



Toplines

January/February 2006 Health Poll Report Survey

***Selected Findings on Seniors' Views of the
Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit***

February 2006

Methodology

This tracking poll on the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit is based on interviews with 262 adults ages 65 and older who were interviewed as part of the Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey*. The survey was conducted and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. In total, a nationally representative random sample of 1,203 adults ages 18 and older was contacted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between February 2 and February 7, 2006. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents. For respondents ages 18-64 the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points, and for respondents ages 65 and older it is plus or minus 7 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.

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

- Q11. Do you currently take any prescription medicine on a daily basis, or not?
 Q12. How many different prescription drugs do you take?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages</u> <u>18-64</u>	<u>Ages</u> <u>65+</u>	
48	40	89	Yes, take prescription medicine
31	28	45	1-3 prescription medicines
17	11	43	4 or more prescription medicines
*	*	1	Don't know how many
52	60	11	Don't take any prescription medicine
*	*	--	Don't know/Refused

- Q13. Thinking back to last year, in 2005, did you have any insurance plan or program that helped you pay for prescription medications, or not?

Based on those 65 and older (n=262)

72	Yes
27	No
1	Don't know/Refused

- Q14. Please tell me which of the following plans or programs help pay for your prescriptions. Does your prescription drug coverage come from... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)?**

Based on those 65 and older who had drug coverage in 2005 (n=189)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. A former employer or union	45	53	2
b. Medicaid (IN CALIFORNIA READ ONLY: Medi-CAL)	16	82	1
c. (IN NY: EPIC, IN NJ: PAAD or Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled, IN PA: PACE or PACENET,) A state pharmacy assistance program	9	85	6
d. A Medicare supplement or Medigap policy that you bought yourself, from an insurance company, such as Blue Cross Blue Shield, or AARP	41	53	6
e. The Veterans' Administration	14	85	2
f. A Medicare HMO or PPO	28	62	9
g. A prescription drug discount card	35	61	4

- Q15. As you may know, a new prescription drug benefit is now available for people on Medicare. How well would you say you understand this new benefit? Would you say you understand it very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?

	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Ages</u>	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
7	5	15	Very well
18	18	19	Somewhat well
22	22	21	Not too well
51	53	40	Not well at all
2	2	5	Don't know/Refused

- Q16. Do you feel you have enough information about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?

Based on those 65 and older (n=262)

45	Yes
49	No
6	Don't know/Refused

- Q17. Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit?

	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Ages</u>	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
22	22	23	Favorable
36	34	45	Unfavorable
14	15	9	Neither/Neutral (VOL.)
29	30	23	Don't know/Refused

- Q18. Is your impression of the new Medicare drug benefit based mainly on... (**READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-3**)?

Based on those with a favorable or unfavorable impression of Medicare drug benefit

	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Ages</u>	
<u>Total</u>	<u>18-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
21	19	28	Your own experience (or)
30	33	18	What you've learned from friends and family (or)
38	39	35	What you've seen and heard on television, radio, and in newspapers (or)
8	6	15	Some other source
3	3	5	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
n=723	n=532	n=185	

- Q19. Have you already enrolled in a Medicare drug plan, or not?
- Q20. Do you think you will enroll in a Medicare drug plan, you will NOT enroll in a Medicare drug plan, or don't you know yet?

Based on those 65 and older (n=262)

- 33 Yes, have enrolled in a Medicare drug plan
- 64 No, have not enrolled in a Medicare drug plan
 - 12 Plan to enroll
 - 29 Don't plan to enroll
 - 23 Don't know yet/Refused
 - 3 Don't know/Refused

- Q21. For each of the following, please tell me whether it is a MAJOR reason you are not planning to enroll in a Medicare drug plan at this time, a MINOR reason, or not a reason. First..(INSERT. **READ AND ROTATE**). Is this a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason you are not planning to enroll in a Medicare drug plan at this time?

Based on those 65 and older who will not/don't know if they will enroll in a Medicare drug plan (n=140)

	<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not a Reason</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. I don't know enough about it	40	13	42	5
b. I already have an insurance plan or program to help pay for my prescriptions	62	4	23	10
c. It's too complicated	34	9	47	10
d. I don't think it will save me money	49	6	31	14
e. I don't take enough prescriptions to need a Medicare drug plan	36	8	45	11
f. It's too hard to figure out which plan to choose	31	9	48	12

- Q22. Earlier you said you have a FAVORABLE impression of the new drug benefit. Please tell me if each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason you have a favorable impression of the new Medicare drug benefit. (First,)... (**READ AND ROTATE**)?

