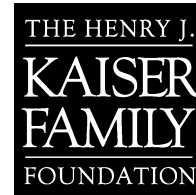


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Chartpack



HARVARD  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

# **Seniors and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit**

December 2006

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### Methodology

This Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health survey - *Seniors and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit* - was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health as part of a larger project entitled *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/pomr120806pkg.cfm>).

Fieldwork was done by telephone November 9 to 19, 2006 among a nationally representative sample of 1,867 respondents ages 18 and over -- including 1,363 respondents who reported voting in the midterm election -- by ICR/International Communications Research. The survey included an oversample of respondents ages 65 and over; a total of 718 respondents in this age group were interviewed, including 275 who say that they are enrolled in the Medicare Part D benefit. Overall results have been weighted to reflect the actual demographic distribution of the nation.

The margin of sampling error for results based on the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Margins of error for key reported subgroups are as follows: respondents aged 18 – 64, +/- 4 points; respondents 65 plus, +/- 4 points; and seniors who reported being enrolled in Medicare Part D, +/- 7 points. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of sampling error is somewhat higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

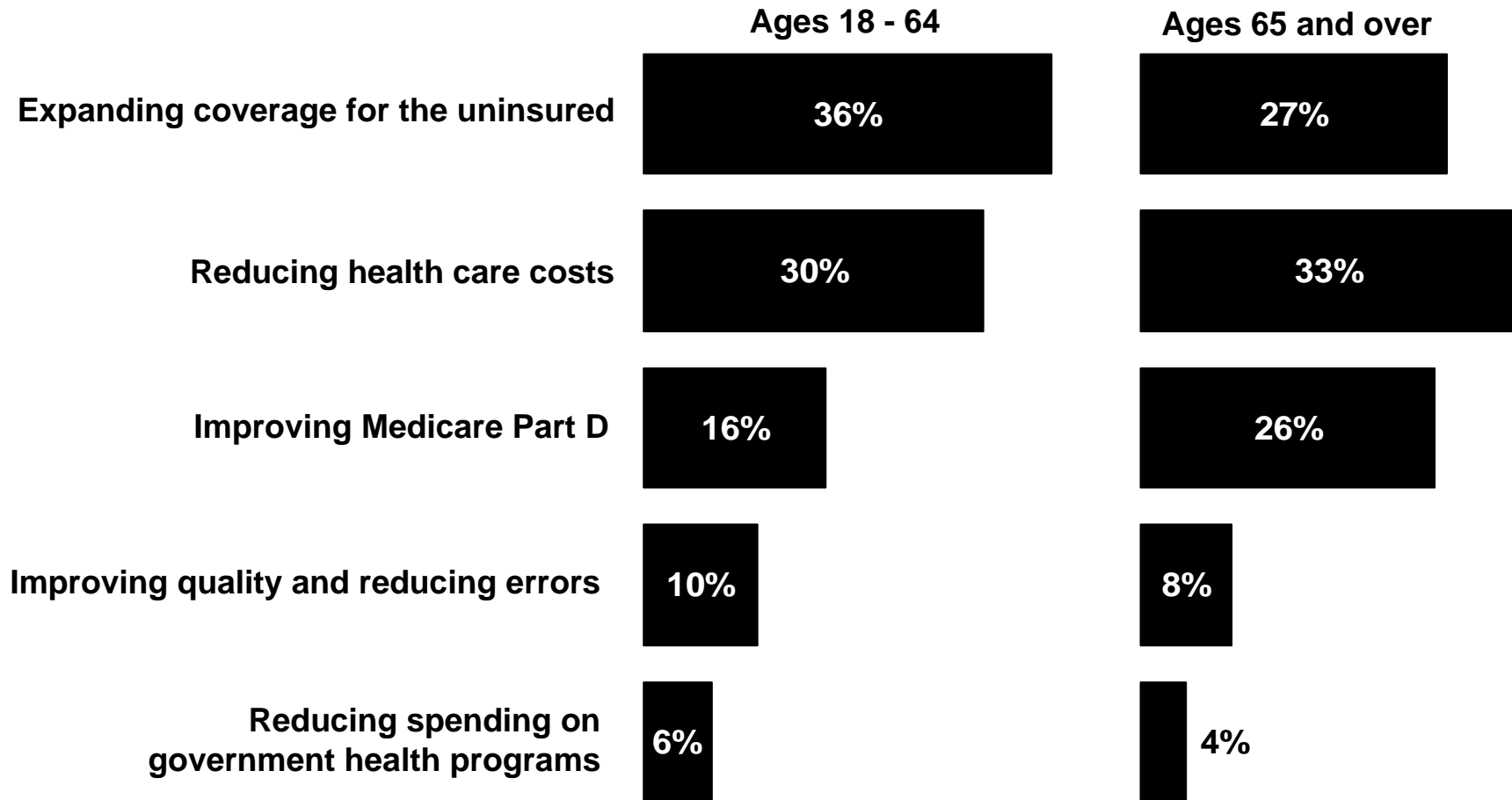
Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

Full question wording and all results are available separately at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

Chart 1

# Health Care Agenda for Congress and President – By Age

If you had to pick ONE of the following health care issues for the president and Congress to work on next year, which would it be?



Note: Asked of half sample. "Don't know/refused" and "None of these" responses not shown

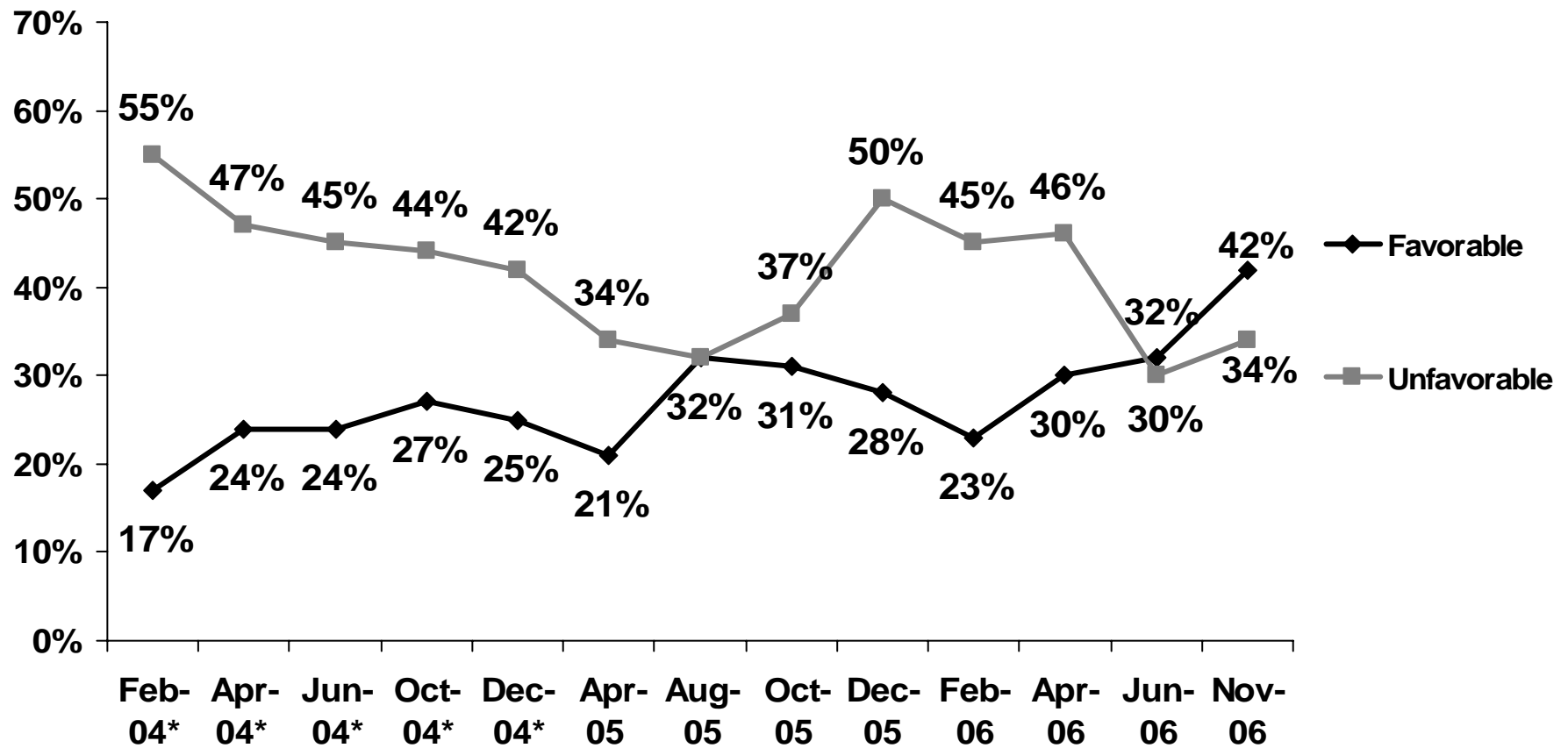
Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 2

