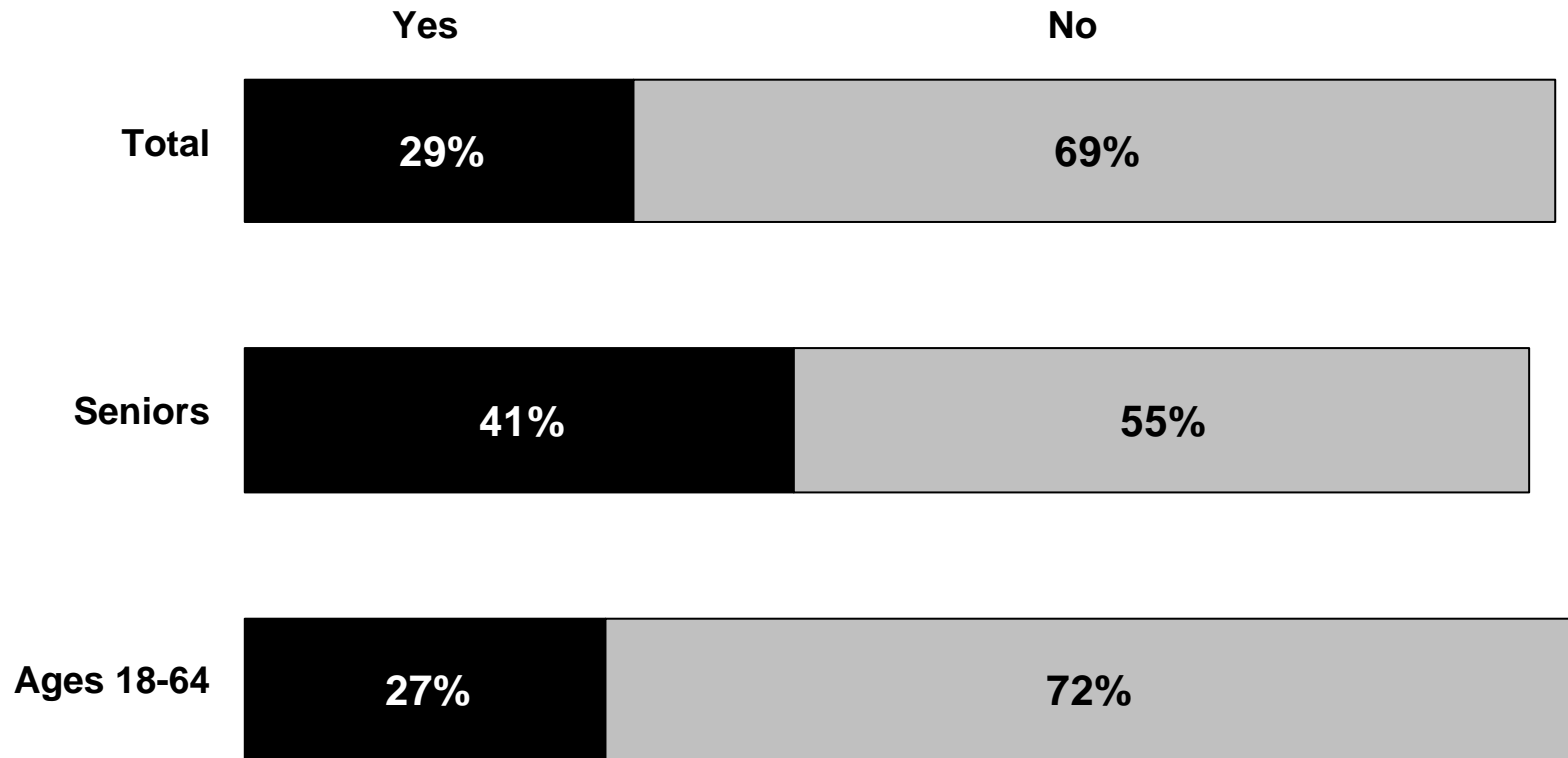


Have you talked to anyone about the information you received?



Attention to TV Ads About Benefit

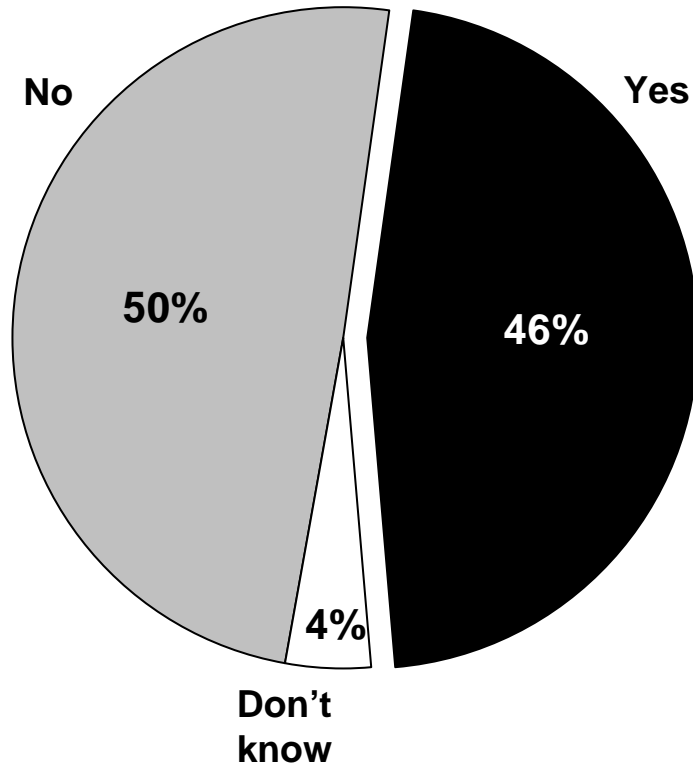
Have you seen any television ads about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, or not?



