
Chartpack



The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey*

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

February 2006

Methodology

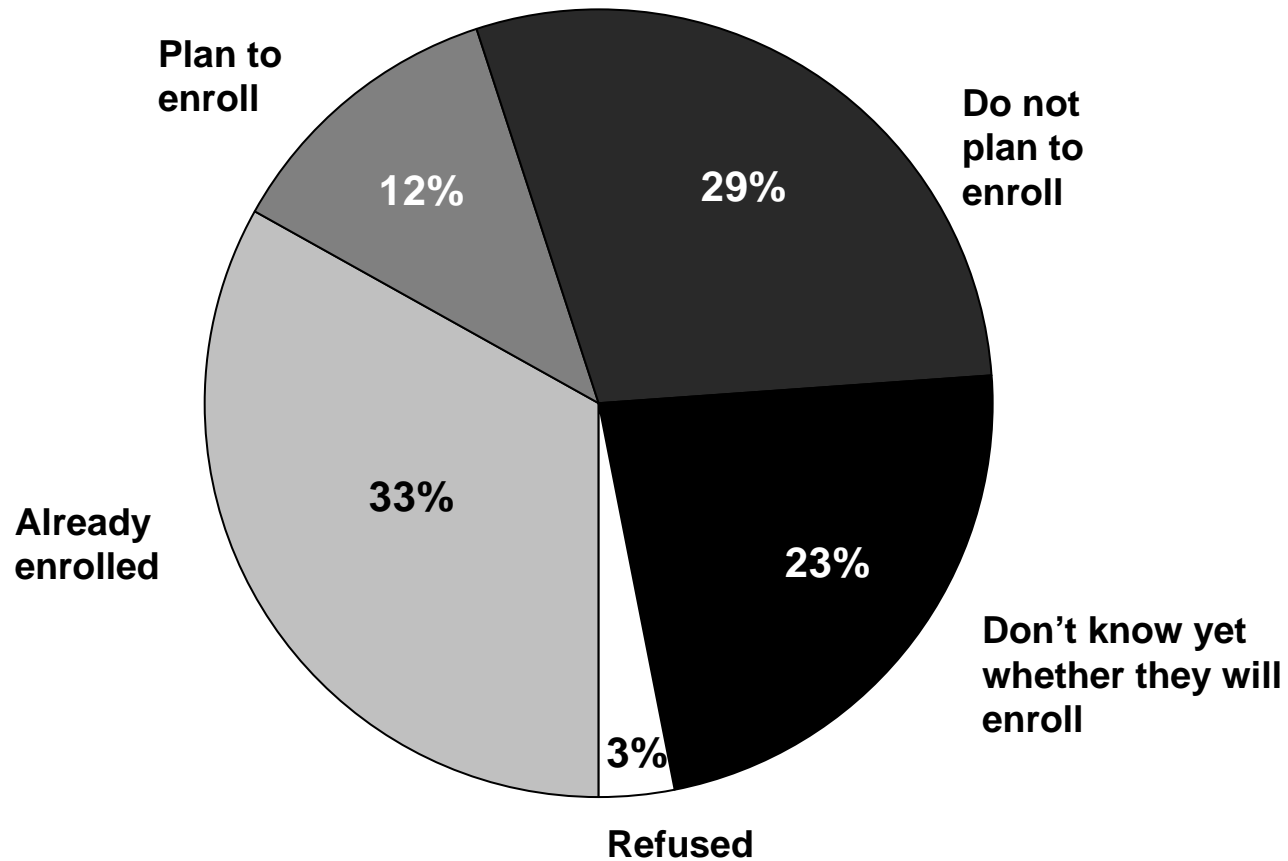
This tracking poll on the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit is based on interviews with 262 adults ages 65 and older who were interviewed as part of the Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey*. The survey was conducted and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. In total, 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.

Full topline survey results are available separately at www.kff.org.

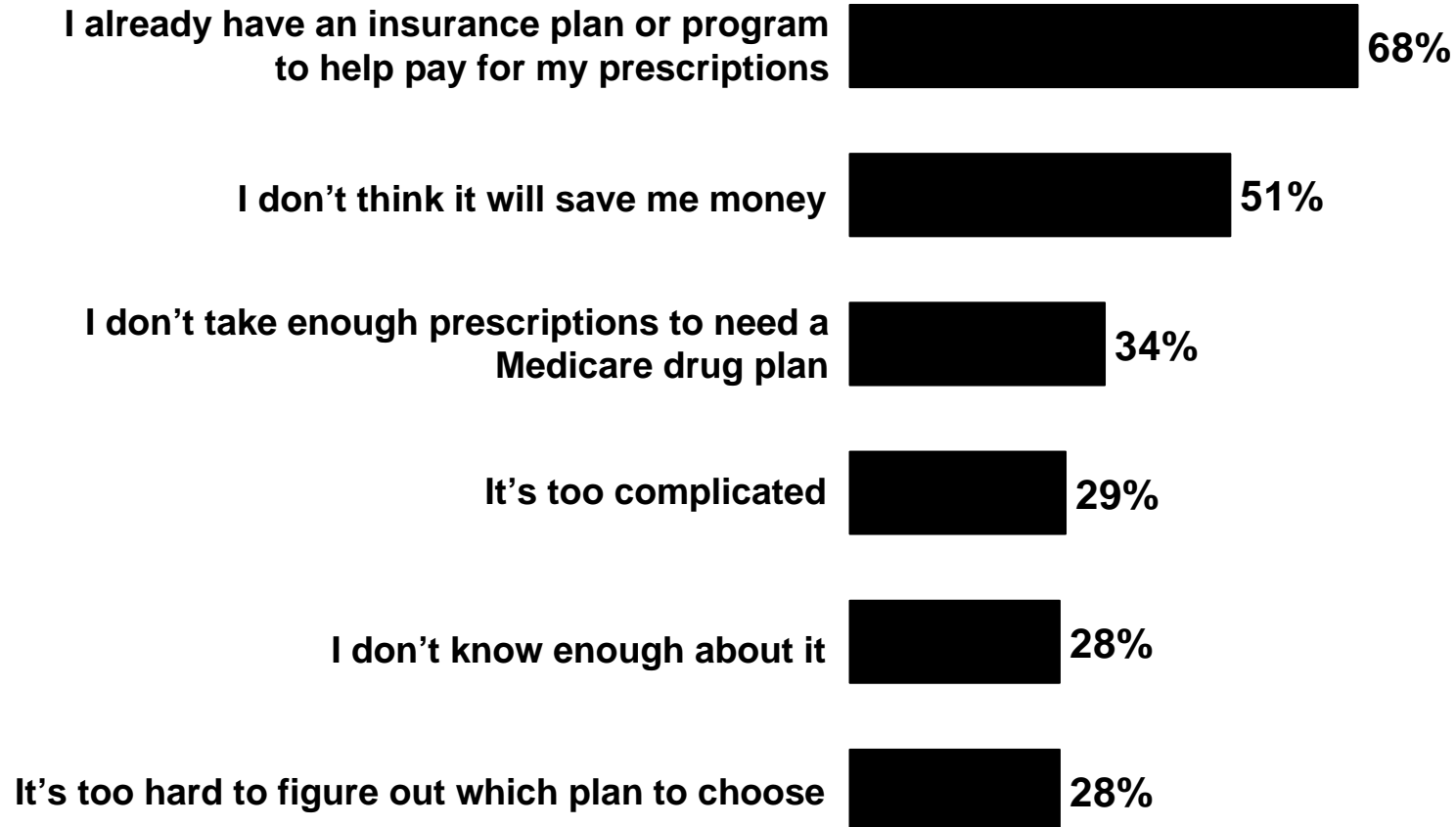
Seniors' Reported Plans for Enrollment

Among seniors: Have you already enrolled in a Medicare drug plan? If not, 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?



