

Chartpack

Selected Findings from the *Kaiser Health Poll Report Survey*

Seniors' Early Experiences with the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit – April 2006

April 2006

Methodology

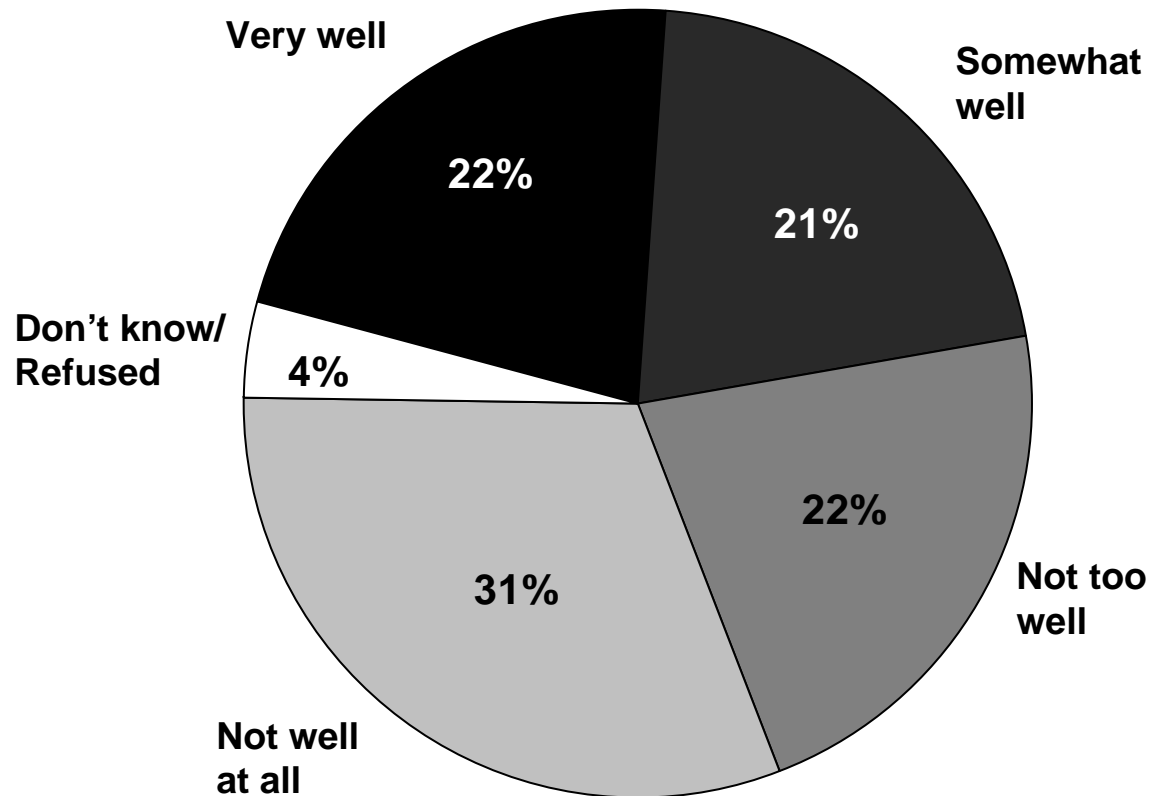
This tracking poll on the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit is based on interviews with 517 adults ages 65 and older who were interviewed as part of the Kaiser Family Foundation Health Poll Report Survey. The survey was conducted and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. In total, a nationally representative random sample of 1,446 adults ages 18 and older, including an oversample of adults ages 65 and older, was contacted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between April 6 and April 11, 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 5 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.

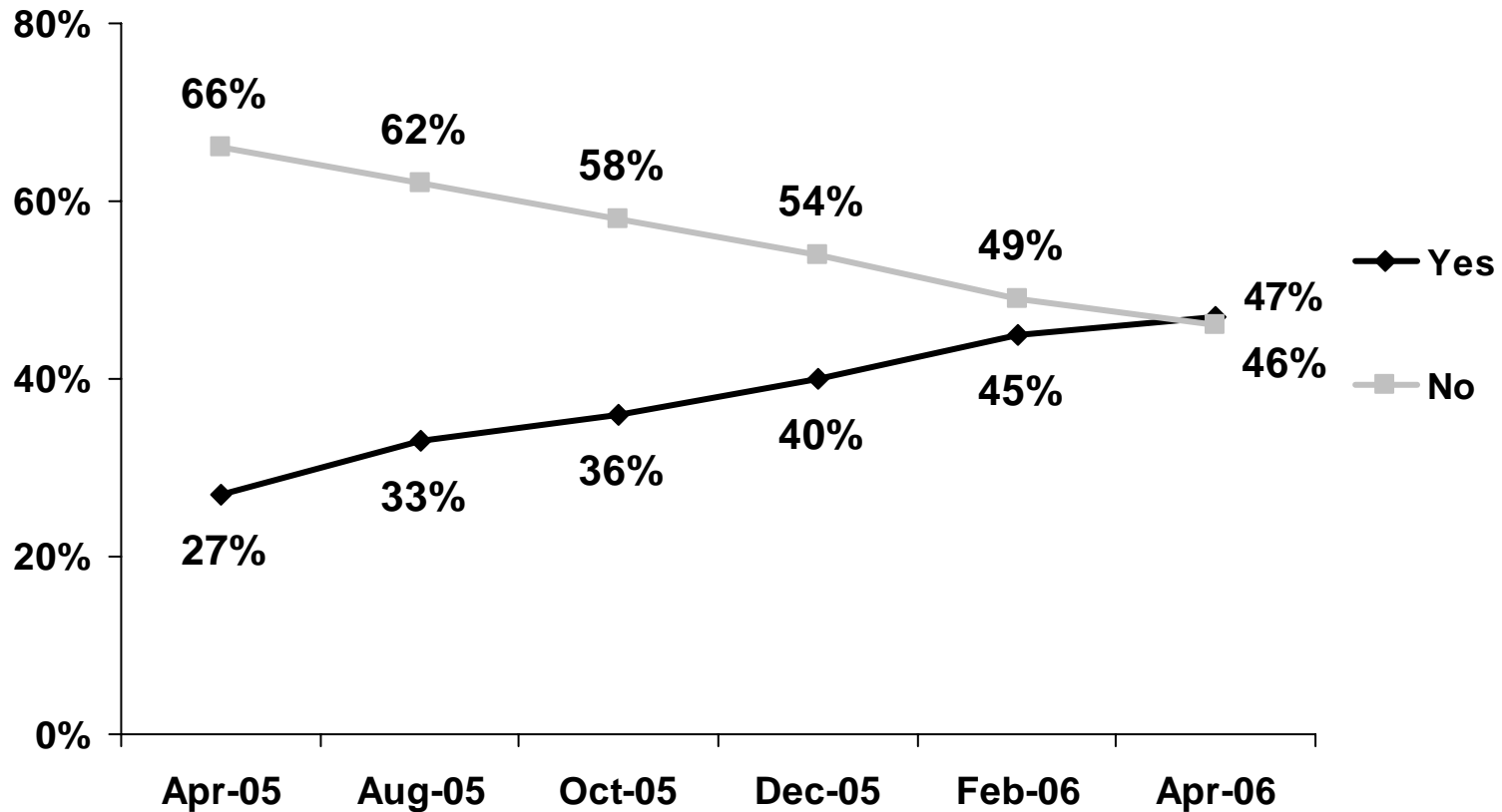
Seniors' Understanding of Medicare Drug Benefit

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?



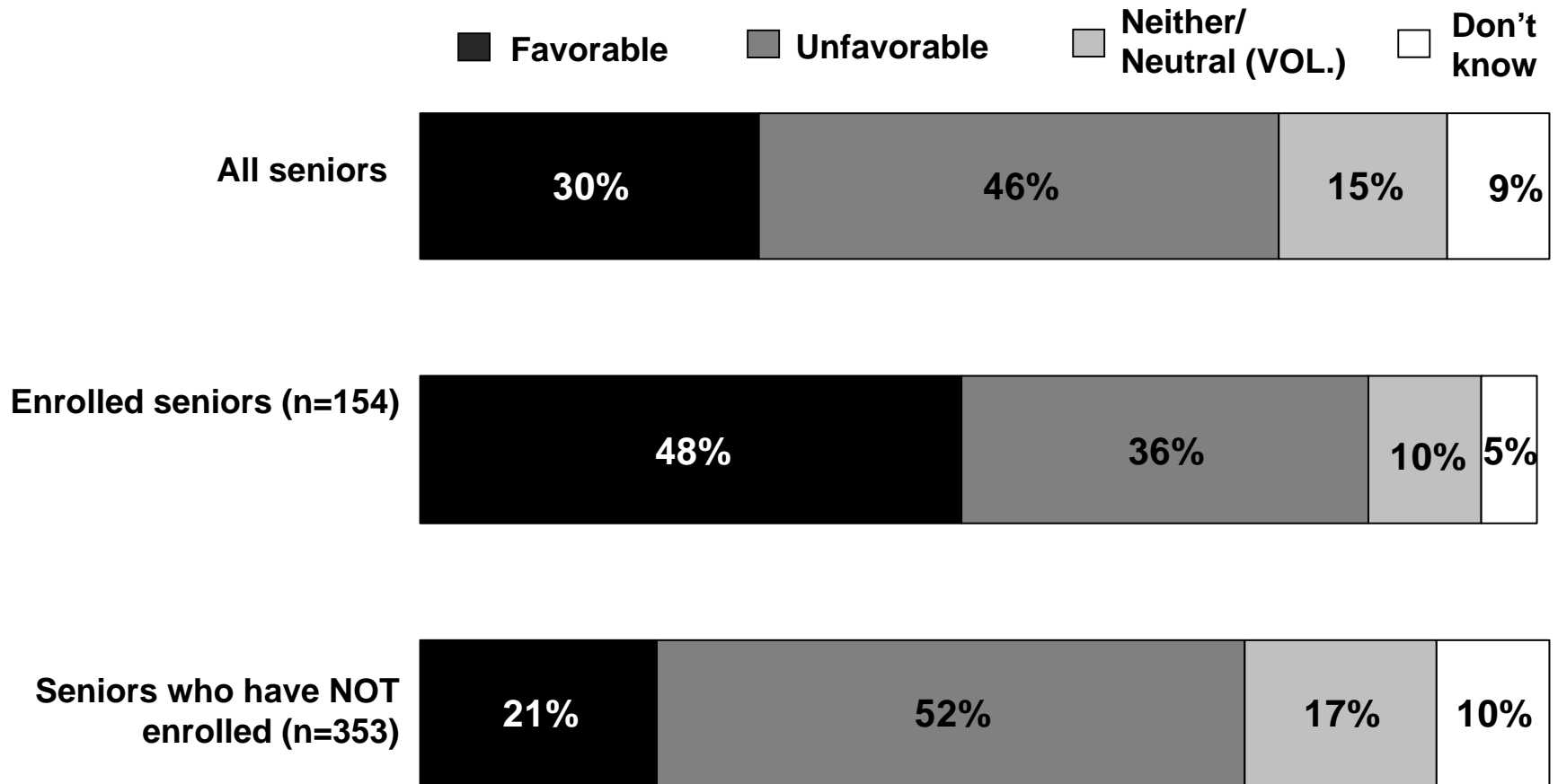
Trends in Seniors' Understanding of Personal Impact