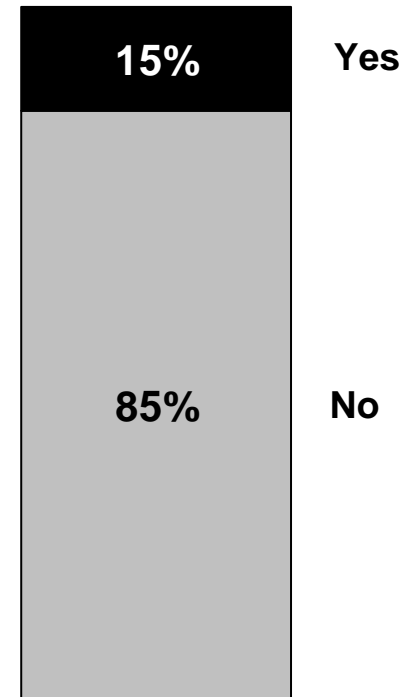
Seniors' Reported Awareness and Use of 1-800-Medicare

Among seniors:

Have you heard of a toll-free phone number, 1-800-MEDICARE, that you can call to get information about Medicare?

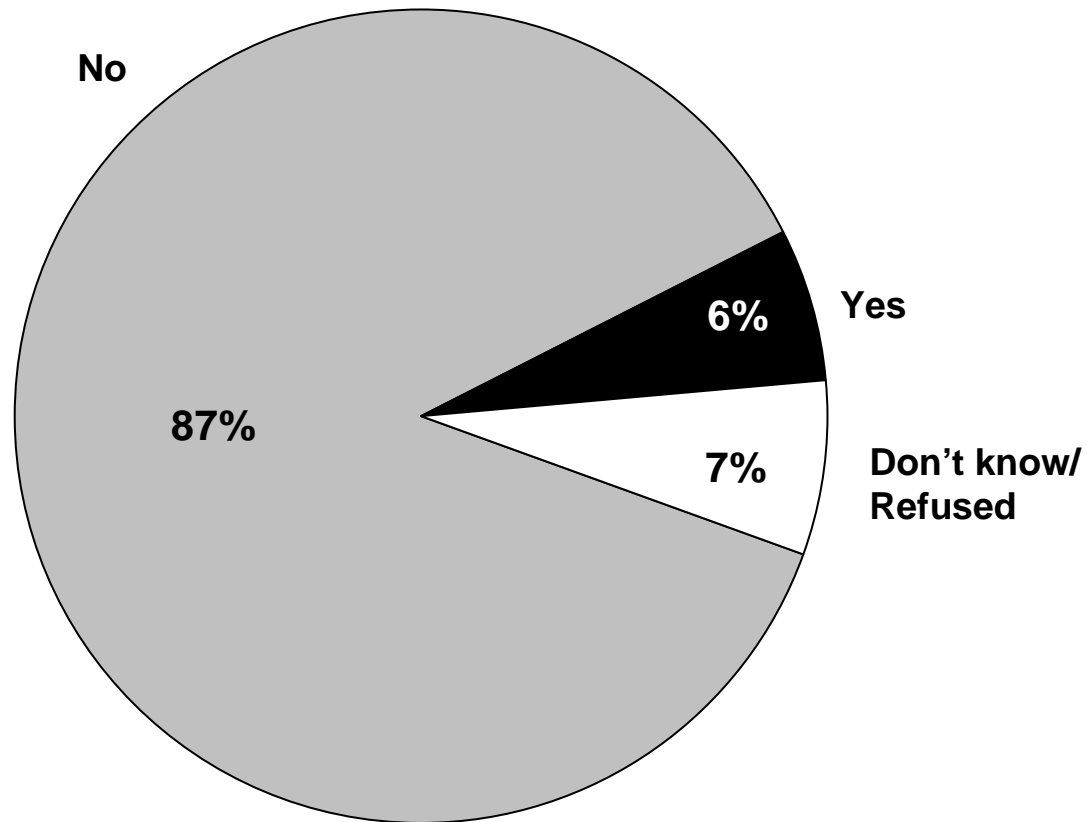


Among the 46% of seniors who have heard of the hotline: Have you ever called 1-800-MEDICARE?



Assistance By Others

Asked of seniors: As far as you know, has a friend or family member ever called 1-800-MEDICARE or visited an Internet website on your behalf for 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

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