Seniors' Reported Reasons for NOT Enrolling

Among the 29% of seniors who say they will NOT enroll in a Medicare drug plan, percent who say each of the following is a MAJOR reason...



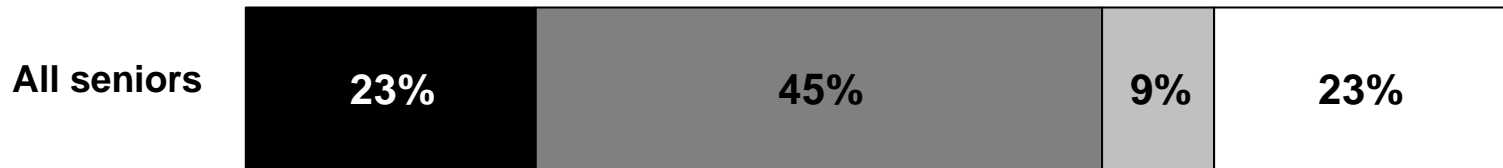
Note: N=84 seniors who say they will not enroll in a Medicare drug plan

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted February 2-7, 2006)

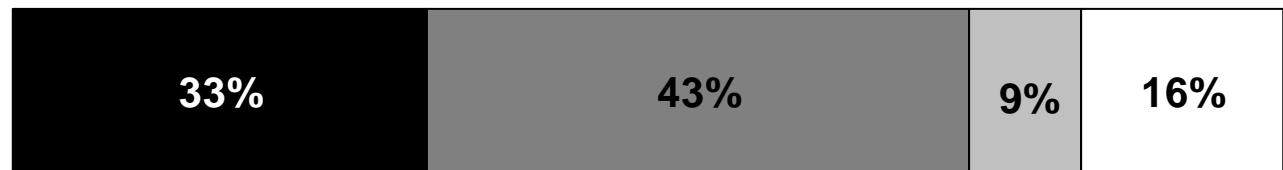
Impressions of Medicare Drug Benefit

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

Favorable
 Unfavorable
 Neither/Neutral (VOL.)
 Don't know



Seniors who say they have enough information to understand how the benefit will impact them personally (n=126)

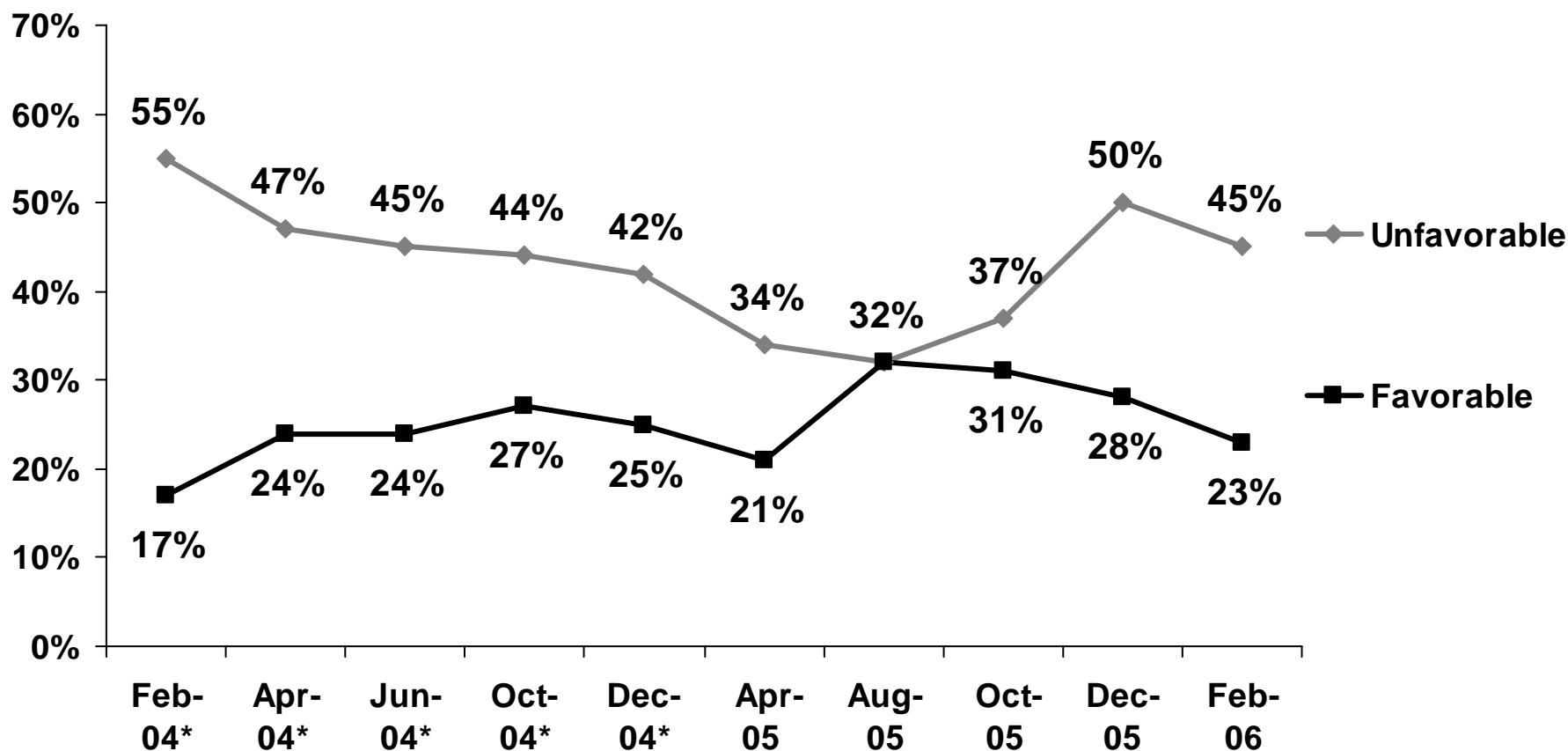


Seniors who say they DO NOT have enough information to understand how the benefit will impact them personally (n=120)