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?



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?

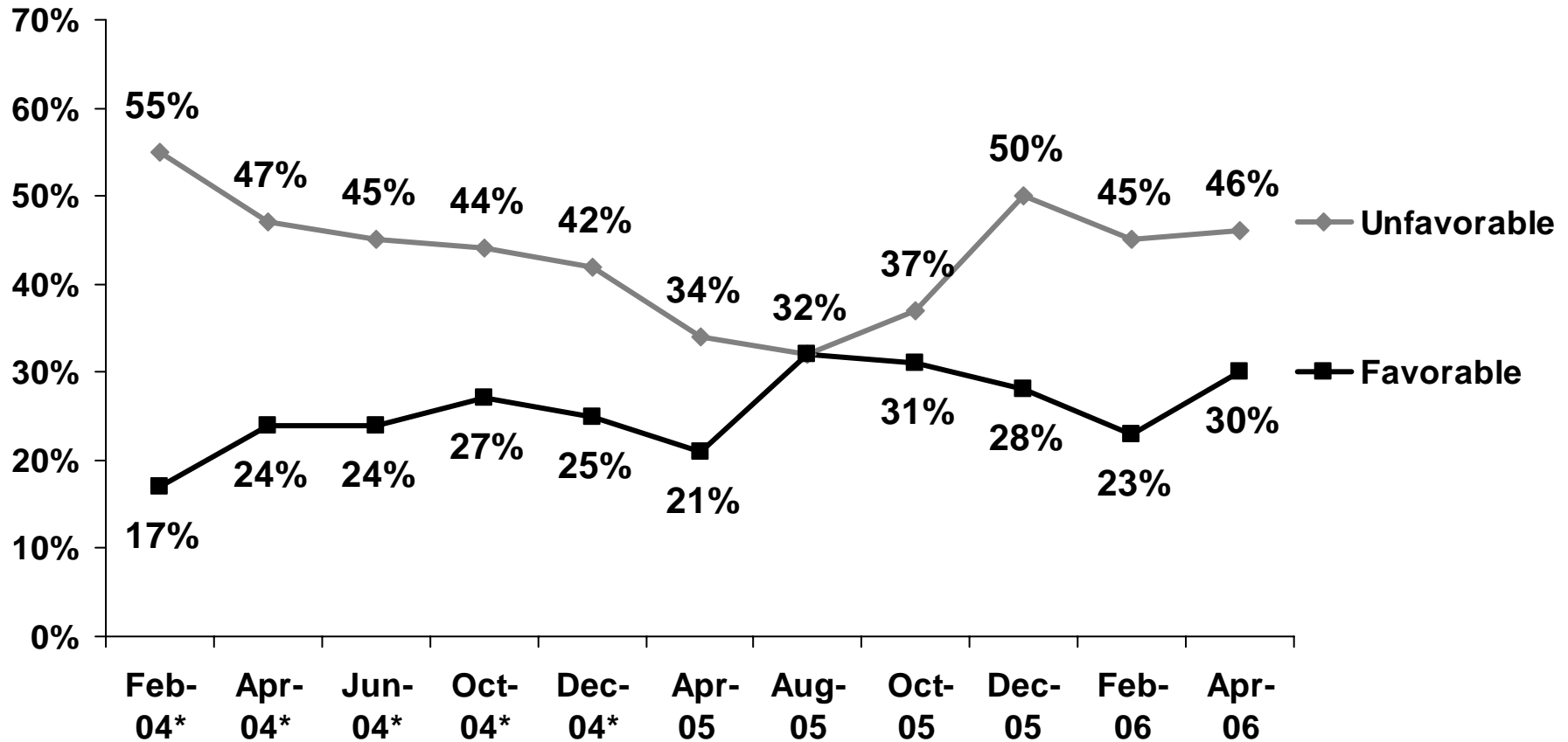


Note: "VOL." indicates a volunteered response

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted April 6-11, 2006)

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?

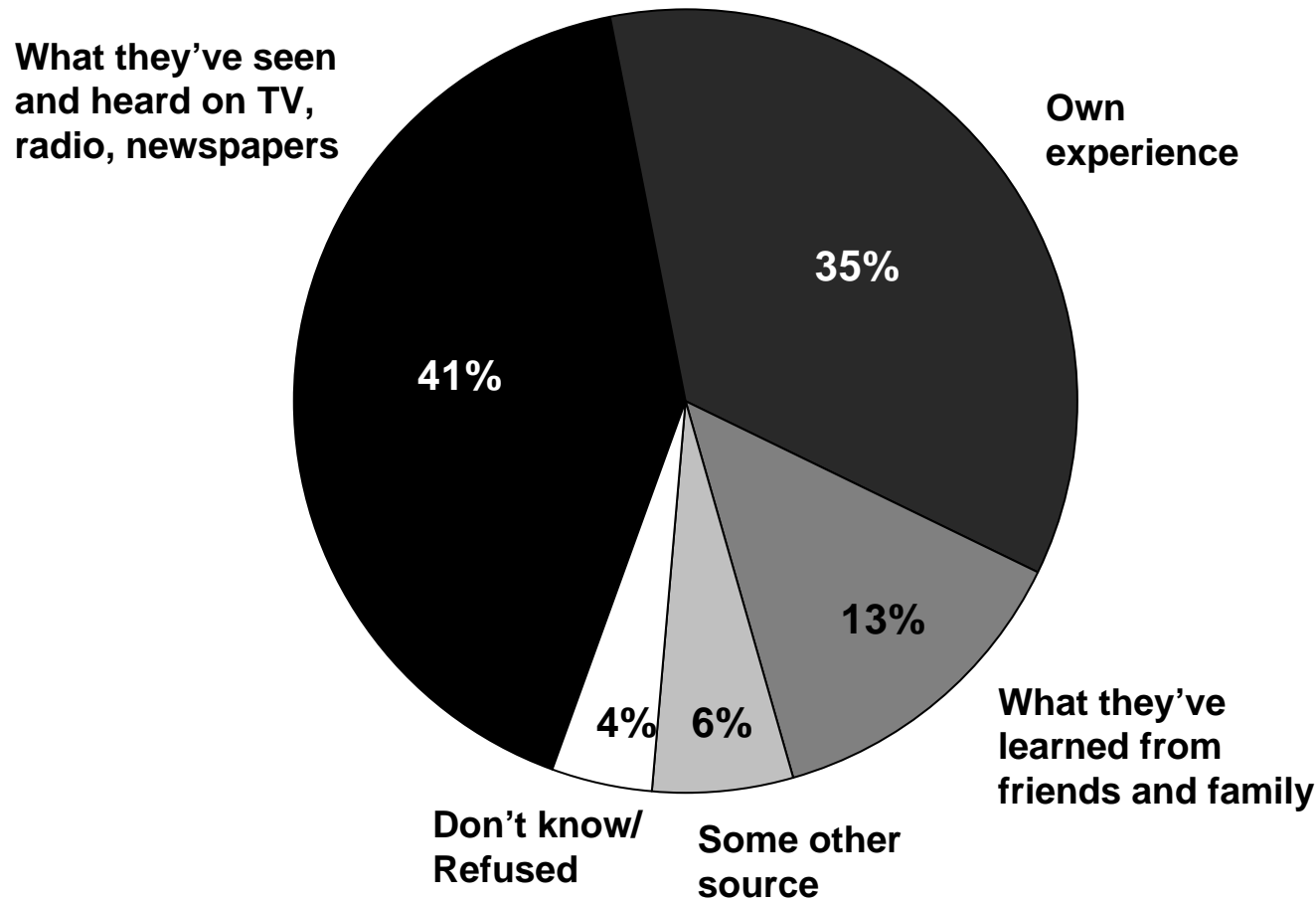


Notes: Question prior to Apr-05 referred to “new Medicare prescription drug law”; Changes in the percent saying “favorable” and “unfavorable” are statistically significant between Aug-05 and Feb-06, but smaller changes between Dec-05 and Feb-06 are not statistically significant.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