# 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?



\*Question prior to Apr-05 referred to "new Medicare prescription drug law".

Note: The increase in the percent saying "favorable" is statistically significant between Jun-06 and Nov-06.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

Chart 3

## Enrollees More Positive Toward Benefit

As you may know, a new prescription drug benefit is now available for people on Medicare. Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit?

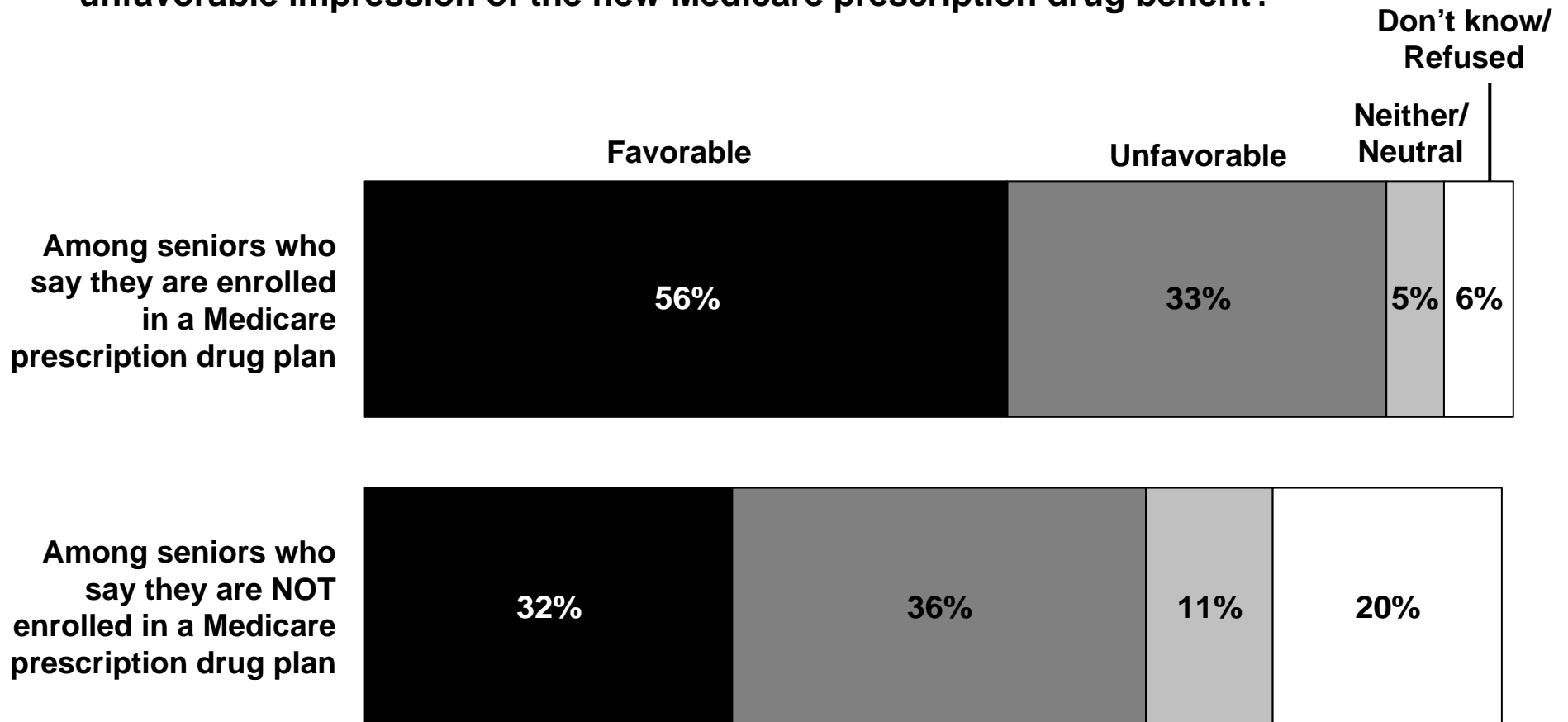
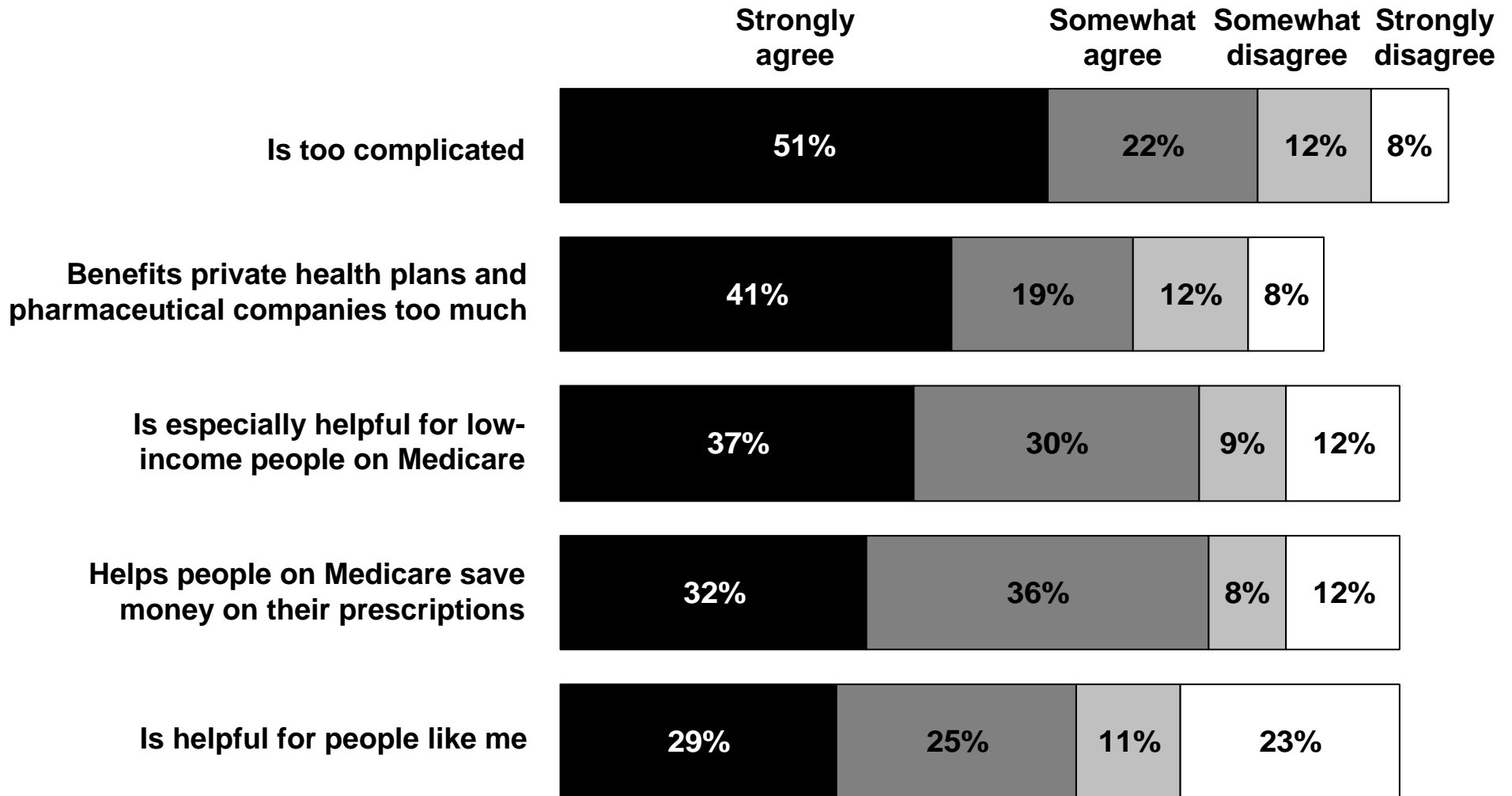