Trends in Seniors' Impressions of Drug Benefit

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



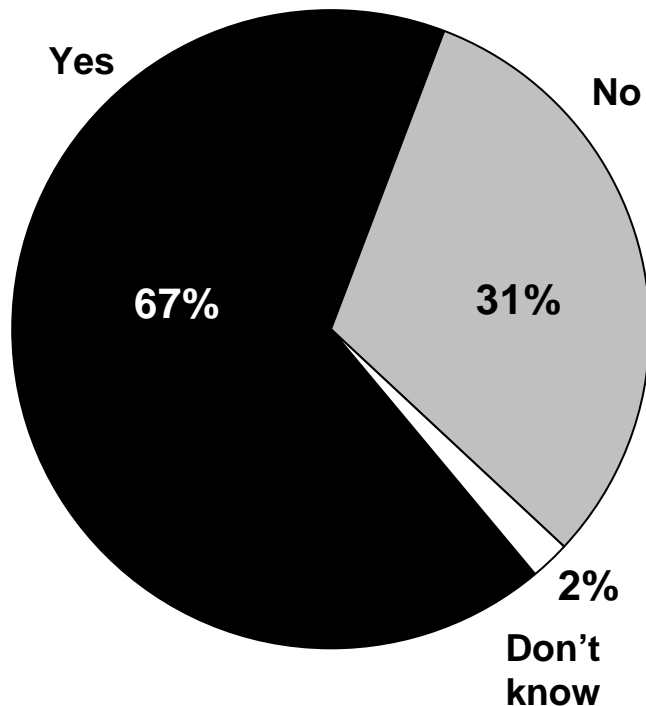
Notes: Question prior to Apr-05 referred to “new Medicare prescription drug law”; Changes in the percent saying “favorable” and “unfavorable” are statistically significant between Aug-05 and Feb-06, but smaller changes between Dec-05 and Feb-06 are not statistically significant.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

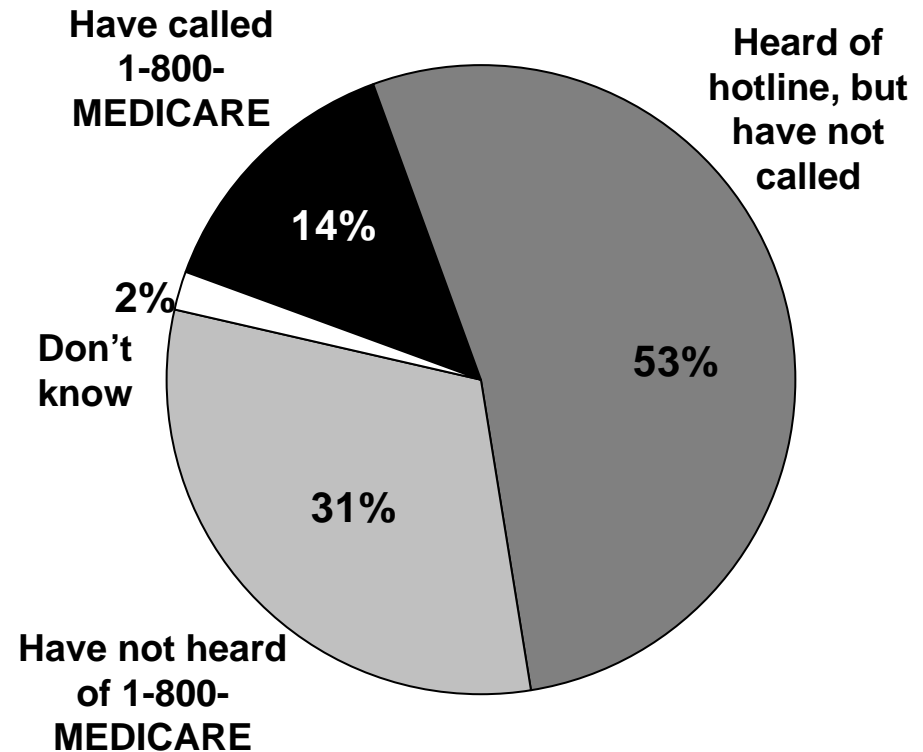
Seniors' Reported Awareness and Use of 1-800-Medicare

Among seniors:

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



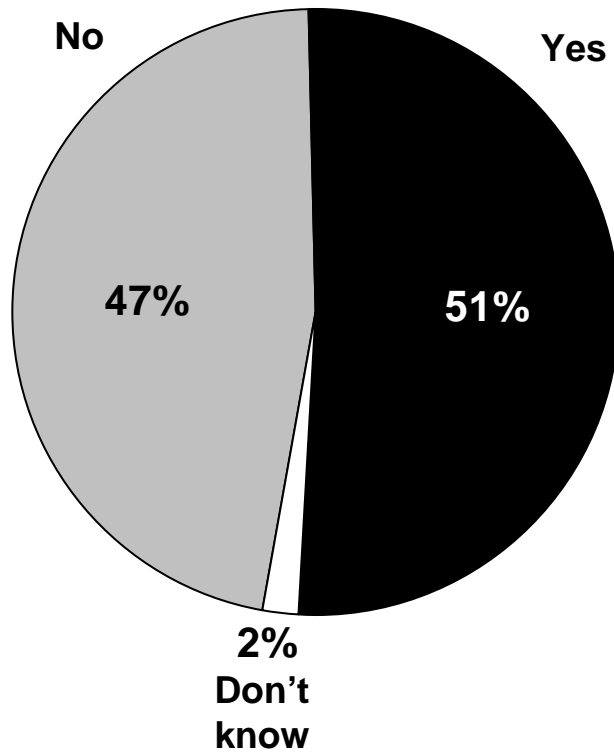
Have you ever called 1-800-MEDICARE?



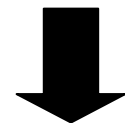
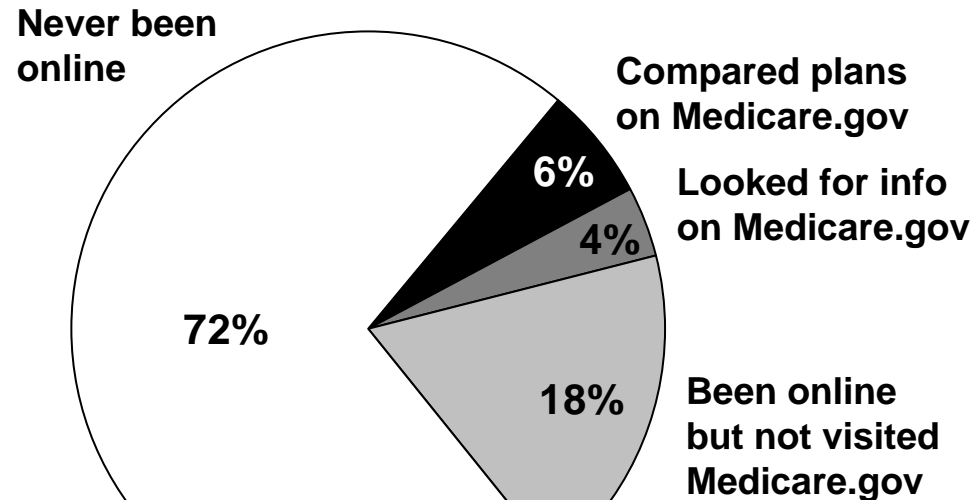
Seniors' Reported Awareness and Use of Medicare.gov

Among seniors:

Have you heard of the website Medicare.gov?