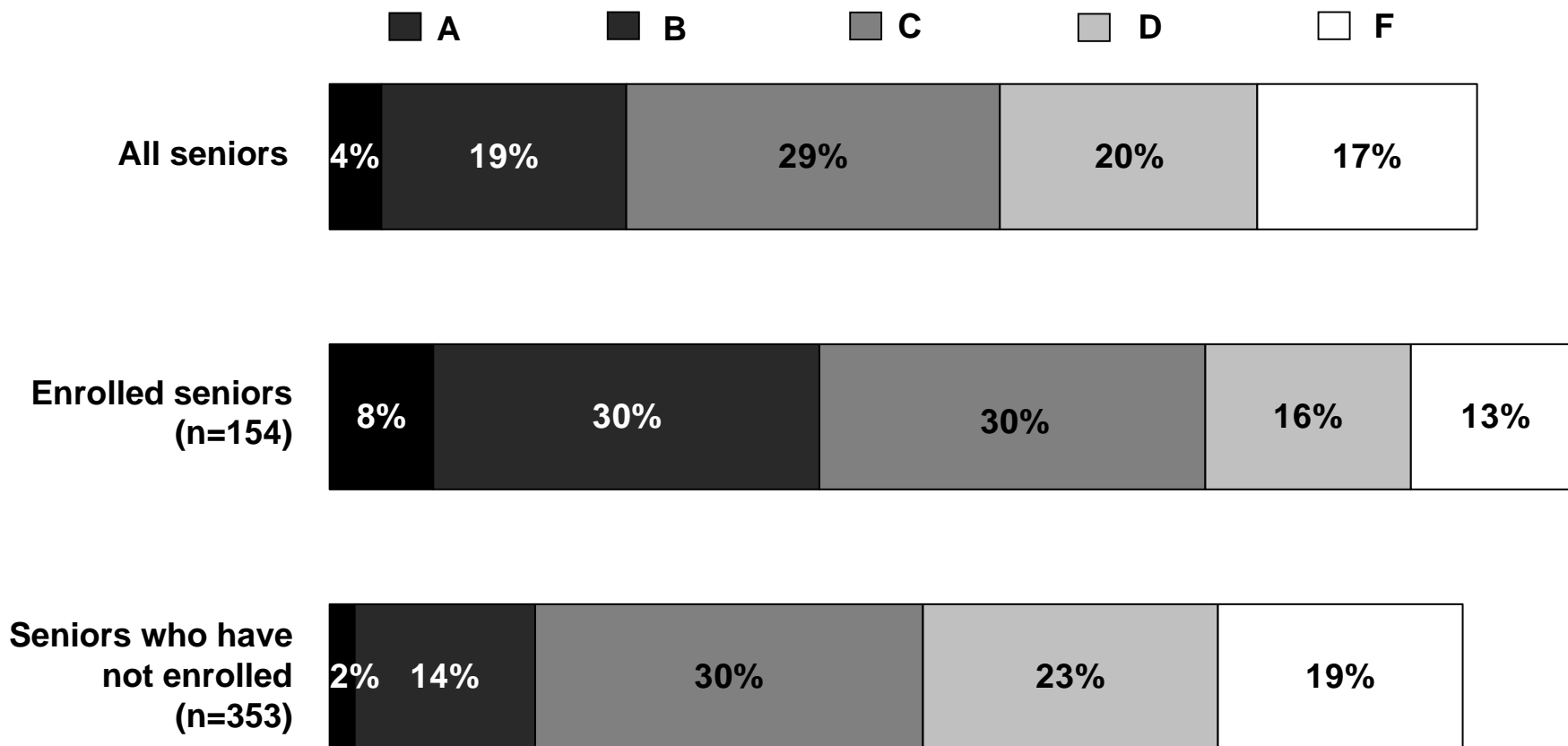
Seniors' Primary Source of Information About Benefit

Among the 76% of seniors who have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare drug benefit, percent who say that impression is based mainly on...



Seniors' Views on Implementation of the Drug Benefit

Among seniors: Overall, what grade would you give the implementation of the new Medicare drug benefit so far – A for excellent, B for good, C for average, D for poor, or F for failing?

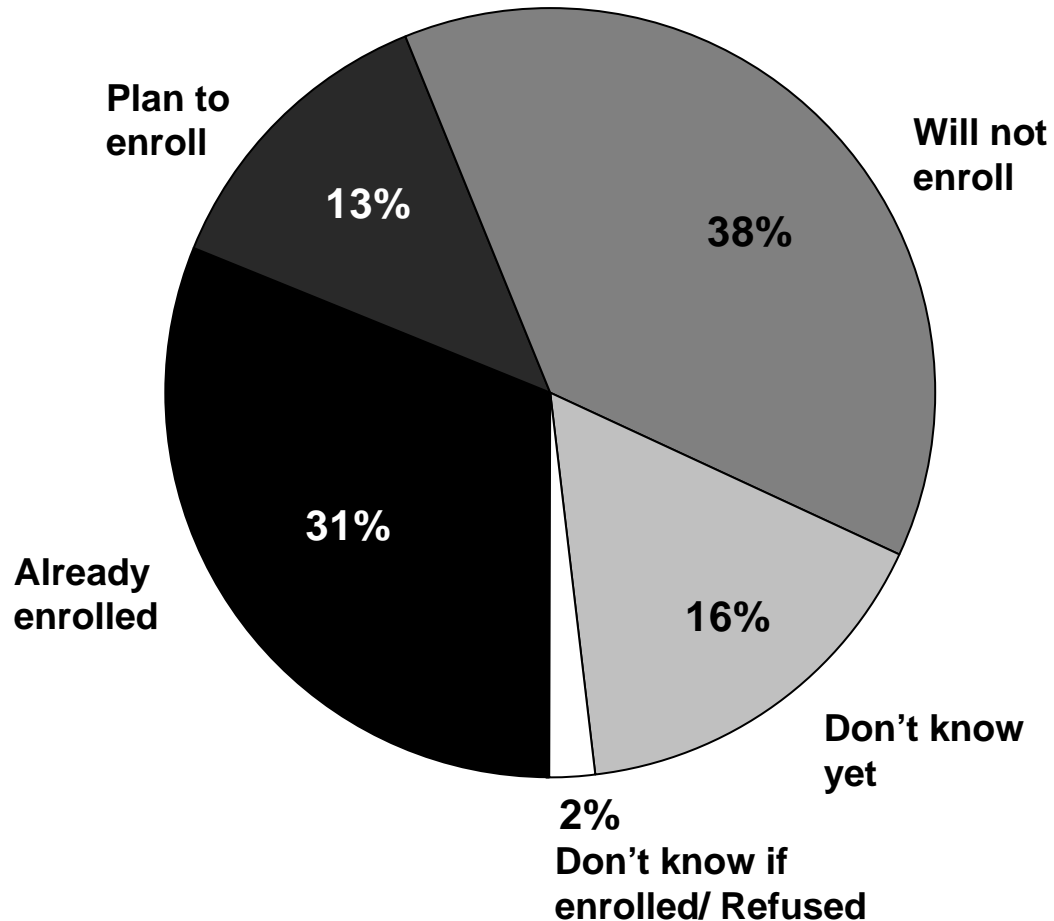


Don't know responses not shown

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* (conducted April 6-11, 2006)