Based on those with favorable impression of Medicare drug benefit (n=265)

	<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not a Reason</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. It allows people on Medicare to choose a prescription drug plan that best meets their needs	76	15	4	4
b. It will help pay many of the prescription drug bills for people on Medicare	81	12	4	4
c. It will help me or someone I know pay prescription drug bills	71	17	7	4
d. It will be helpful for low-income people on Medicare	74	19	3	3

Q23. Earlier you said you have an UNFAVORABLE impression of the new drug benefit. Please tell me if each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason you have an unfavorable impression of the new Medicare drug benefit. (First,)... **(READ AND ROTATE)?**

Based on those with unfavorable impression of Medicare drug benefit (n=458)

	<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not a Reason</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. It will cost the government too much in the long run	28	26	35	11
b. It does not provide people on Medicare enough help with their prescription drug costs	65	17	10	8
c. It is too complicated for people on Medicare to understand	78	11	9	2
d. It will benefit private health plans and pharmaceutical companies too much	48	20	18	14
e. It's too hard to figure out which plan to choose	69	17	11	4
f. It is too hard for seniors to get the drugs they need under the Medicare drug plan	67	12	8	12

Q24. Do you think people on Medicare have too many, too few, or about the right amount of drug plans to choose from?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
24	21	38	Too many
35	39	15	Too few
13	12	17	Right amount
29	28	30	Don't know/Refused

Q25. Just your best guess, how many drug plans do you think most people on Medicare have to choose from?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
33	36	14	Less than 5
25	26	18	5 to 20
12	10	19	More than 20
31	27	49	Don't know/Refused

Q26. Most people on Medicare have at least 40 different drug plans to choose from. Which comes closer to your view? **(READ AND ROTATE 1-2, ACCEPT ONLY ONE ANSWER)**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
61	61	66	Having many plans to choose from makes it confusing and difficult to pick the best plan (or)
31	33	21	Having many plans to choose from is helpful and provides an opportunity to find the best plan (or)
5	5	7	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
2	2	5	(DO NOT READ) Refused

- Q27. Please tell me how much you trust each of the following sources to help you understand and choose among Medicare prescription drug plans. (First,) what about... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)** -- Do you trust this source a lot, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?

Based on those 65 and older (n=262)

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Your doctor	61	16	7	7	9
b. Your pharmacist	60	22	4	6	8
c. Medicare or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	30	36	7	13	13
d. AARP	27	22	6	21	24
e. Friends or family members	40	26	12	10	12
f. Health insurance companies	23	28	17	21	11
g. Health insurance counselors	16	23	9	21	31

- Q28. Have you heard of a toll-free phone number set up by the government, 1-800-MEDICARE, that you can call to get information about Medicare?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
54	51	67	Yes
45	48	31	No
1	1	2	Don't know/Refused

- Q29. Have you ever called 1-800-MEDICARE, or not?

Based on those who have heard of 1-800-MEDICARE

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
11	8	20	Yes
89	92	79	No
*	--	1	Don't know/Refused
n=675	n=490	n=180	

Q28/Q29 Combo Table Based on Total Respondents

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
6	4	14	Yes, have called 1-800-MEDICARE
48	47	53	No, have not called
45	48	31	Haven't heard of hotline
1	1	2	Don't know/Refused

Now, onto another topic...

Q30. Have you EVER gone online to use (**READ AND ROTATE**) for any reason?

a. The internet or World Wide Web

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
66	75	23	Yes
33	25	76	No
*	*	1	Don't know/Refused

b. E-mail

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
64	72	25	Yes
35	28	73	No
*	*	1	Don't know/Refused

Q30a/b Combo Table – ever been online (internet or email)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
70	78	28	Yes
30	22	72	No
*	*	*	Don't know/Refused

Q31. Have you heard of the website Medicare.gov?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
42	40	51	Yes
57	59	47	No
1	1	2	Don't know/Refused

Q32. Have you ever looked for information on the website Medicare.gov, or not?

Q33. Have you tried to compare different drug plans on Medicare.gov, or not?