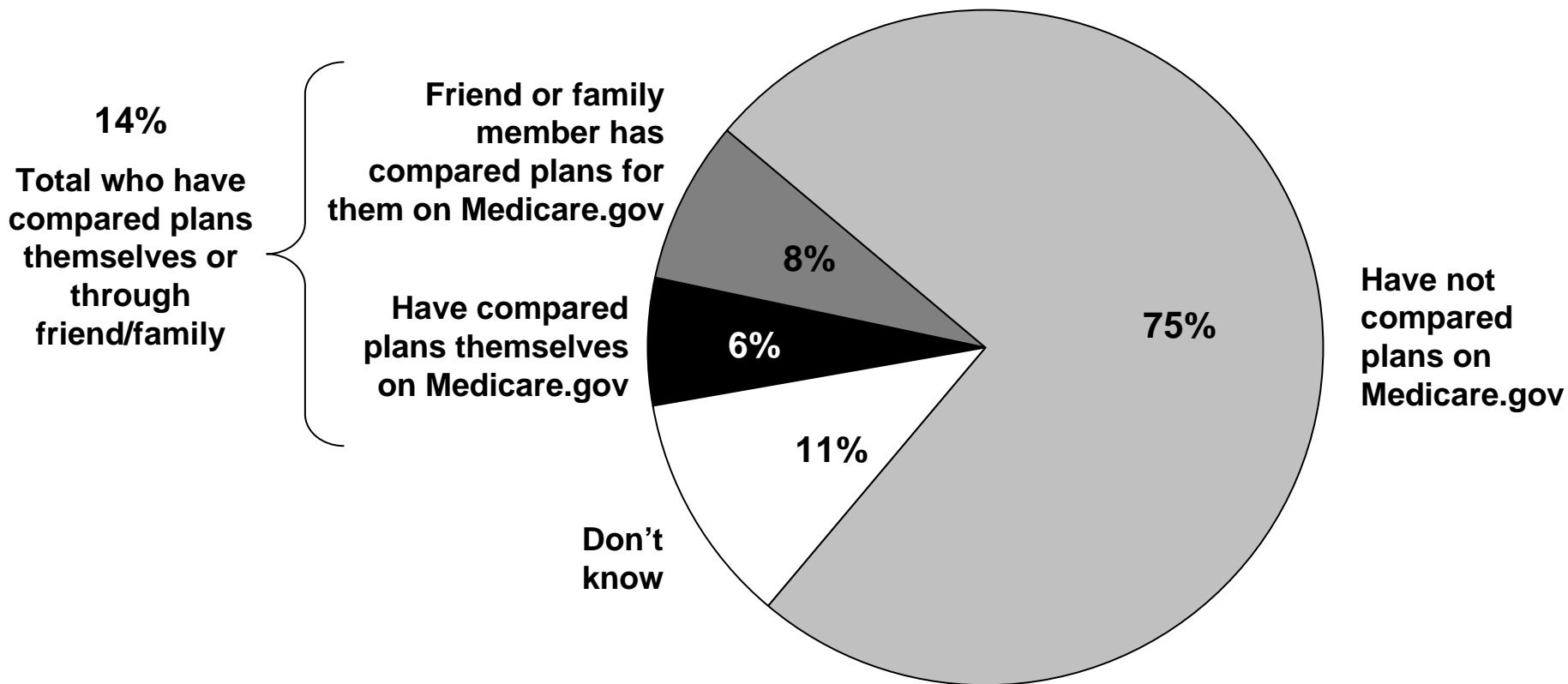
Have you ever looked for information/ tried to compare plans on Medicare.gov?