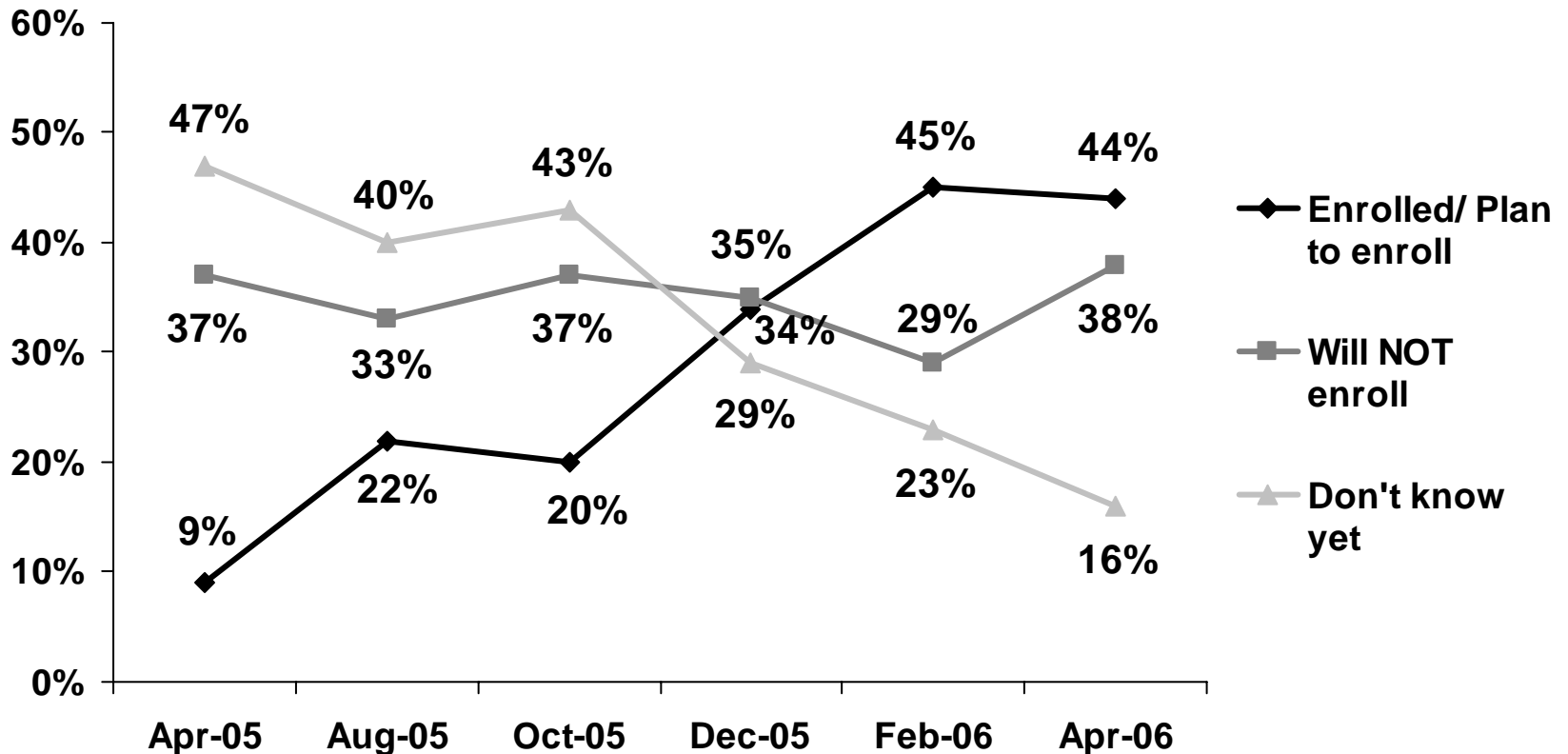
Seniors' Reported Plans for Enrollment

Among seniors: Since November 2005, when you could first sign up, have you enrolled in a plan that offers the new Medicare drug benefit or not? If no, do you think you will enroll, you will NOT enroll, or don't you know yet?



Trends in Reported Plans for Enrollment

Among seniors: Since November 2005, when you could first sign up, have you enrolled in a plan that offers the new Medicare drug benefit or not? If no, do you think you will enroll, you will NOT enroll, or don't you know yet?

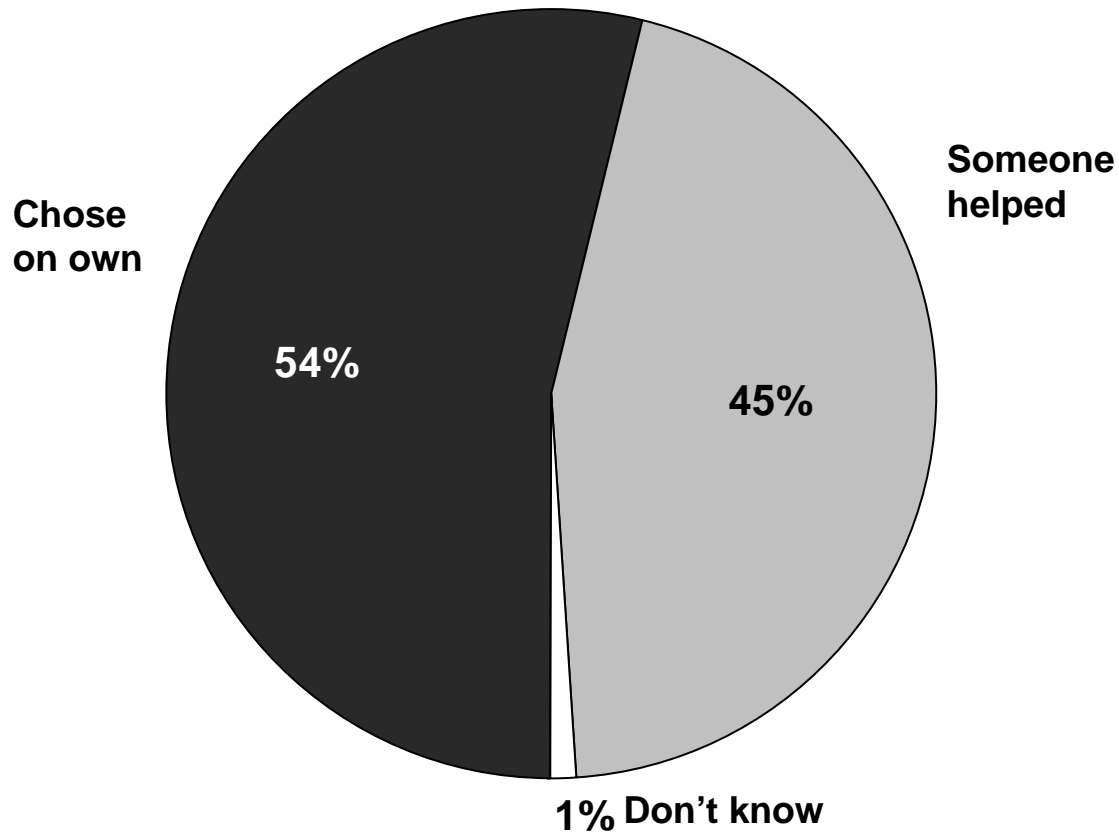


*Question wording varies slightly over time

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

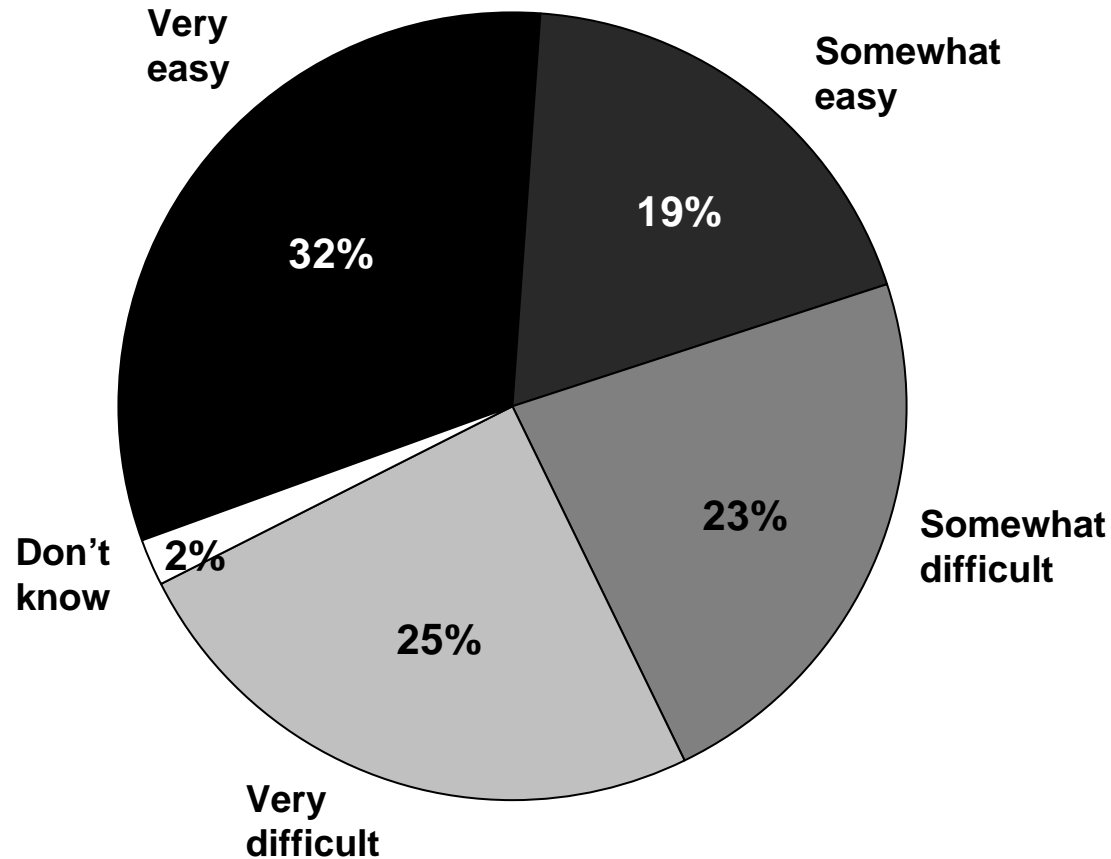
Seniors Reported Assistance In Choosing a Medicare Drug Plan

Among enrolled seniors (n=154): Did you choose this drug plan on your own, or did someone help you?