Chart 4

# Medicare Part D: Complicated, but Saves Money

Percent of seniors who agree or disagree that the Medicare prescription drug benefit...



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

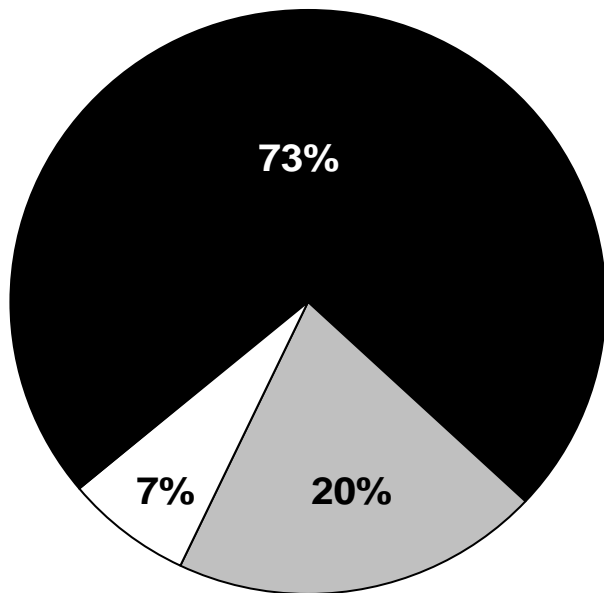
Chart 5

# Seniors, Pharmacists and Doctors Agree: Too Complex

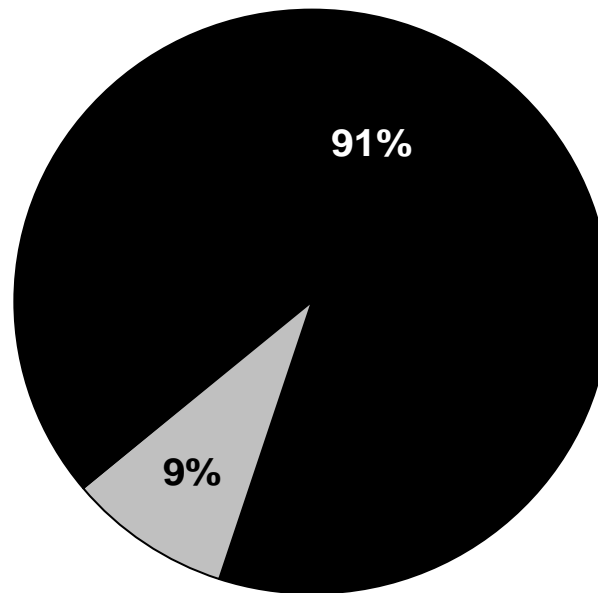
Percent who agree or disagree that the Medicare prescription drug benefit is too complicated

■ Agree    ■ Disagree    □ Don't know/Refused

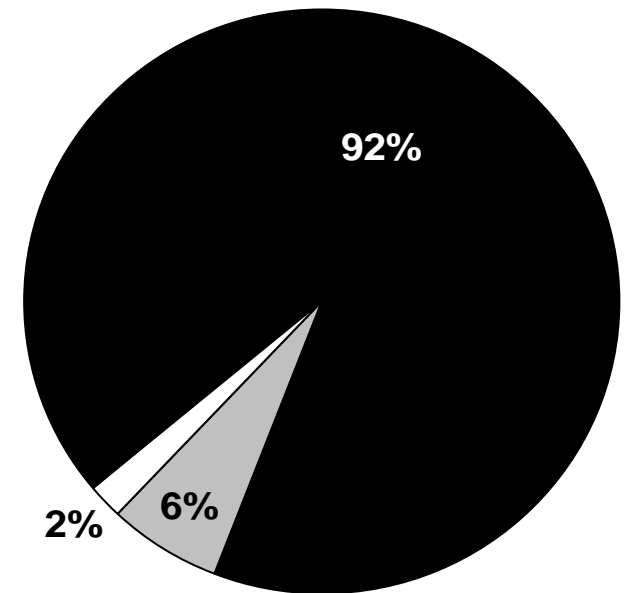
Ages 65 and over



Pharmacists



Doctors



Source for seniors: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Source for pharmacists: Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey of Pharmacists* (conducted April 21-June 27, 2006)

Source for doctors: Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey of Physicians* (conducted April 25-July 8, 2006)