Q30/Q32/Q33 Combo Table Based on Total Respondents

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
3	2	6	Tried to compare plans on Medicare.gov
4	4	4	Looked for information on Medicare.gov but have not tried to compare plans
64	72	18	Have been online but not visited Medicare.gov
30	22	72	Have never been online

Q34. As far as you know, has a friend or family member ever (**READ AND RANDOMIZE**) on your behalf, or not?

Based on those 65 and older (n=262)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Called 1-800-MEDICARE	6	85	9
b. Looked for information on the website Medicare.gov	7	83	10
c. Tried to compare different drug plans on Medicare.gov	8	81	11

Q35. And what about you - have you done any of the following to get information about the Medicare drug benefit? (First,) have you... (**READ AND RANDOMIZE**)?

Based on those 65 and older (n=262)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Attended a seminar	12	87	1
b. Called a Medicare drug plan	14	85	1
c. Gone to a government office	4	96	1
d. Talked to an insurance agent	17	81	2
e. Talked to your doctor	26	73	1
f. Talked to your pharmacist	27	72	1
g. Talked to a health insurance counselor	17	81	2

Q36. Are you NOW self-employed, working full-time for an employer, working part-time for an employer, are you retired, or are you not employed for pay?

- 9 Self-employed
- 42 Full-time for an employer
- 10 Part-time for an employer
- 19 Retired
- 12 Not employed
- 2 (VOL.) Homemaker
- 2 (VOL.) Student
- 3 (VOL.) Disabled
- * (**DO NOT READ**) Don't know/Refused

Q37. 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, as well as a government program like Medicare or (Medicaid)? **USE VARIANT WORDING IN CALIFORNIA:** (Medi-Cal)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
82	80	93	Yes, insured
18	20	7	No, not insured
*	*	*	Don't know/Refused

Q39. Do you CURRENTLY have any insurance plan or program that helps you pay for prescription medications or not?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages 18-64</u>	<u>Ages 65+</u>	
69	69	74	Yes
30	31	24	No
1	1	2	Don't know/Refused

Q40. Please tell me which of the following plans or programs help pay for your prescriptions. Does your prescription drug coverage come from... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)?**

Based on those who have drug coverage insurance (n=867)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. A current or former employer or union	62	36	2
b. A new Medicare prescription drug plan	9	87	4
c. (IN NY: EPIC,/IN NJ: PAAD or Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled,/IN PA: PACE or PACENET,) A state pharmacy assistance program	6	88	6
d. A Medicare supplement or Medigap policy that you bought yourself, from an insurance company, such as Blue Cross Blue Shield, or AARP	23	73	4
e. The Veterans' Administration	6	92	2
f. A Medicare HMO or PPO	26	67	7
g. A prescription drug discount card	26	71	4

Ages 65+:

Based on seniors who have drug coverage insurance (n=196)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. A current or former employer or union	43	54	3
b. A new Medicare prescription drug plan	24	70	5
c. (IN NY: EPIC,/IN NJ: PAAD or Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled,/IN PA: PACE or PACENET,) A state pharmacy assistance program	7	86	7
d. A Medicare supplement or Medigap policy that you bought yourself, from an insurance company, such as Blue Cross Blue Shield, or AARP	46	51	2
e. The Veterans' Administration	13	85	2
f. A Medicare HMO or PPO	23	64	13
g. A prescription drug discount card	30	67	4

DEMOGRAPHICS:

(READ) Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey...

D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX

- 48 Male
- 52 Female

D2. What is your age?

- 20 18-29
- 37 30-49
- 25 50-64
- 17 65 and older
- 1 Refused

- 57 Total Under 50
- 42 Total 50 and older

D3. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

- 26 Republican
- 30 Democrat
- 32 Independent
- 6 **(VOL.)** No preference/Not interested in politics
- 1 **(VOL.)** Other party
- 2 Don't know
- 3 Refused

D4. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ)

- 6 None, or grade 1-8
- 9 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 3 Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)
- 16 College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)
- 10 Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- * Refused

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2005 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?
Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

- 8 Less than \$10,000
- 12 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 11 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 18 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 11 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 10 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 5 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 7 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

D6. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D7. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS HISPANIC ASK: Do you consider yourself a white Hispanic or a black Hispanic?)**

- 71 White, Non Hispanic
- 28 Total Non-White
 - 11 Black or African-American
 - 12 Hispanic
 - 2 Asian
 - 3 Other or mixed race
- 1 Don't know/Refused



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