Seniors' Ease with Choosing Drug Plans

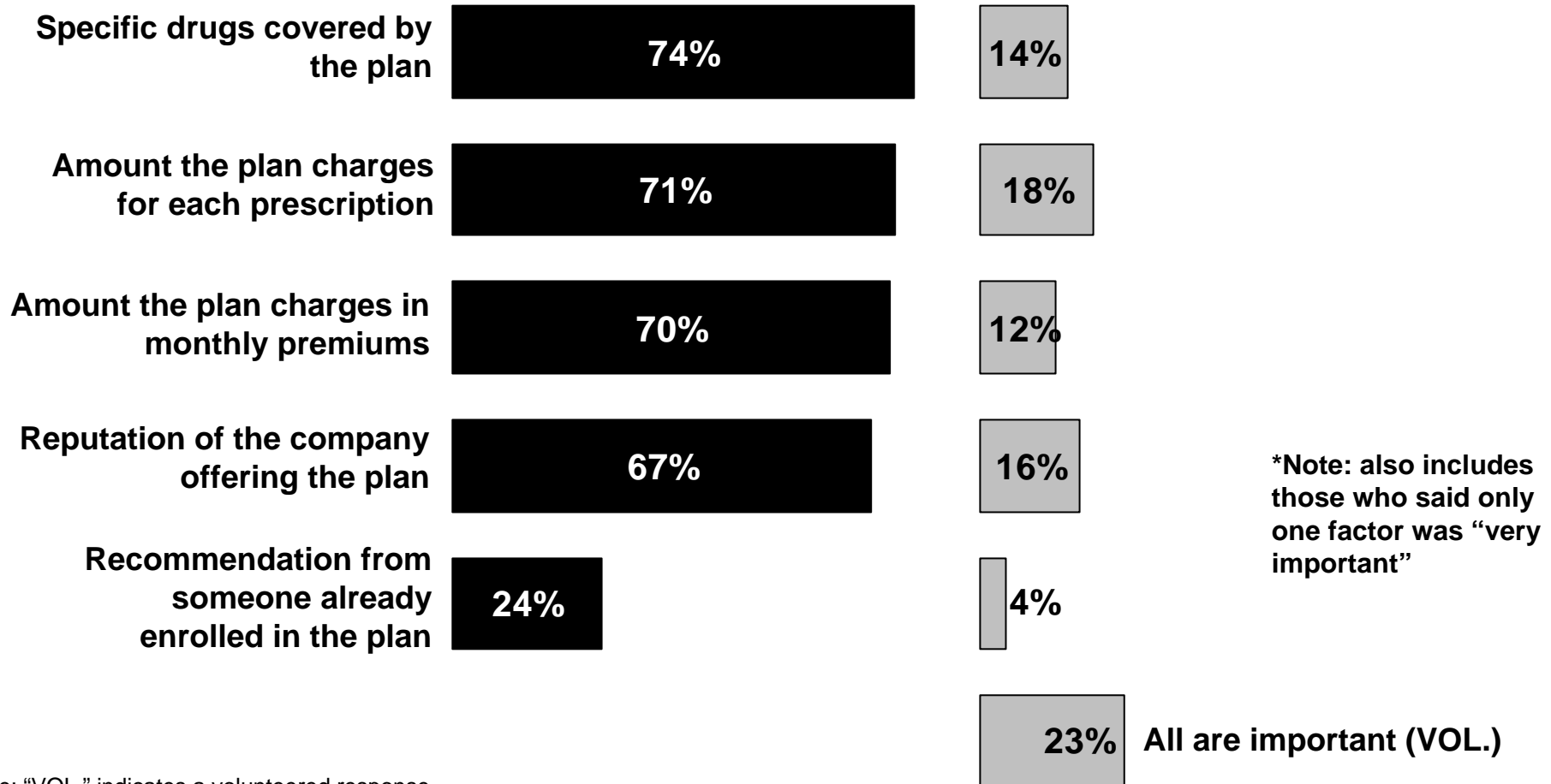
Among enrolled seniors (n=154): Would you say it was very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, or very difficult to choose a Medicare drug plan?



Important Factors in Choosing a Drug Plan

Among enrolled seniors (n=154):

■ Percent who say each item was “very important” in deciding upon a drug plan... □ When forced to choose, percent who say each is the MOST important factor*



*Note: also includes those who said only one factor was “very important”

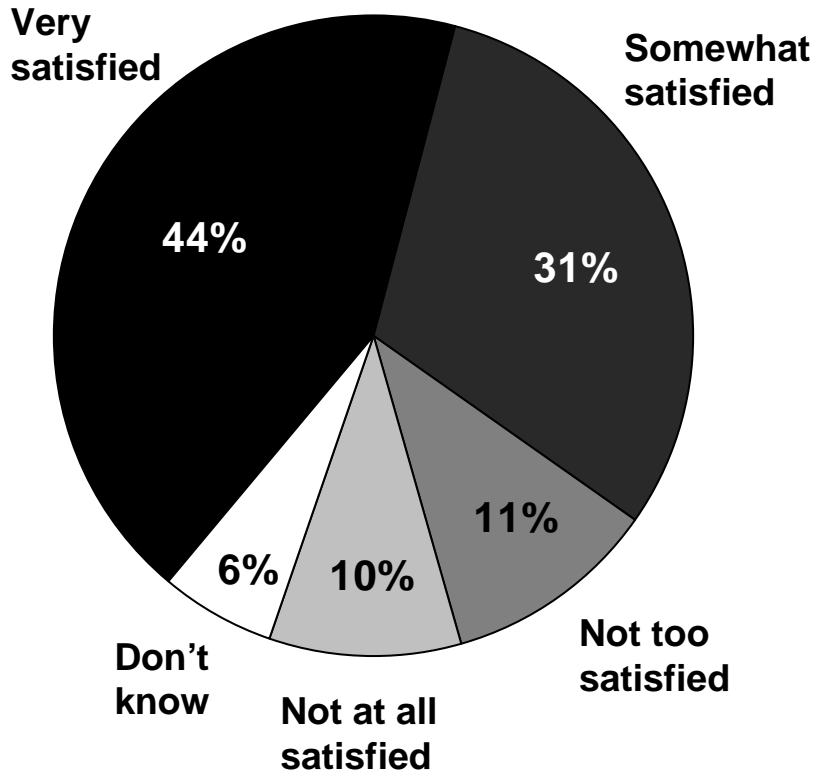
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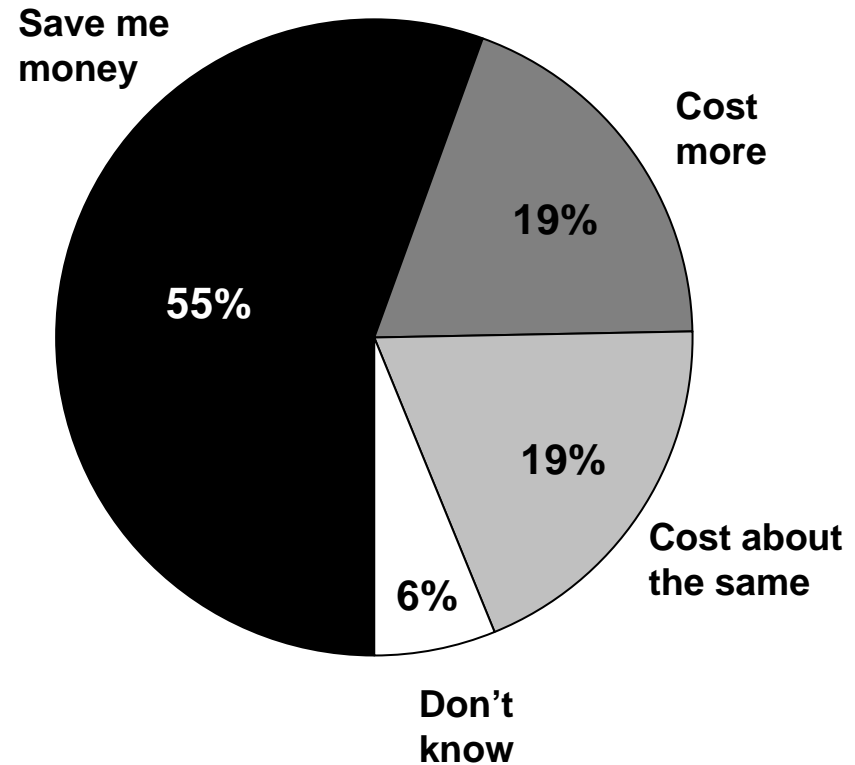
Seniors' Reported Satisfaction With Drug Plan

Among enrolled seniors (n=154):

How satisfied are you with the Medicare drug plan you are enrolled in?