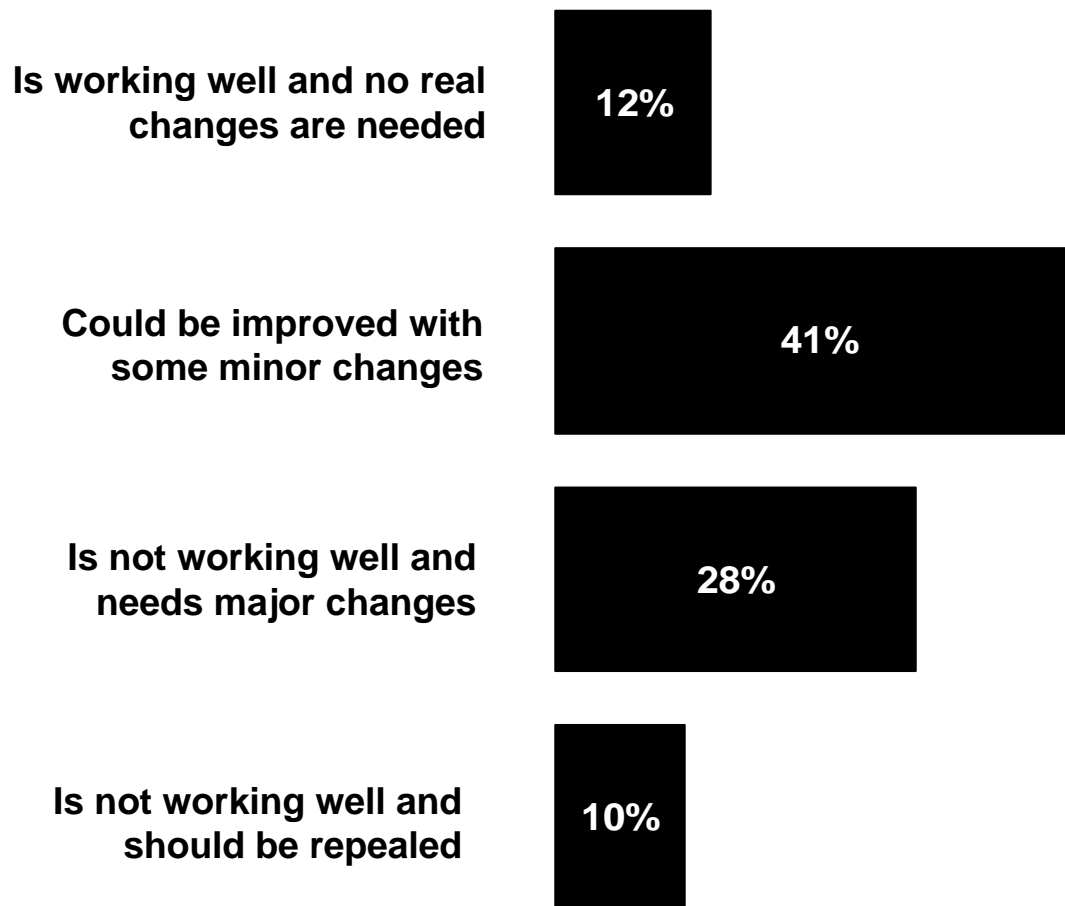
Chart 6

# Message to Congress About Medicare Part D

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AMONG SENIORS:

Overall, what message would you send to policymakers in Washington regarding the new Medicare drug benefit?



Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

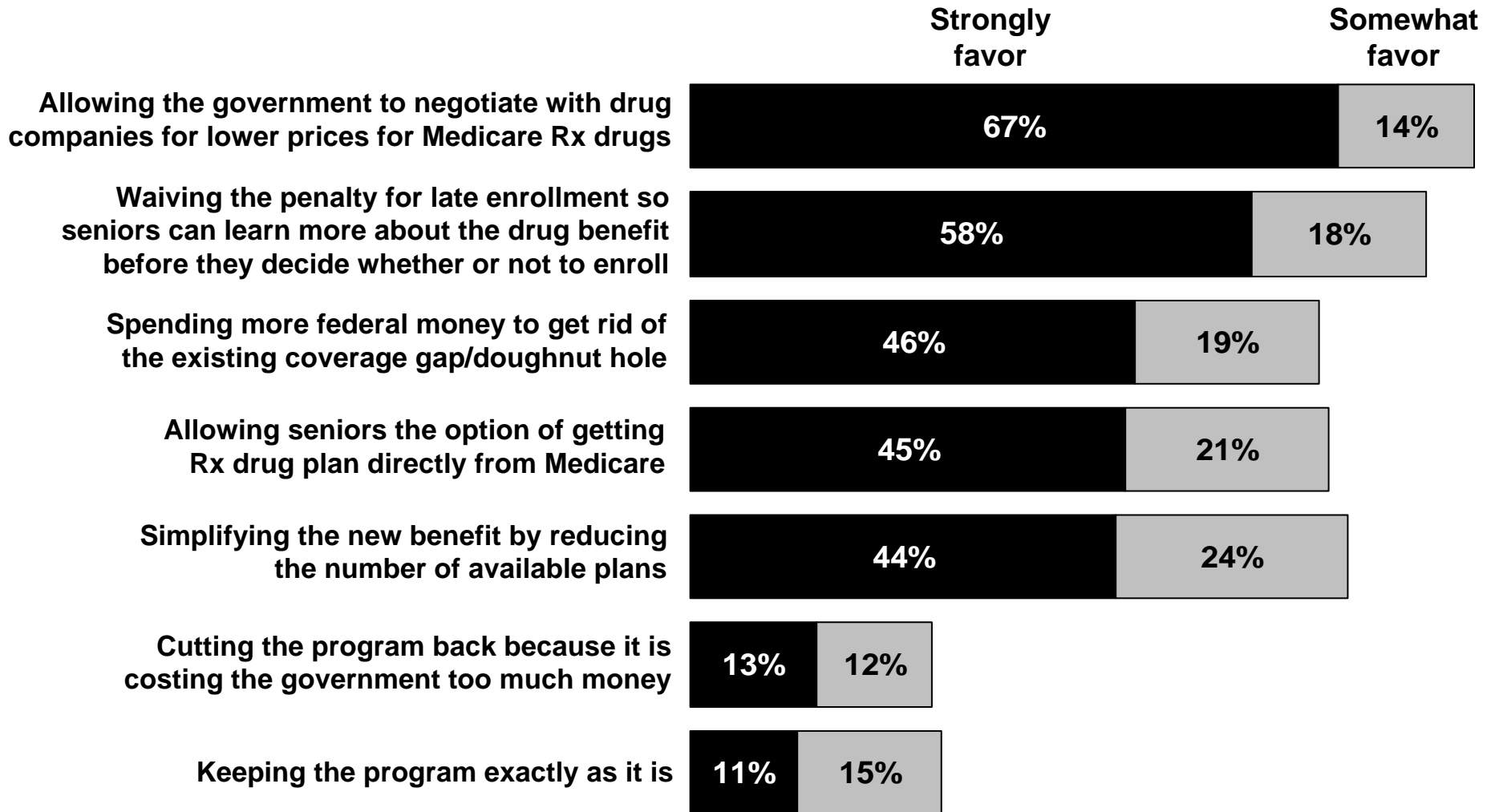
Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)



Chart 7

# Proposals to Change Medicare Part D

Percent of seniors who favor each of the following:



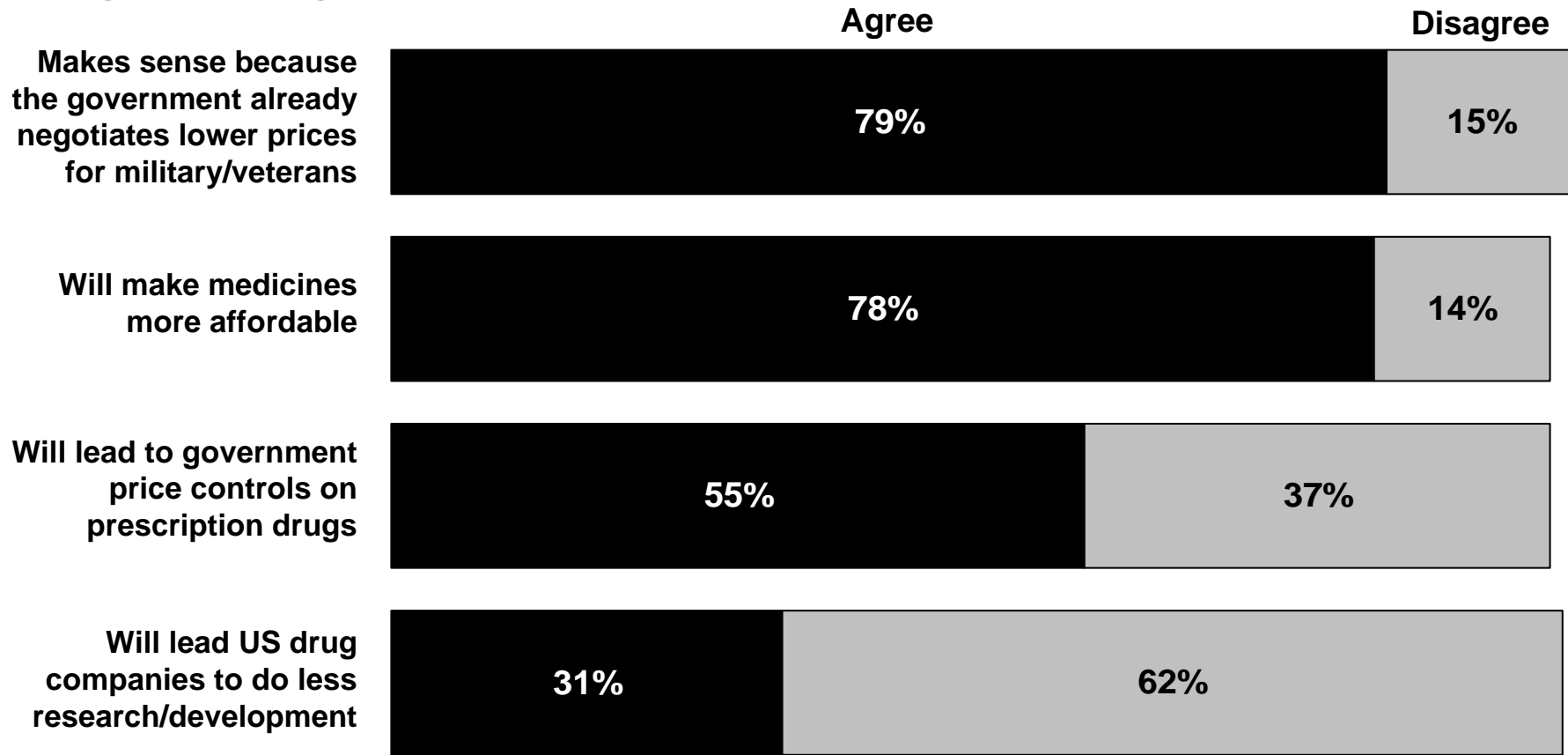
Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 8

# Opinions on Drug Price Negotiation

AMONG SENIORS:

The following is a list of things some people have said about allowing the federal government to use its buying power to negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for people on Medicare. Please tell me if you agree or disagree.



Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

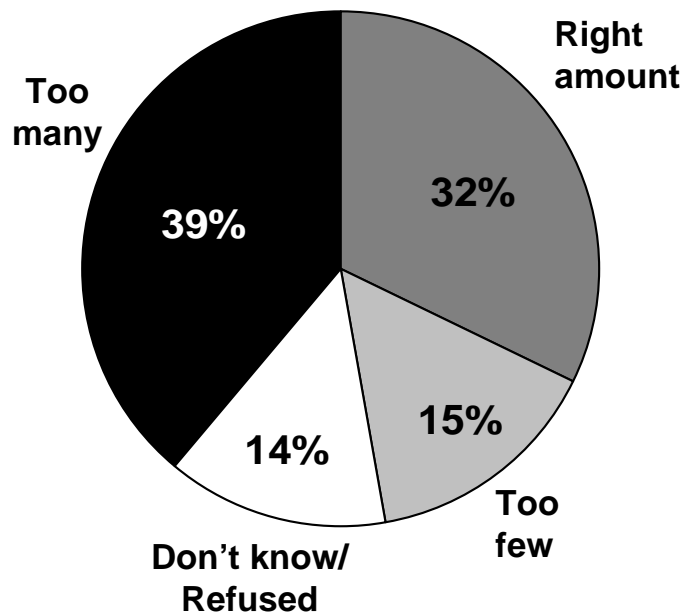
Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

Chart 9

# Seniors' Opinions on Medicare Prescription Drug Plans

ASKED OF SENIORS ONLY:

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



Would you say there are important differences among the Medicare drug plans now available, or do you think they are all basically the same?

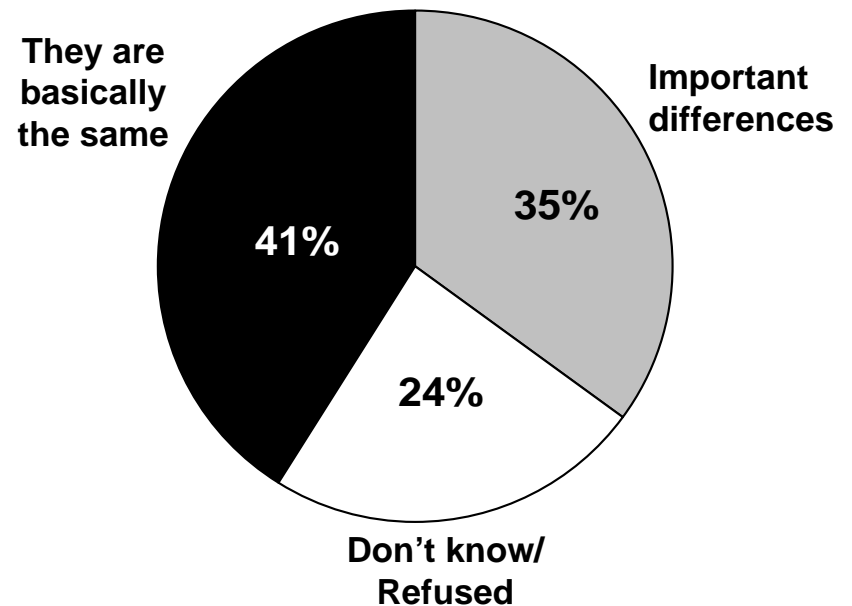


Chart 10

# Support for Limiting Plan Choice

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ASKED OF SENIORS ONLY:

Which statement better reflects your opinion?