28% of seniors have been online

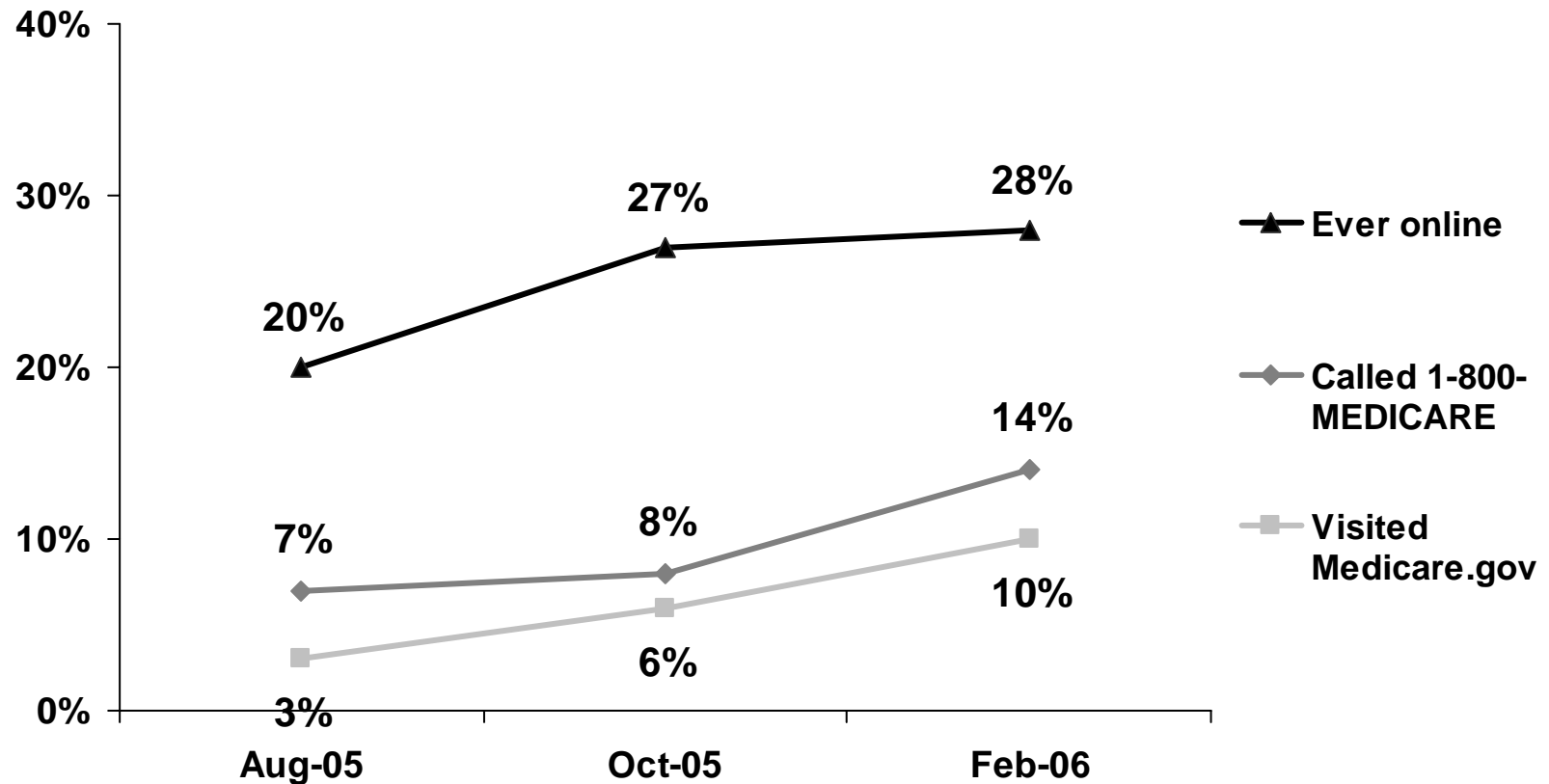
Comparing plans on Medicare.gov

Among seniors, percent who have compared plans on Medicare.gov themselves, or whose friends or family have compared plans for them on Medicare.gov



Trends in Seniors' Use of Medicare Information Sources

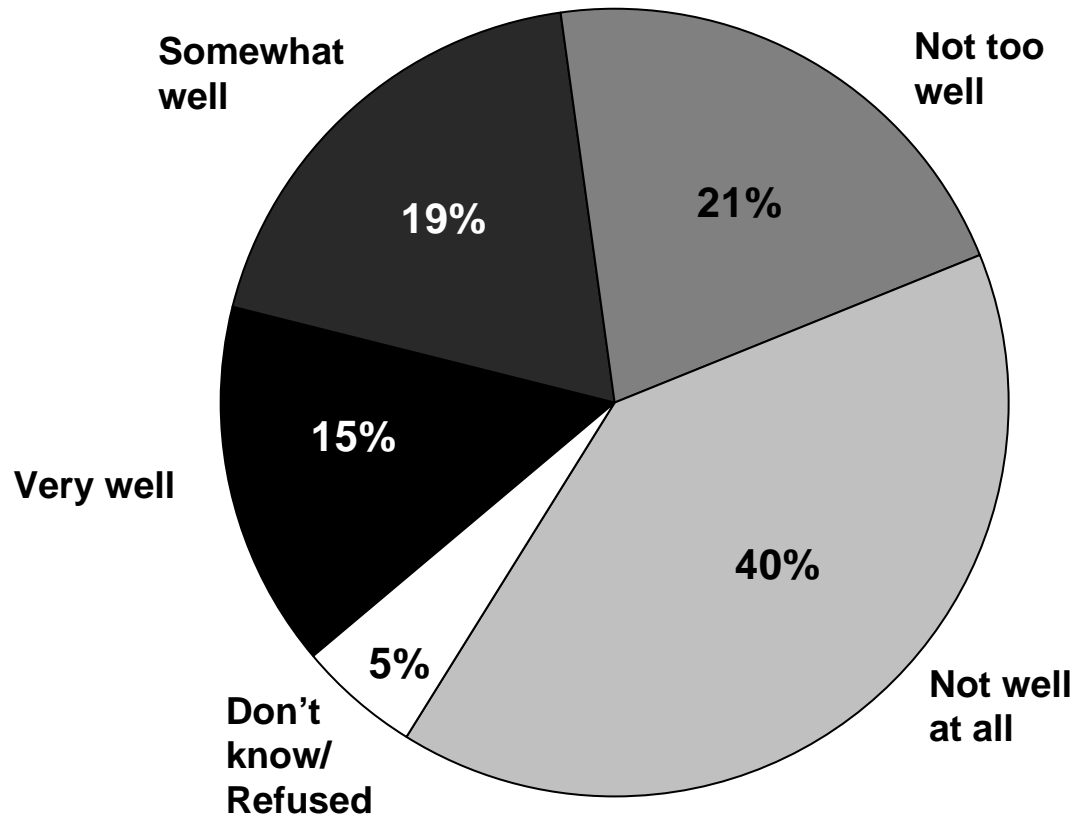
Percent of seniors who say they have called 1-800-Medicare or visited the website Medicare.gov...



Note: Change in percent who have called 1-800-MEDICARE is statistically significant between Oct-05 and Feb-06. Change in percent who have ever been online and percent who have visited Medicare.gov are statistically significant between Aug-05 and Feb-06, but smaller changes in these measures between Oct-05 and Feb-06 are not statistically significant.

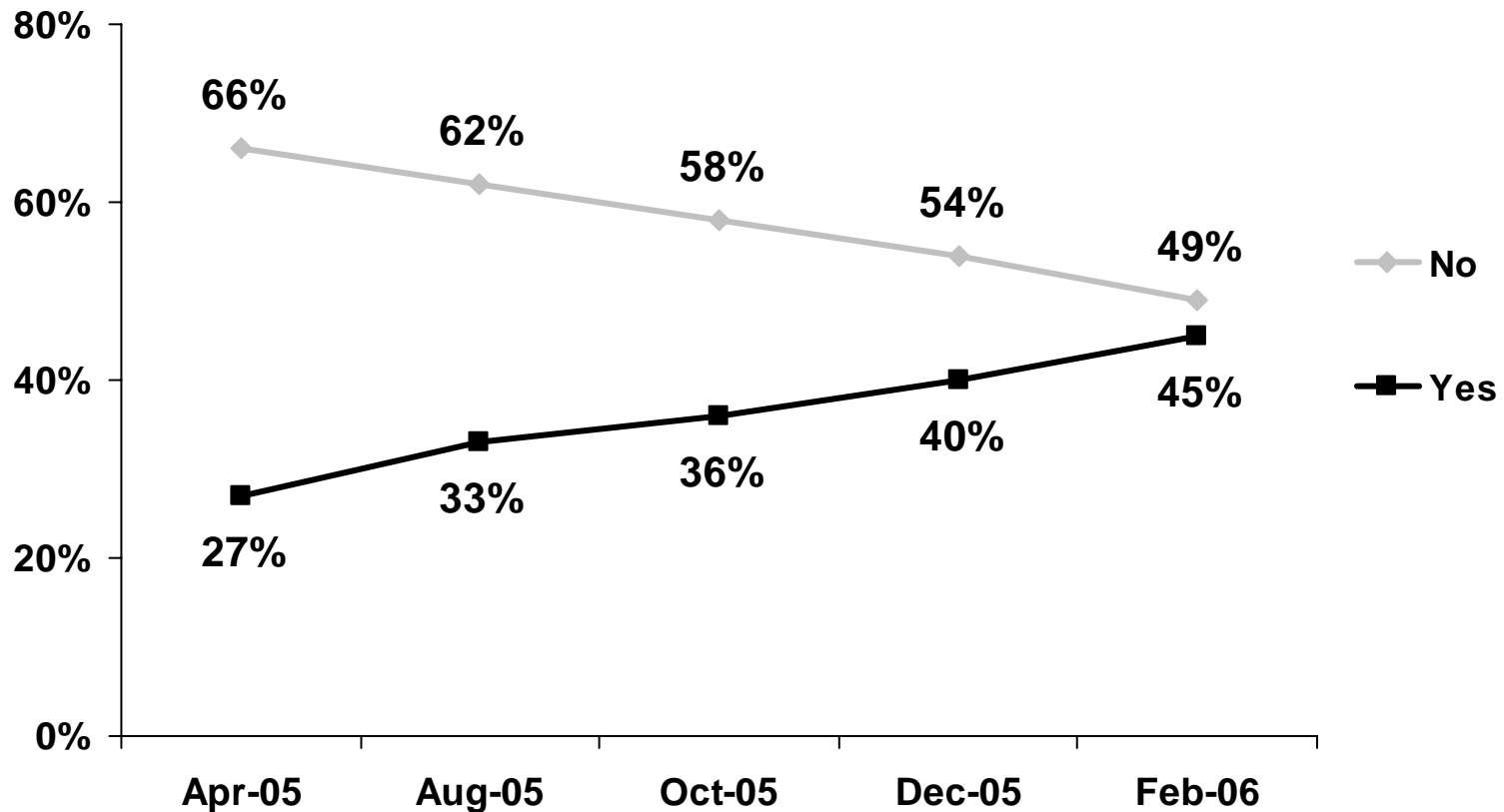
Seniors' Understanding of Medicare Drug Benefit