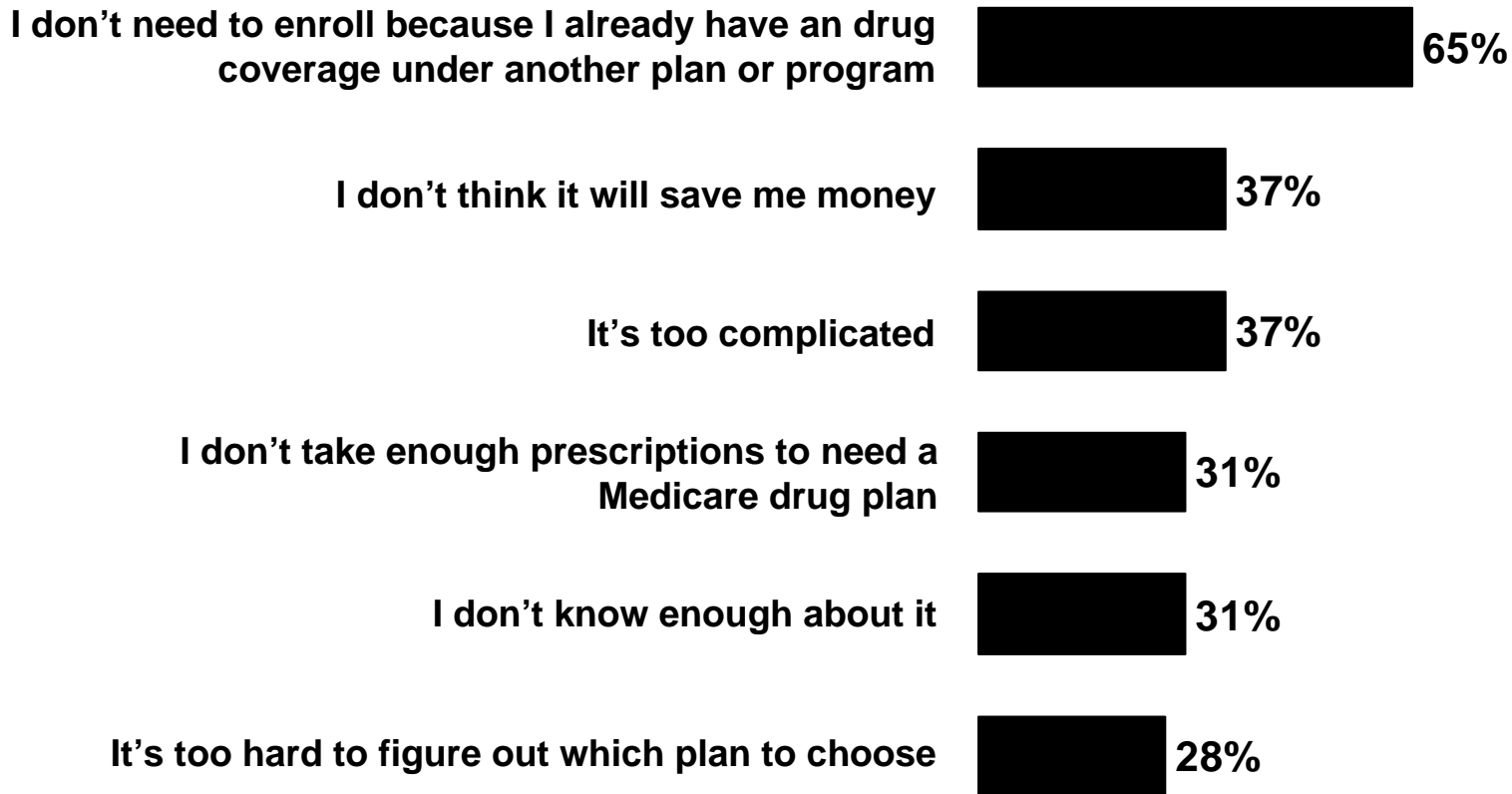


Compared to what you were paying before, do you think your new Medicare drug plan will...



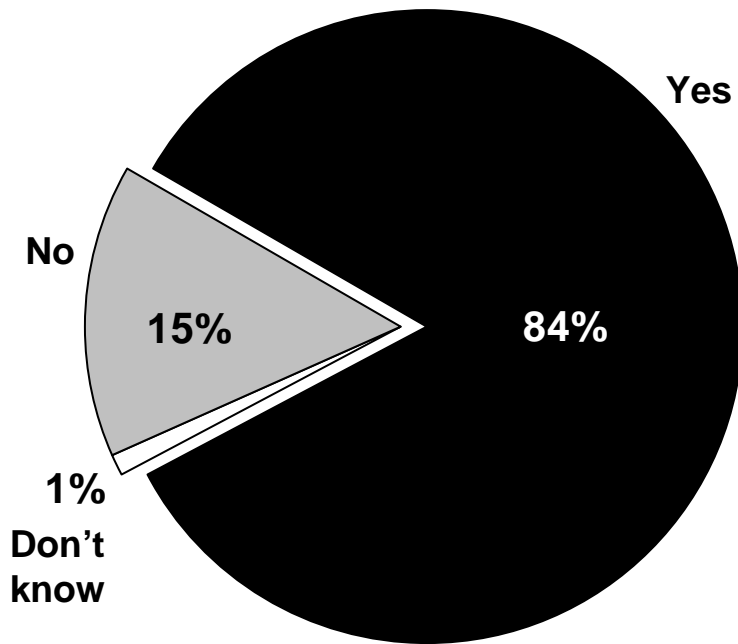
Seniors' Reported Reasons for NOT Enrolling

Among the 54% of seniors who say they will NOT enroll or don't know if they will enroll in a Medicare drug plan: Percent who say each of the following is a MAJOR reason...

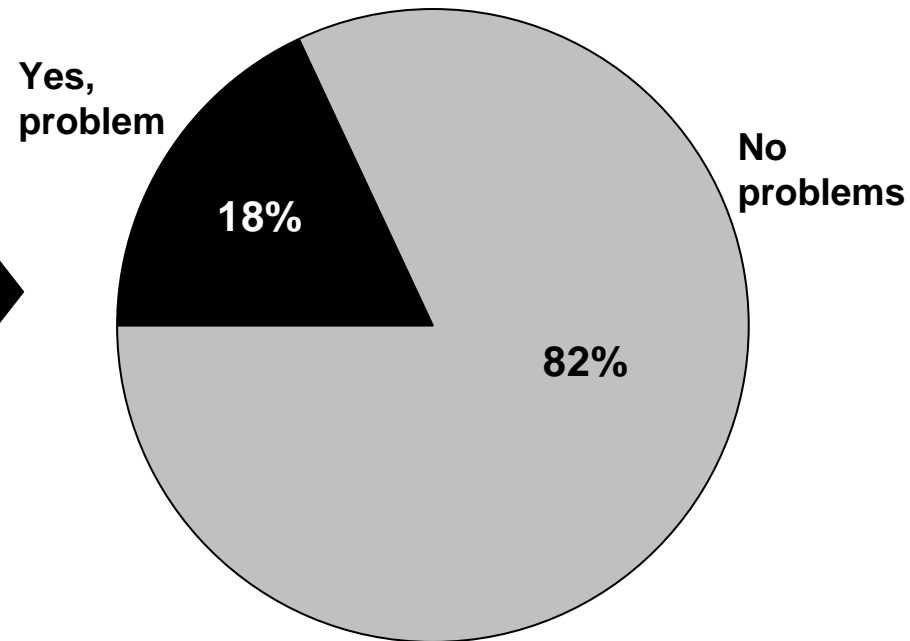


Seniors' Reported Problems with Filling Prescriptions

Among enrolled seniors (n=154):
Have you tried to fill any
prescriptions under your new
Medicare drug plan yet?



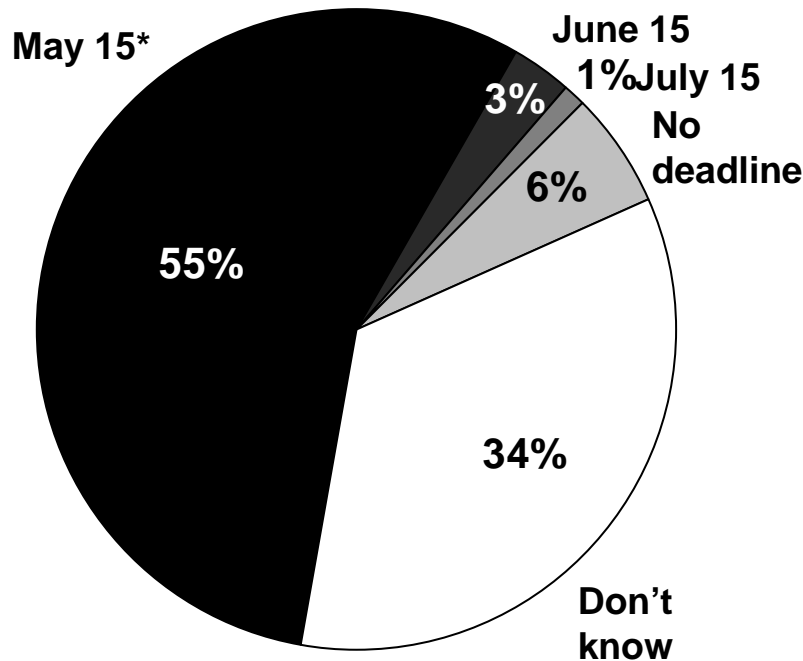
Among 84% of enrolled seniors who have
tried to fill a prescription (n=125): Have
you experienced any problems getting
your prescriptions filled or not?



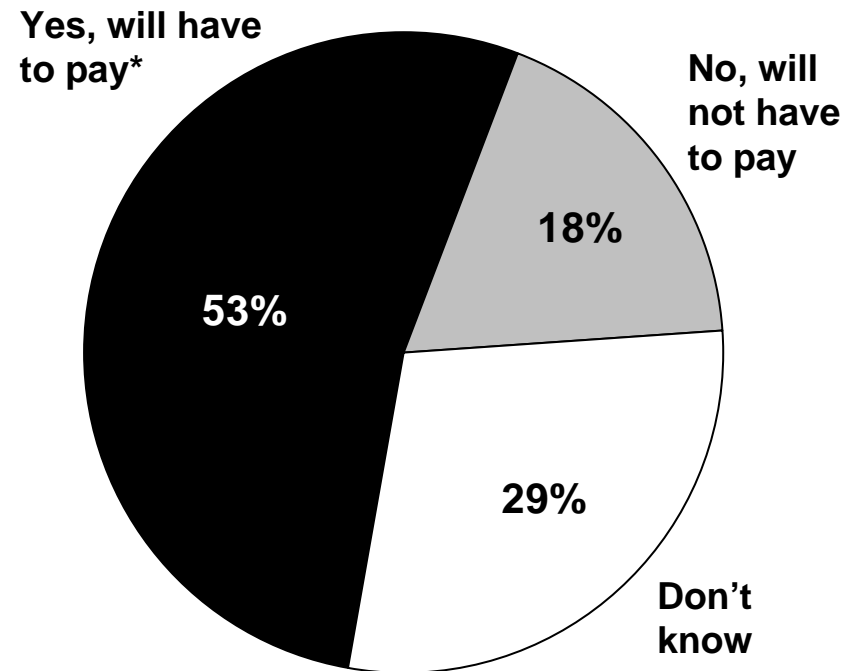
Seniors' Knowledge of Drug Plan Deadlines

Among seniors: To the best of your knowledge...