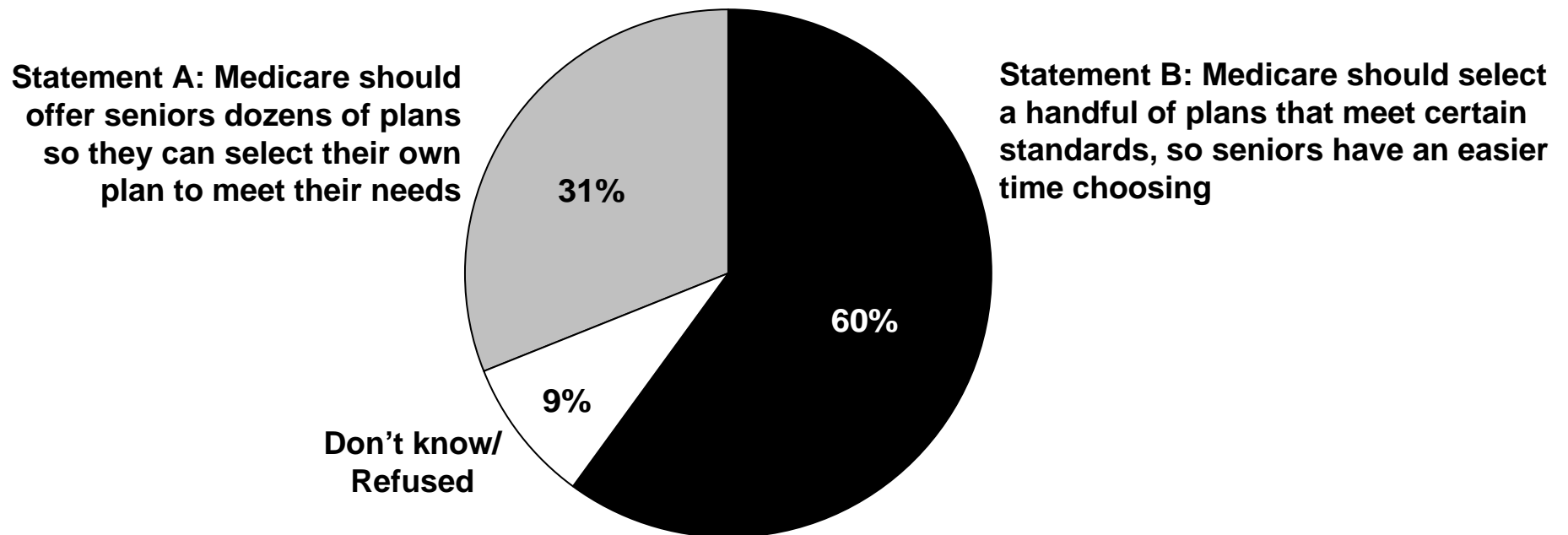
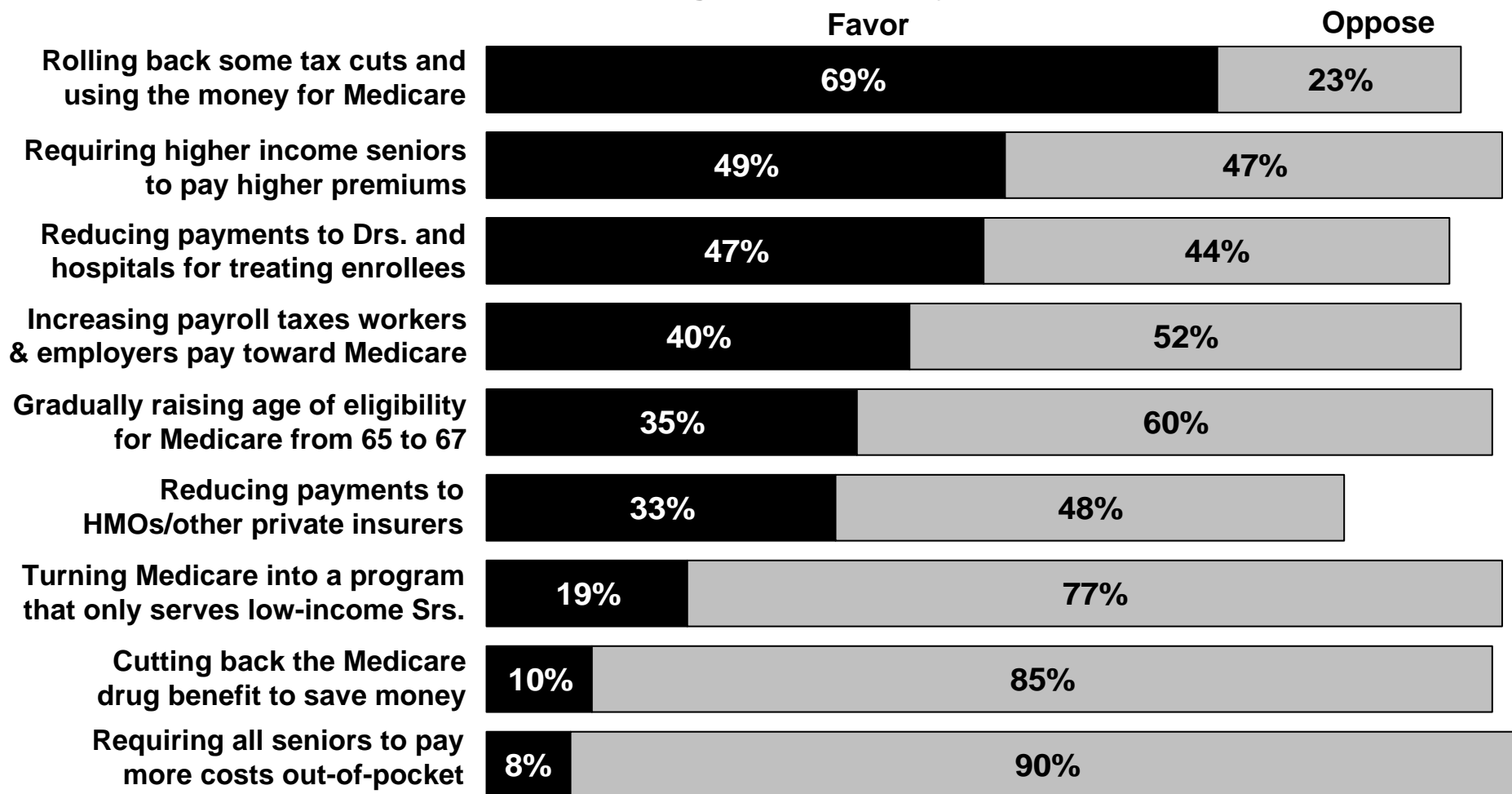


Chart 11

# Proposals to Keep Medicare Financially Stable

AMONG SENIORS:

Please tell me whether you would generally favor or oppose the following proposals to keep the Medicare program financially sound in the future.



Note: "Don't know/refused" responses not shown

Source: KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New Congress and Presidential Campaign* (conducted November 9-19, 2006)

**Enrolled Seniors'  
Experiences With Their  
Drug Plans**

Chart 12

# Seniors' Reported Satisfaction With Drug Plan

AMONG SENIORS WHO SAY THEY ARE ENROLLED IN A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN:

All in all, have your experiences using your new Medicare drug plan been...