Among seniors: 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?



Trends in Seniors' Understanding of Personal Impact

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

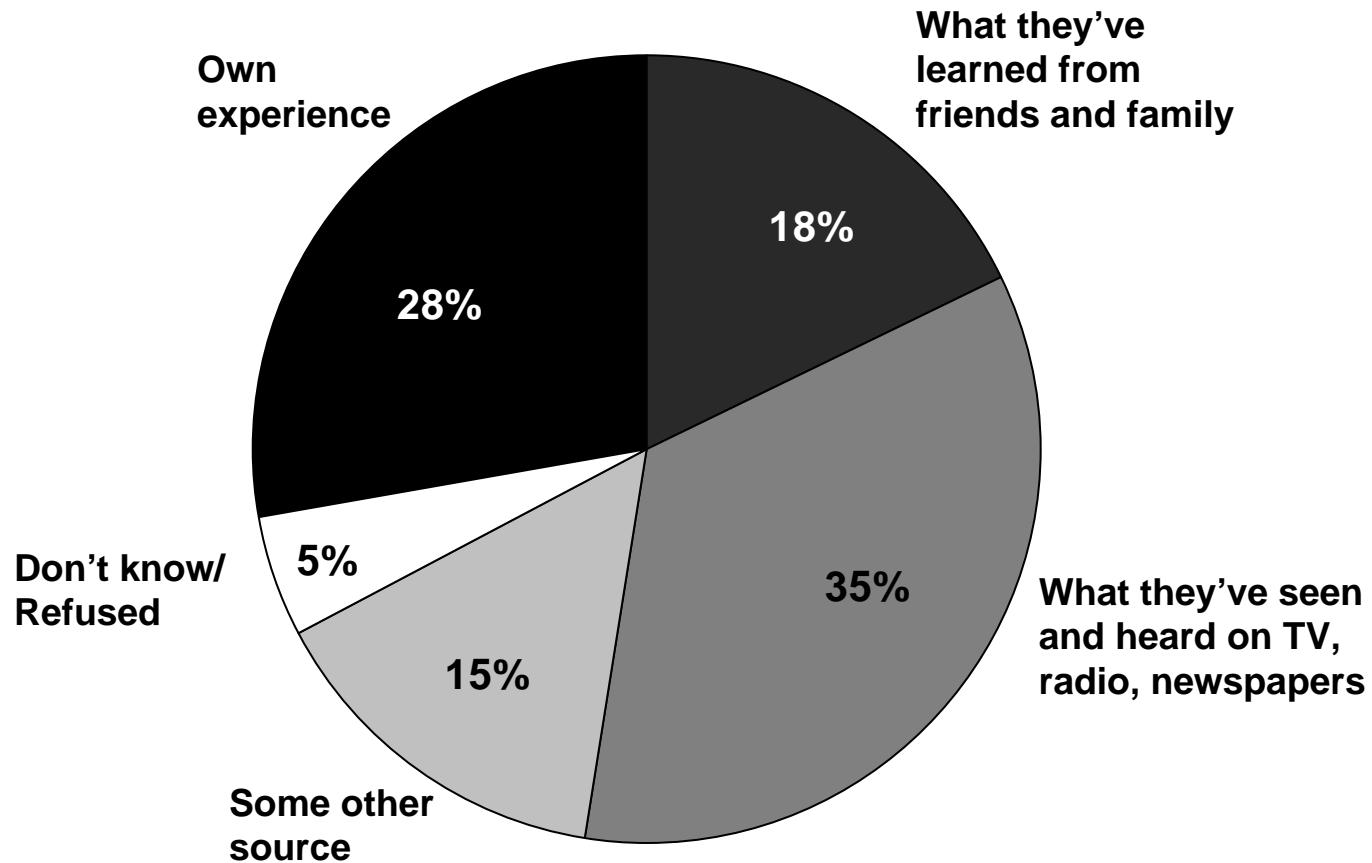


Notes: Don't know responses not shown; Changes in the percent saying "yes" and "no" are statistically significant between Oct-05 and Feb-06, but smaller changes between Dec-05 and Feb-06 are not statistically significant.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

Seniors' Primary Source of Information About Benefit

Among the 68% of seniors who have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare drug benefit, percent who say that impression is based mainly on...