When is the 2006 deadline for seniors to enroll in a new Medicare drug plan...



Would a senior WITHOUT drug coverage have to pay a financial penalty for late enrollment if he/she waits until 2007 to sign up for a Medicare drug plan, or not?

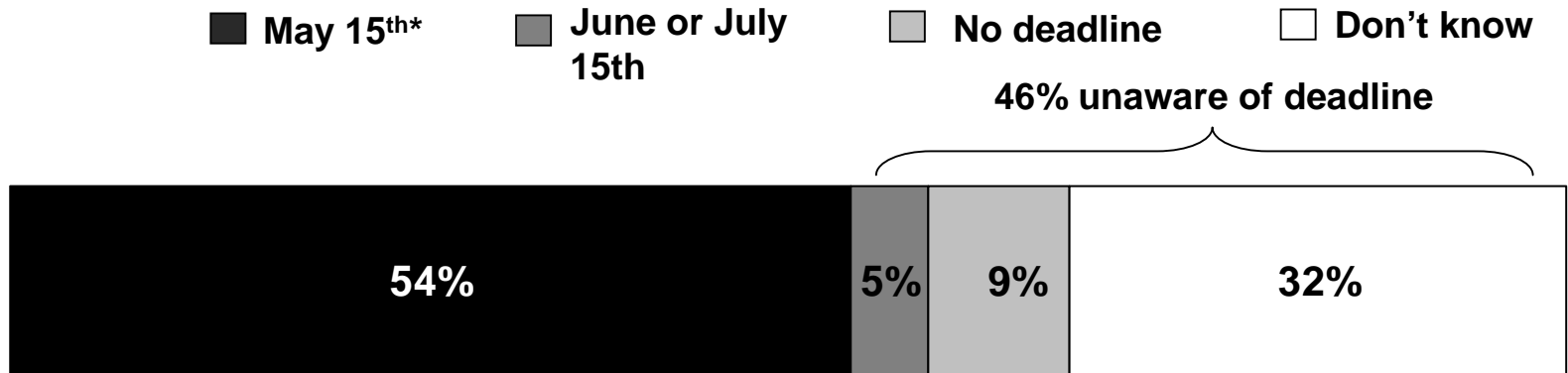


* Correct answer

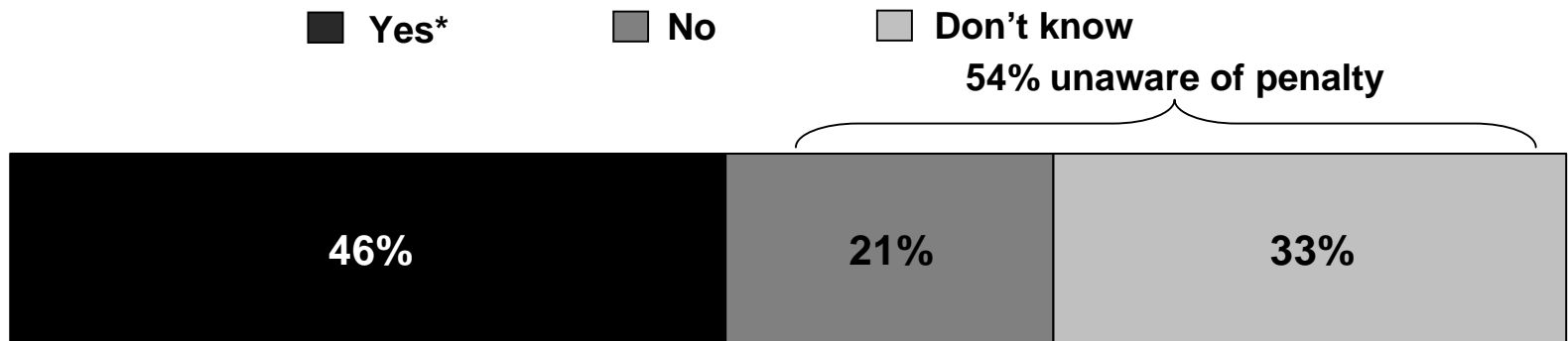
Seniors' Knowledge of Drug Plan Deadlines

Among seniors who may still enroll (planning to enroll or don't know yet n=139):

When is the 2006 deadline for seniors to enroll in a new Medicare drug plan?



Would a senior without drug coverage have to pay a financial penalty for late enrollment if s/he waits until 2007 to sign up for a drug plan?

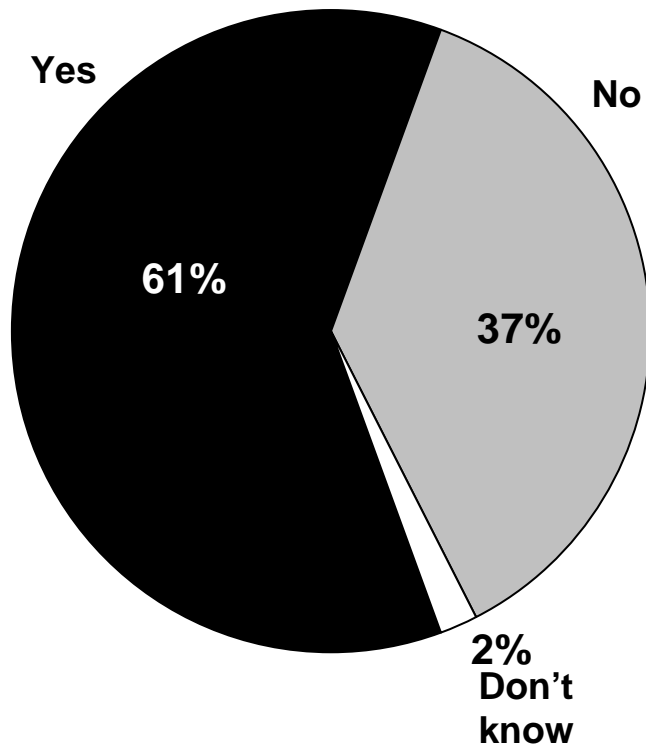


* Correct answer

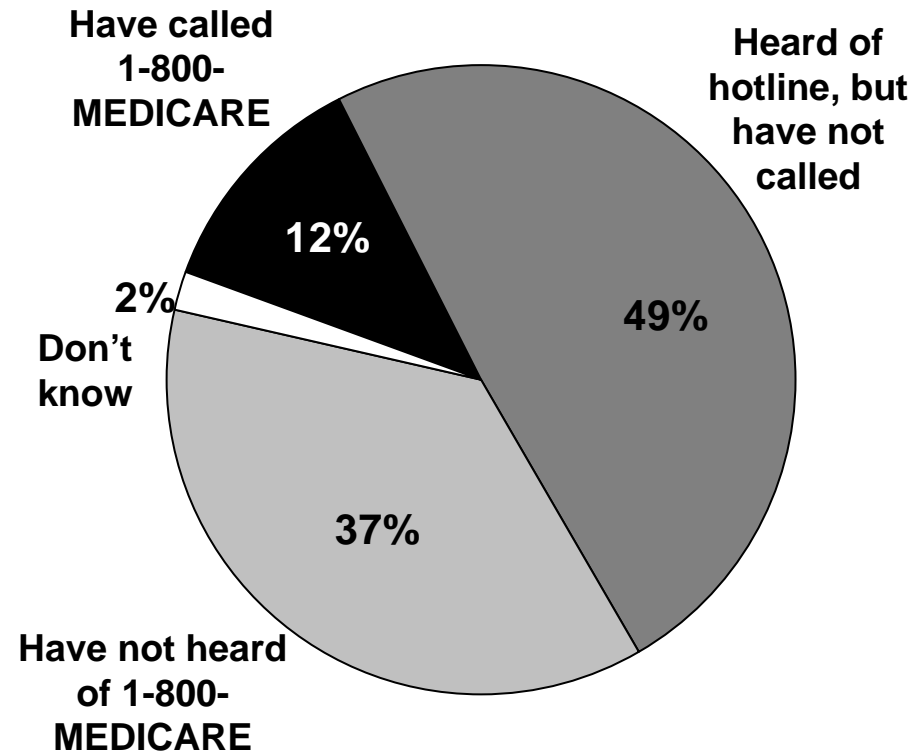
Seniors' Reported Awareness and Use of 1-800-Medicare

Among seniors:

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



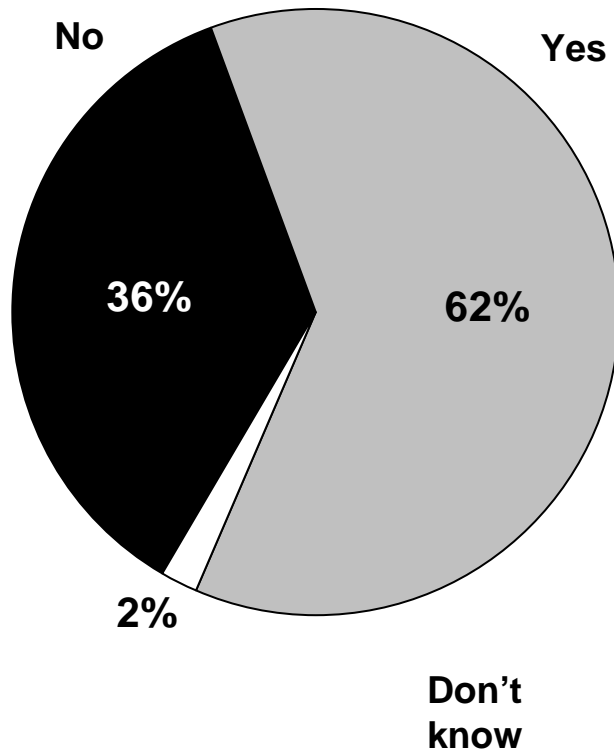
Have you ever called 1-800-MEDICARE?