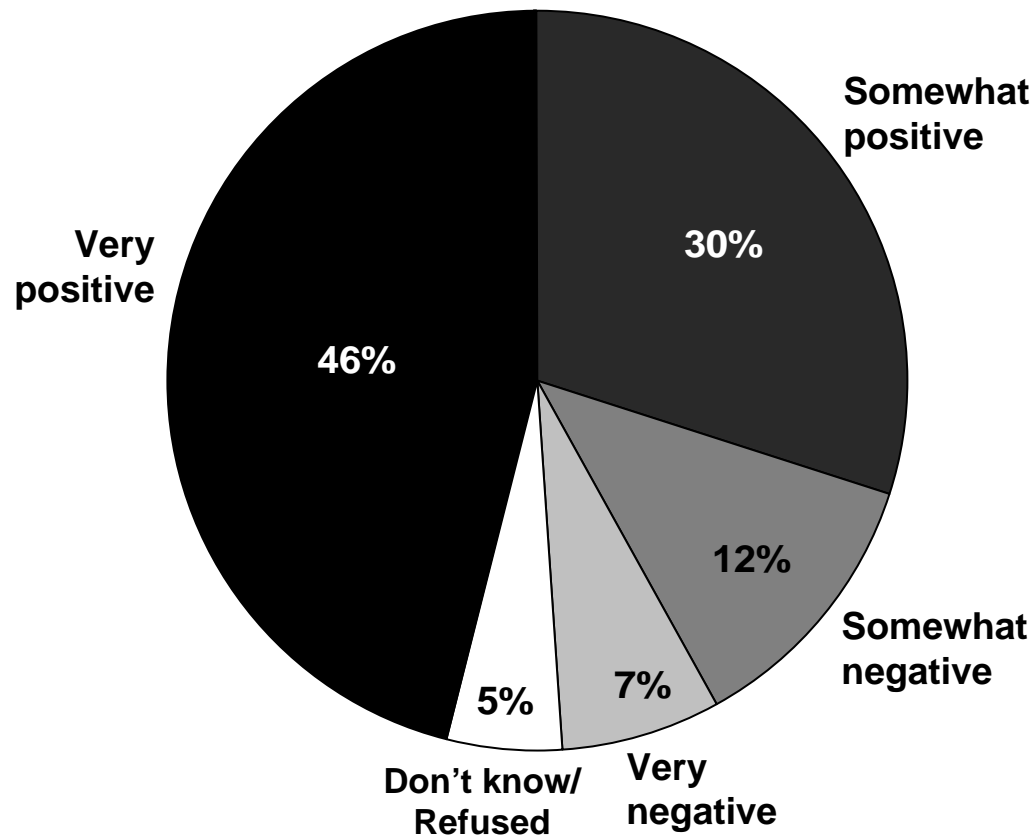


Chart 13

## Medicare Part D: Personally Helpful?

AMONG SENIORS WHO SAY THEY ARE ENROLLED IN A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN:

**Percent who agree or disagree that the Medicare prescription drug benefit is helpful for people like them**

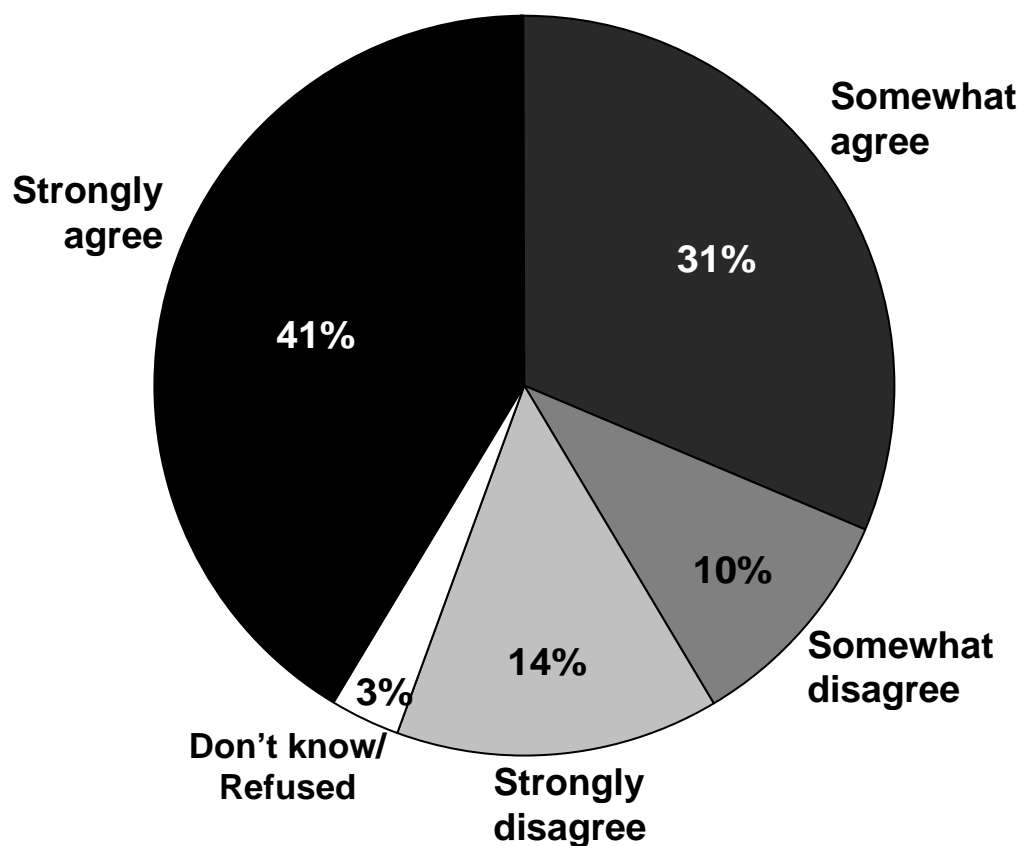


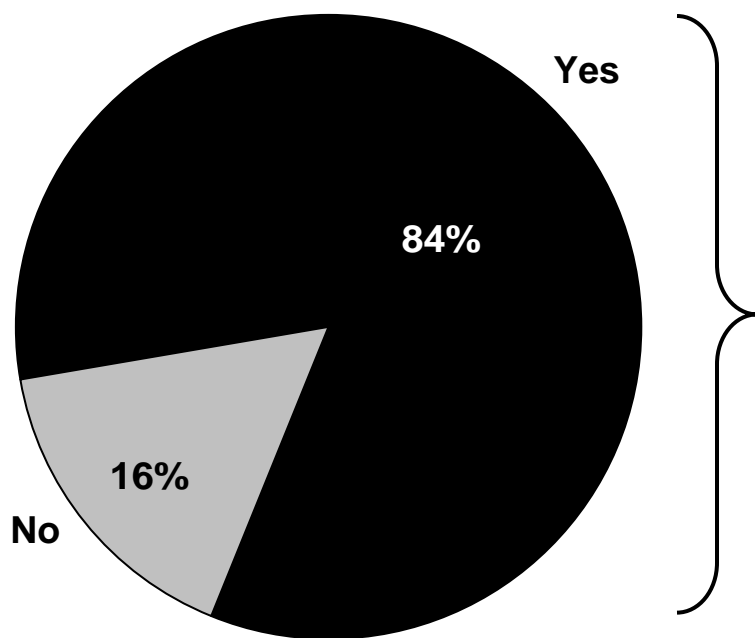


Chart 14

# Seniors' Reported Use and Cost Savings

AMONG SENIORS WHO SAY THEY ARE ENROLLED IN A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN:

**Have you tried to fill any prescriptions under your new Medicare drug plan yet?**



AMONG SENIORS WHO SAY THEY HAVE USED THEIR DRUG PLANS:

**Compared to what you paid for prescriptions last year, are you now saving money, paying more or paying about the same overall for your prescriptions?**

Saving money (includes 26% who say they are saving "a lot" of money)