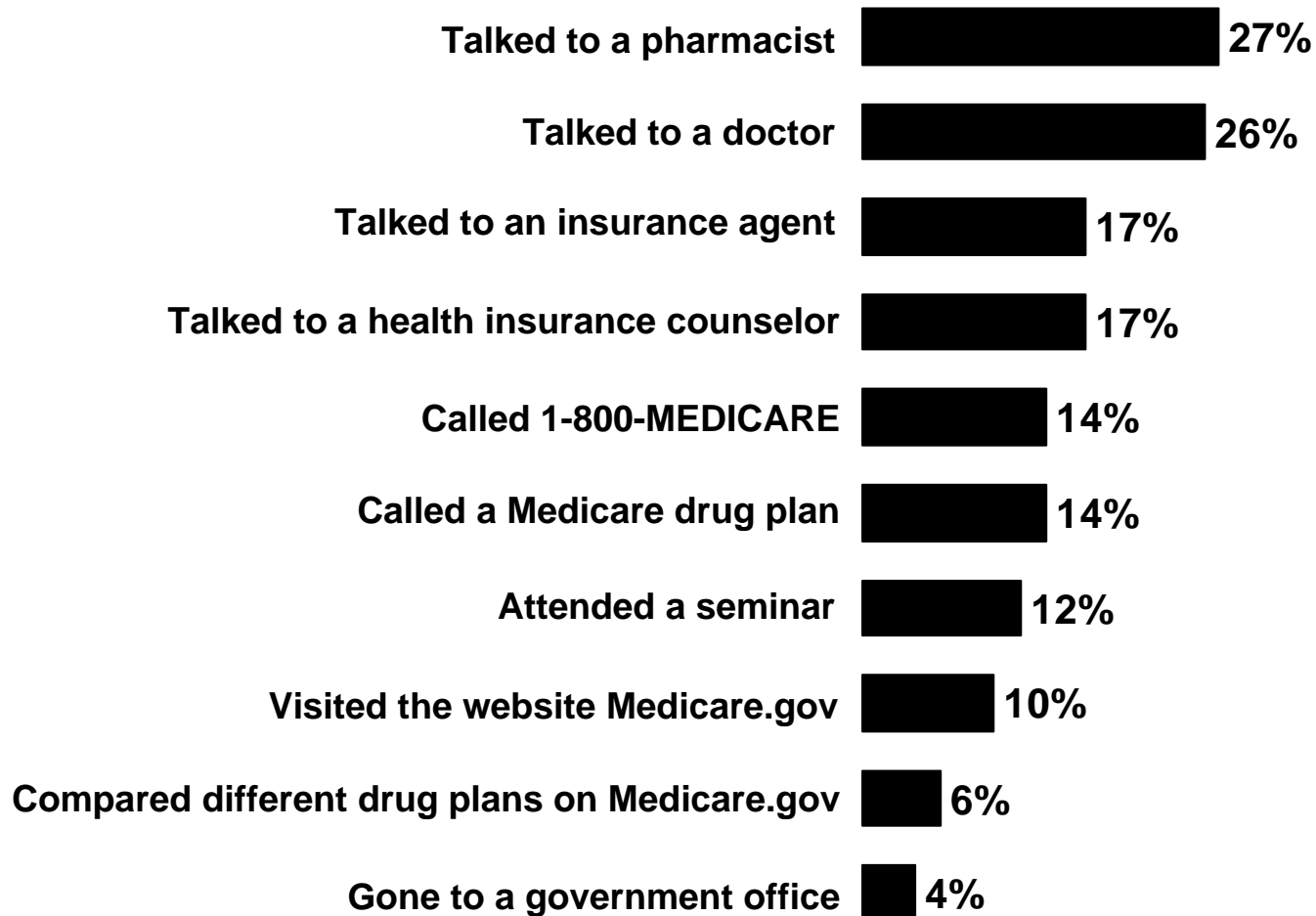


Note: N=185 seniors who have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare drug benefit.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted February 2-7, 2006)

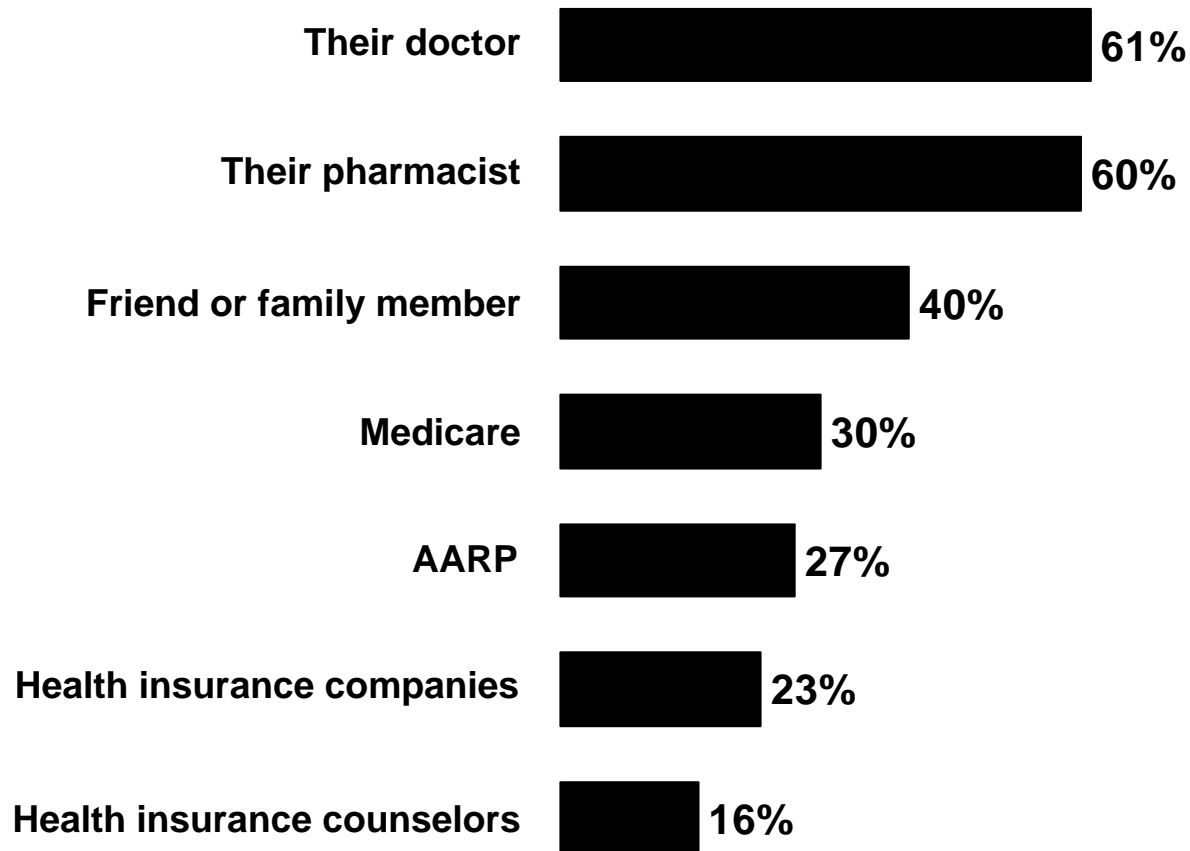
Seniors' Reported Use of Information Resources

Percent of seniors who say they have done each of the following for information about the Medicare drug benefit...