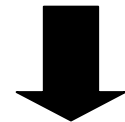
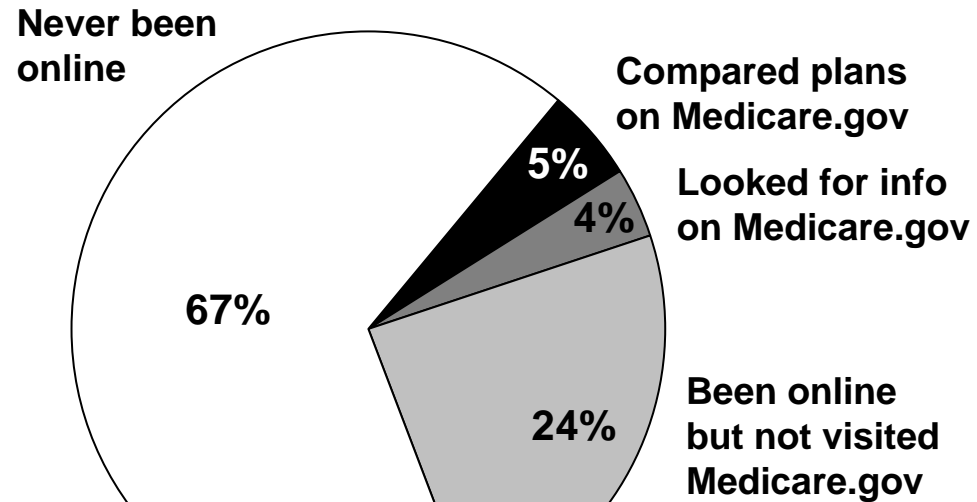
Seniors' Reported Awareness and Use of Medicare.gov

Among seniors:

Have you heard of the website Medicare.gov?



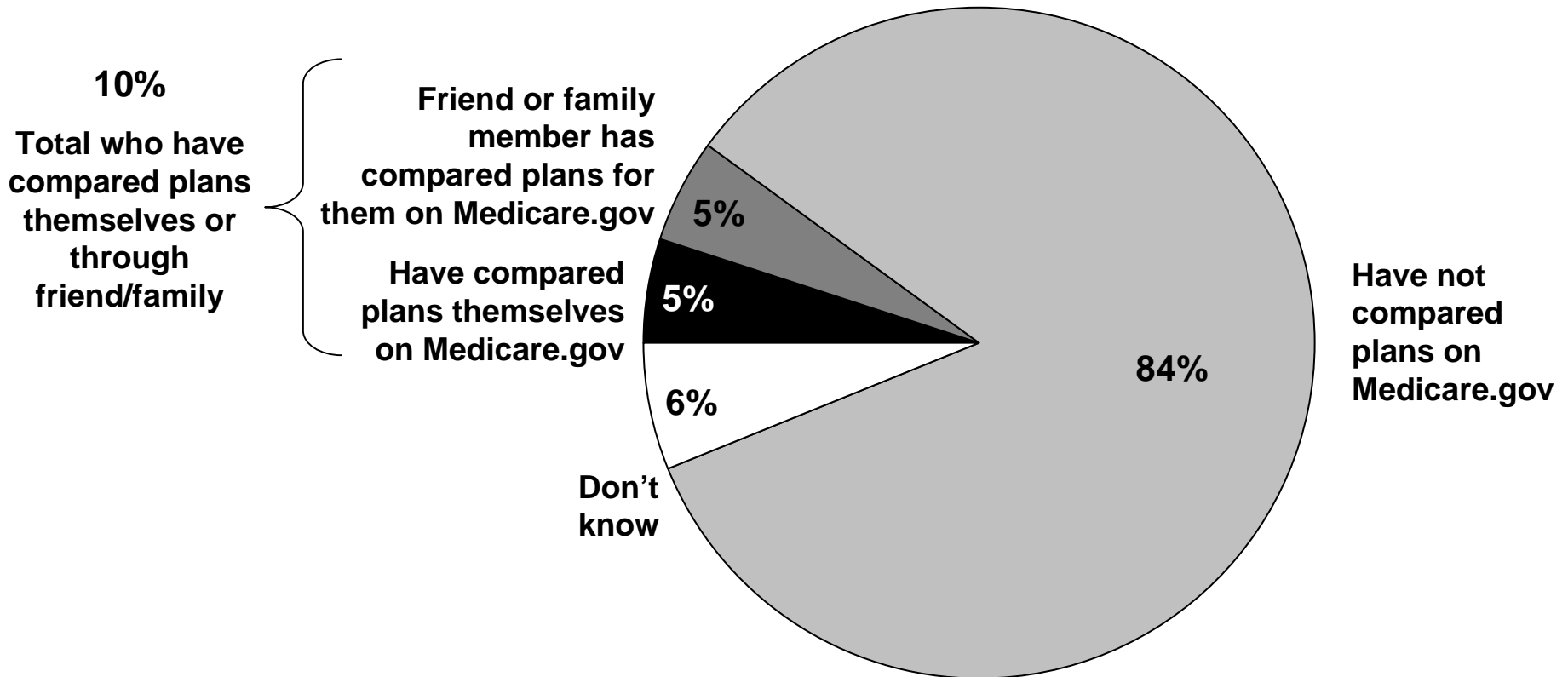
Have you ever looked for information/ tried to compare plans on Medicare.gov?



33% of seniors have been online

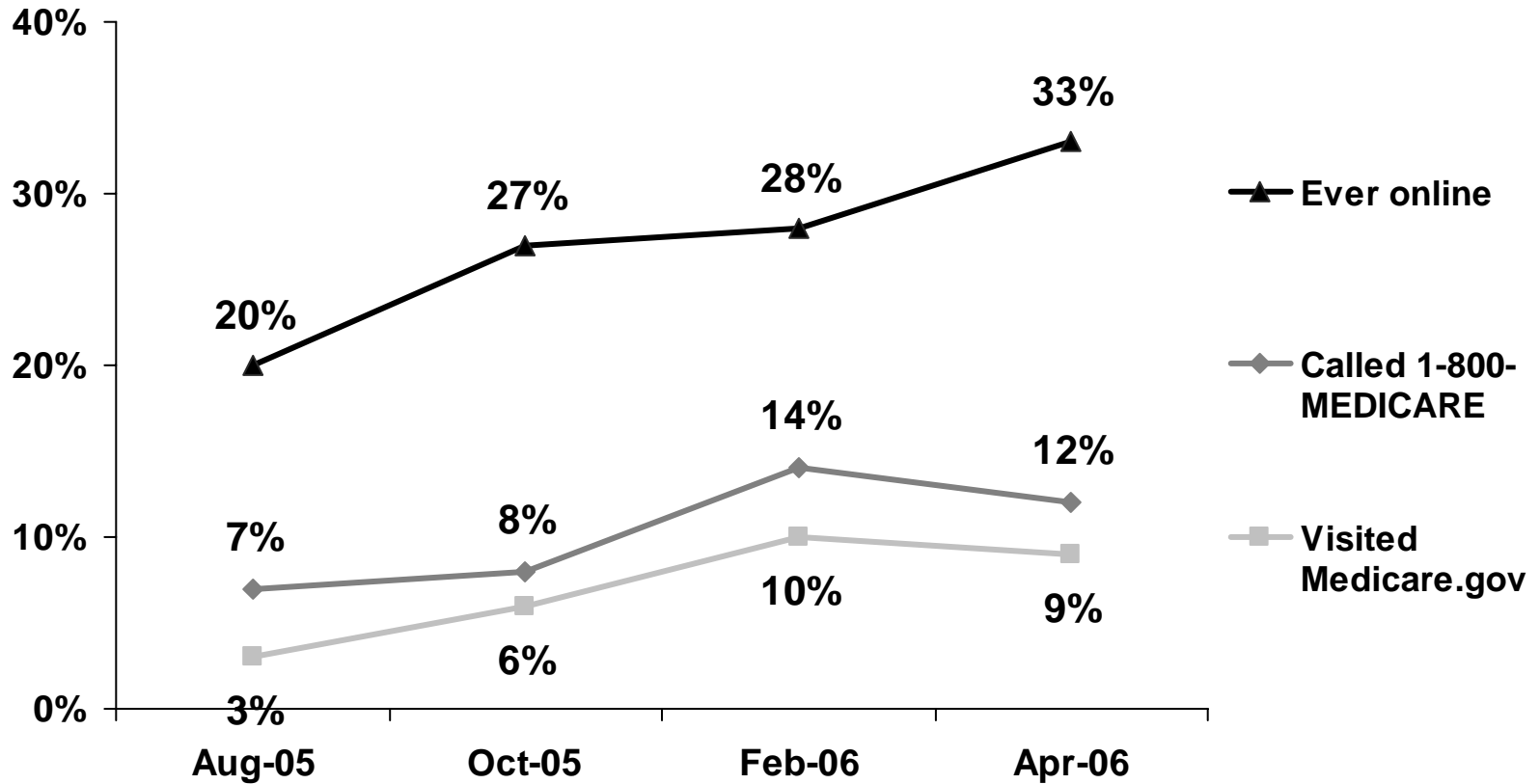
Comparing plans on Medicare.gov

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...





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