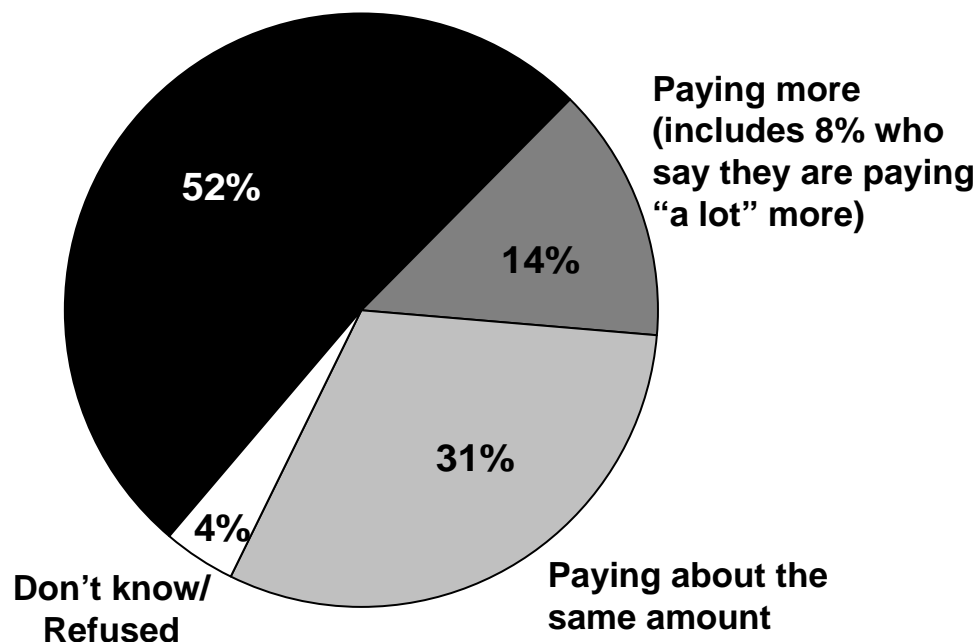


Chart 15

# Reported Problems with Medicare Drug Plans

AMONG SENIORS WHO SAY THEY ARE ENROLLED IN A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN:

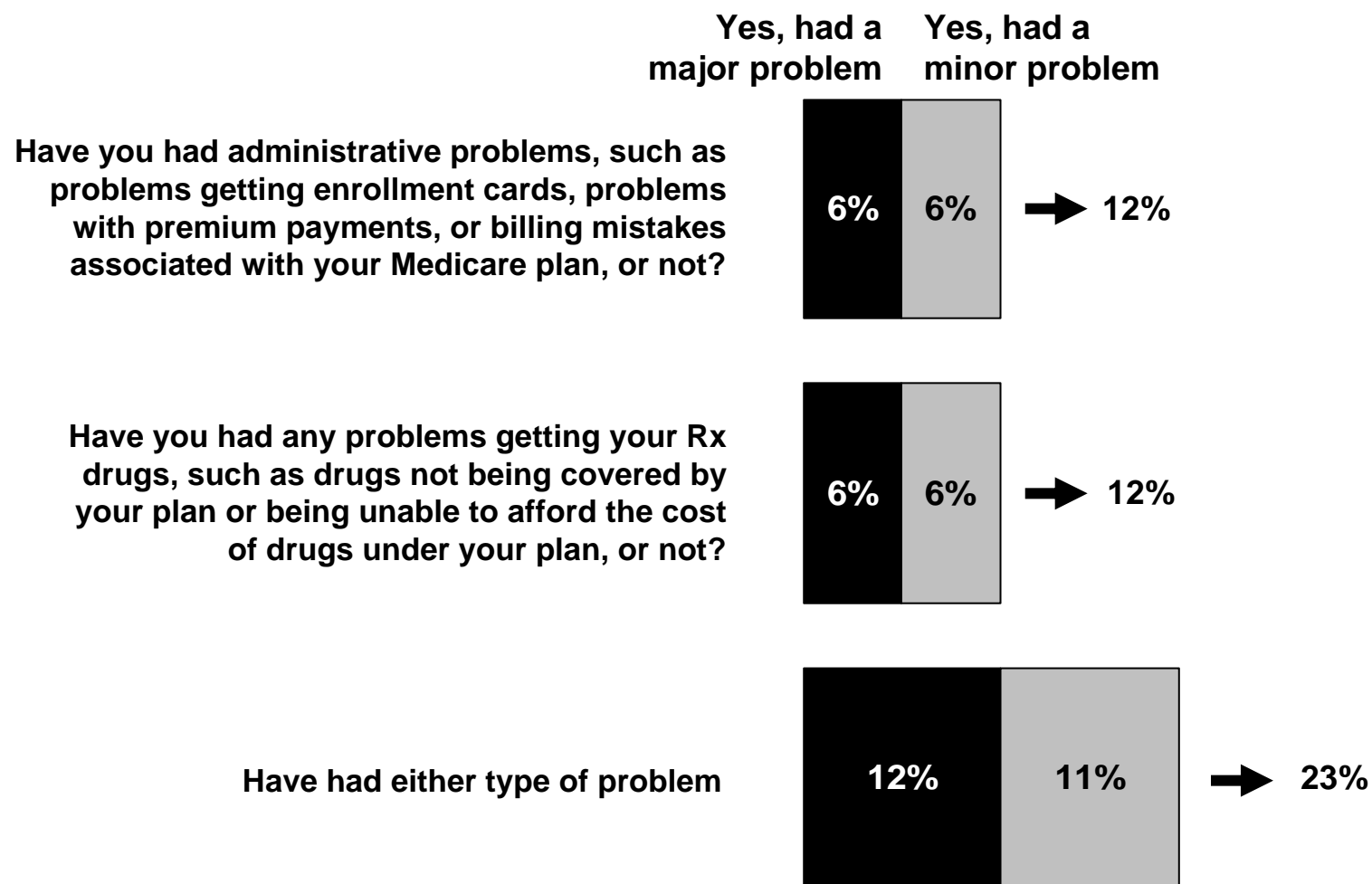


Chart 16

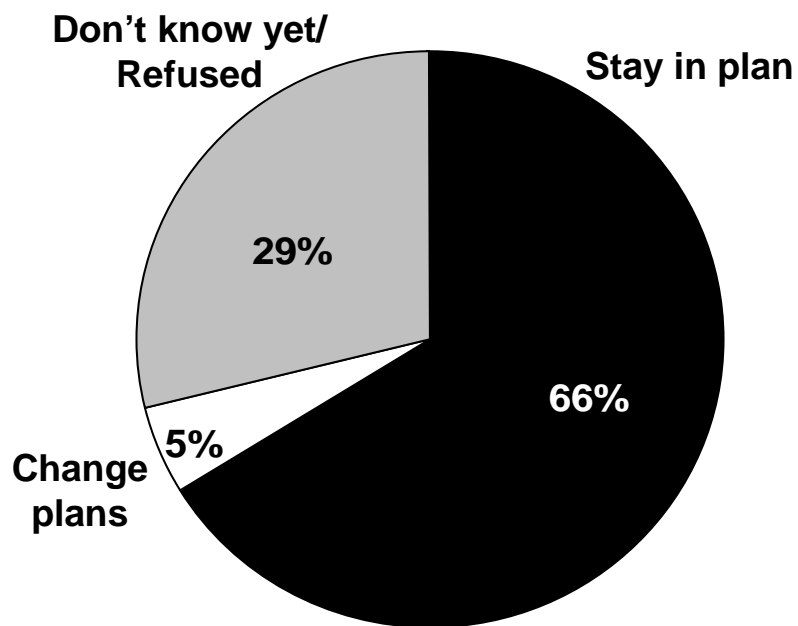
# Most Seniors Staying in Same Plan

AMONG SENIORS WHO SAY THEY ARE ENROLLED IN A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN:

Are you planning to stay in the same plan next year, planning to change plans, or don't you know yet?

AMONG THOSE WHO SAY THEY WILL STAY IN THEIR PLAN:

Is the following a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why you're staying with your current plan?



Percent saying "major reason"

You are satisfied with your plan

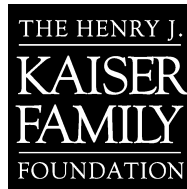
78%

It's too much trouble to compare and choose another

36%

You didn't know you could switch to another plan

14%



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