Seniors' Reported Trust in Information Sources

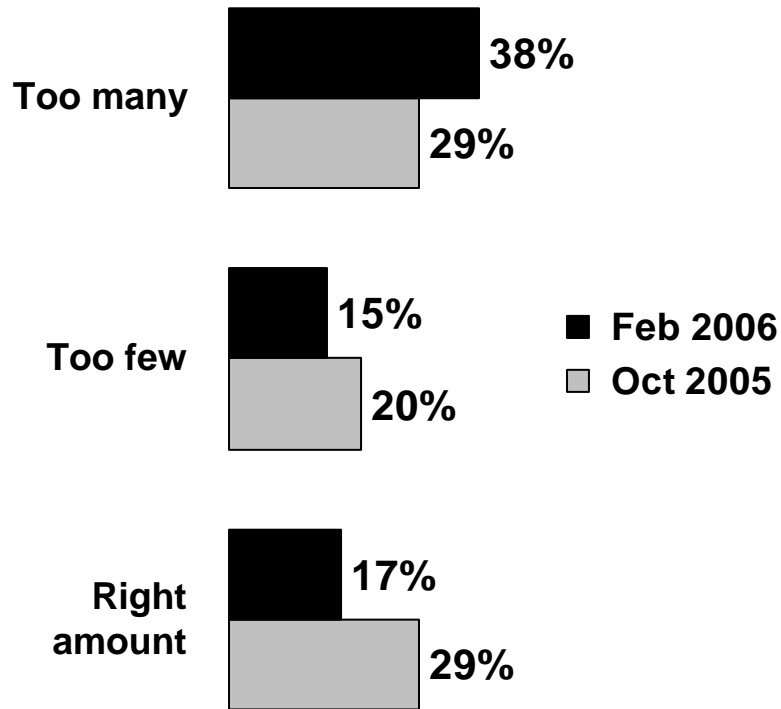
Percent of seniors who say they trust each of the following “a lot” to help them understand and choose among Medicare drug plans...



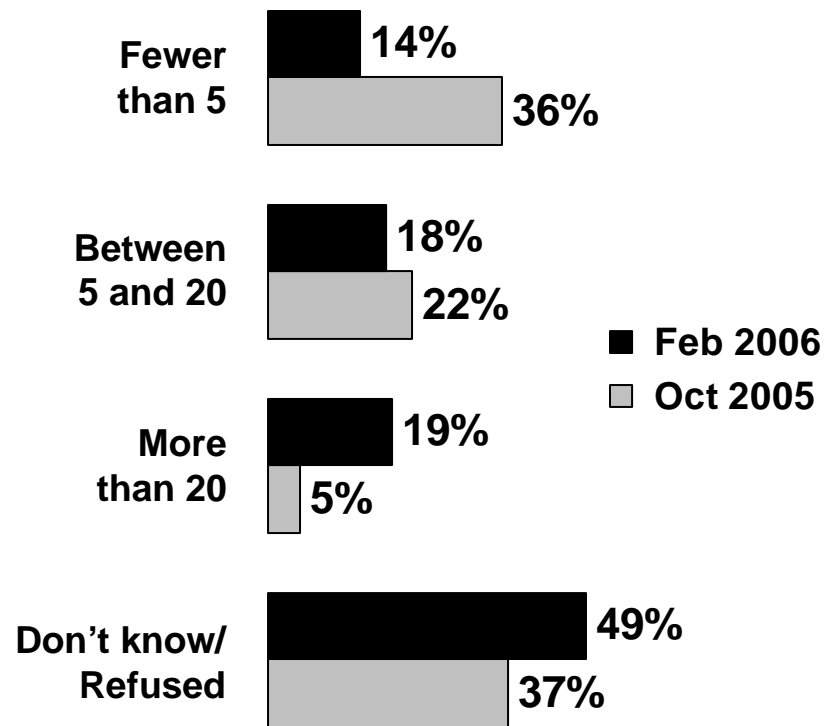
Trends in Seniors' Beliefs About Number of Plans to Choose From

Among seniors:

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



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



Note: All changes are statistically significant between Oct-05 and Feb-06 except for change in percent saying "too few" and percent saying "between 5 and 20".

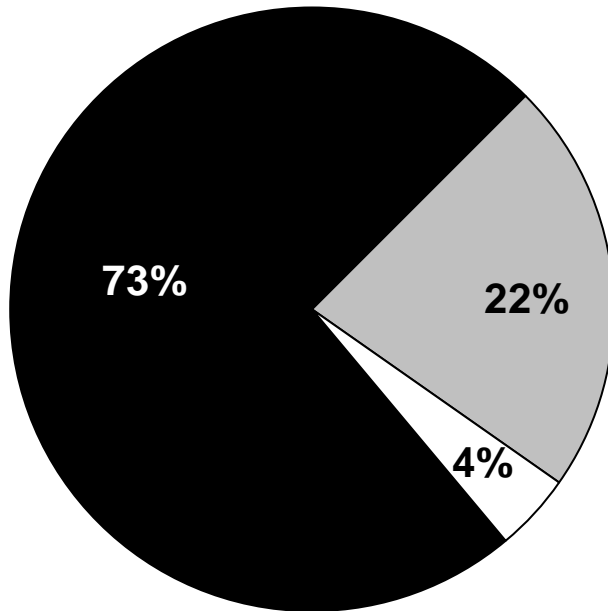
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted February 2-7, 2006); Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Medicare Drug Benefit: Beneficiary Perspectives Just Before Implementation* (conducted October 13-31, 2005)

Trends in Seniors' Views on Number of Plans to Choose From

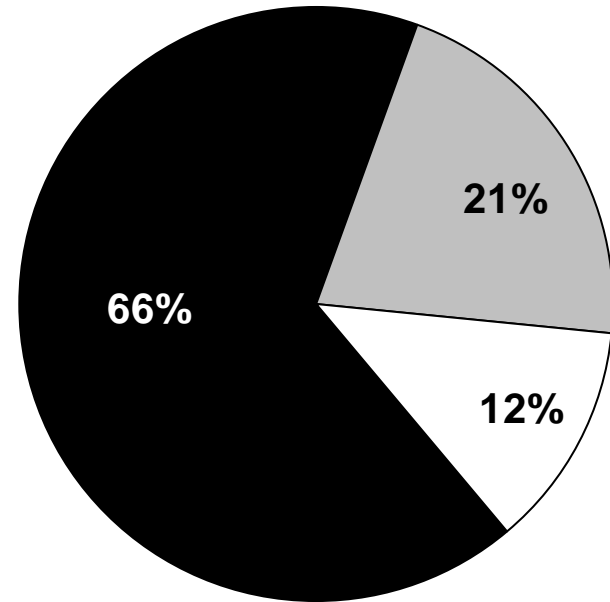
Among seniors: Most people on Medicare will have at least 40 different drug plans to choose from. Which comes closer to your view? Having many plans to choose from...

- Makes it confusing and difficult to pick the best plan**
- Is helpful and provides an opportunity to find the best plan**
- Don't know/Refused**

October 2005



February 2006



Note: Change in percent saying “makes it confusing...” and percent saying “Don't know” are statistically significant between Oct-05 and Feb-06.

Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted February 2-7, 2006); Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Medicare Drug Benefit: Beneficiary Perspectives Just Before Implementation* (conducted October 13-31, 2005)



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