



Chartpack

## ***Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: May 2011***

May 2011

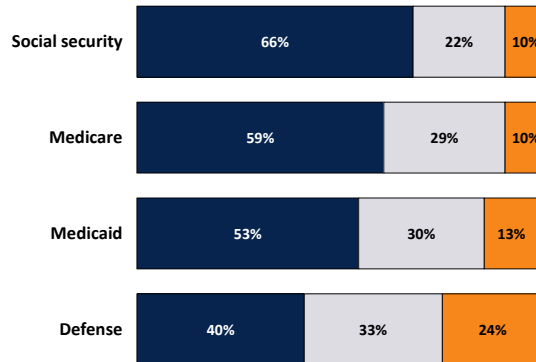
---

SLIDE 1

## Little Appetite for Spending Reductions to Reduce Deficit

For each area I name, please tell me if you would support major spending reductions, minor spending reductions or no reductions at all as a way to reduce the federal deficit.

■ NO reductions    □ Support MINOR reductions    ■ Support MAJOR reductions



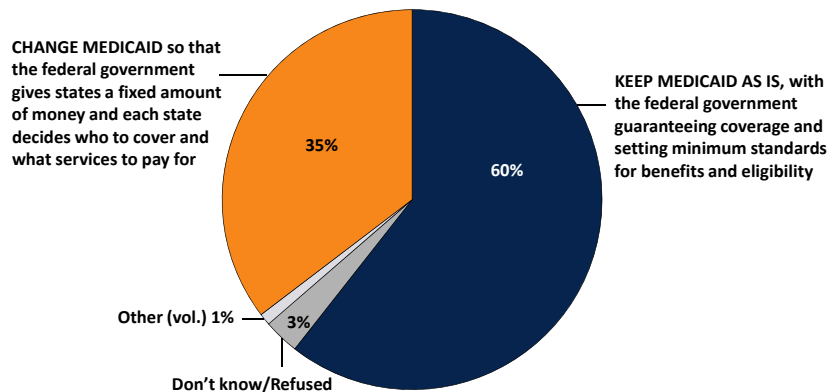
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



SLIDE 2

## Reaction to Medicaid Block Grant Proposal

Under the current Medicaid program, the federal government guarantees health care coverage and long-term care for certain low-income people. The program is paid for by the federal and state governments. Each state administers its own Medicaid program with lots of state-to-state variation, but all states are required to provide coverage to anyone who meets minimum criteria set by the federal government. To reduce the budget deficit, some policymakers have suggested that the federal government reduce its Medicaid spending by giving each state a fixed amount of money and eliminating federal minimum standards for Medicaid. Which would you prefer:



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Opinions of Block Grant Somewhat Malleable With Arguments

Which would you prefer: **Keep Medicaid as is**, with the federal government guaranteeing coverage and setting minimum standards for benefits and eligibility, OR **Change Medicaid** so that the federal government gives states a fixed amount of money and each state decides who to cover and what services to pay for<sup>1</sup>.



**THOSE WHO WANT TO KEEP MEDICAID AS IS WERE ASKED:**  
Those who favor this change say it will help reduce the federal budget deficit and give states greater flexibility to tailor their Medicaid programs to match their residents' needs and their own state budgets. After hearing this argument, would you still prefer to keep Medicare as it is today, or would you now prefer changing it?

**Results for total after subset heard follow-up argument:**



**THOSE WHO WANT TO CHANGE MEDICAID WERE ASKED:**  
Opponents of this change say it will increase the number of uninsured, increase financial pressure on states and health care providers, and cause more low-income people to go without health care and long-term care services, particularly during tough economic times. After hearing this argument, would you still prefer to change Medicaid, or would you now prefer to keep it as is today?

**Results for total after subset heard follow-up argument:**

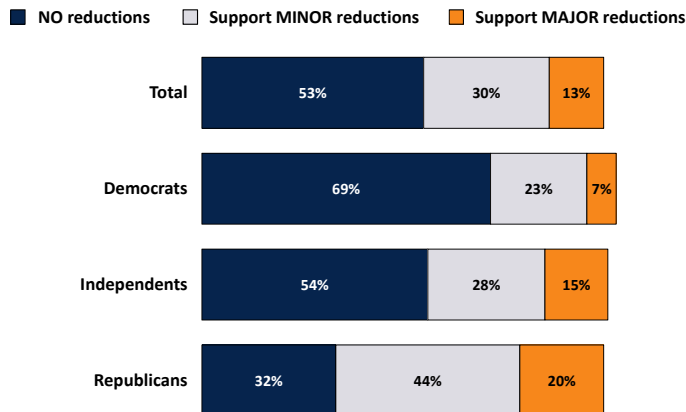


<sup>1</sup>See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8190.cfm> for full question wording. <sup>2</sup>"Change Medicaid" includes those who initially responded "Change" along with those who switched their response after hearing the follow up. <sup>3</sup>"Keep Medicaid as is" includes those who initially answered "Keep" along with those who switched their response after hearing the follow up. Note: Other (vol.) and Don't know/Refused responses not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Partisan Differences in Willingness to Reduce Medicaid Spending

To reduce the federal deficit, would support major reductions, minor reductions or no reductions to spending on Medicaid?



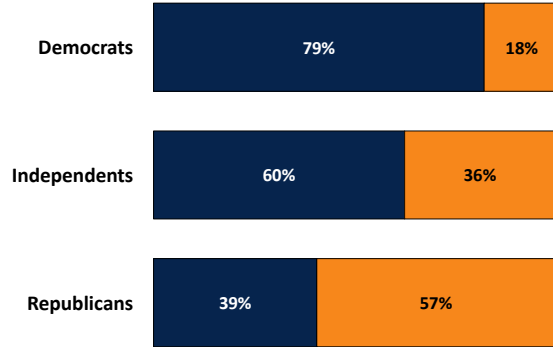
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Reaction to Medicaid Block Grant Proposal by Political Party Self Identification

Would prefer you to...\*

- **KEEP MEDICAID AS IS**, with the federal government guaranteeing coverage and setting minimum standards for benefits and eligibility
- **CHANGE MEDICAID** so that the federal government gives states a fixed amount of money and each state decides who to cover and what services to pay for

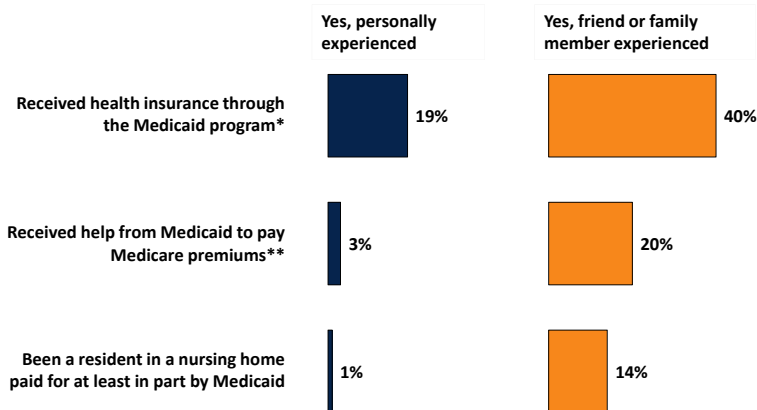


\* See Topline: <http://www.kaiser.org/kaiserpolls/8190.cfm> for complete question wording. Note: Other (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Reported Personal Connections to Medicaid

Percent who say they or a friend or family member have ever:



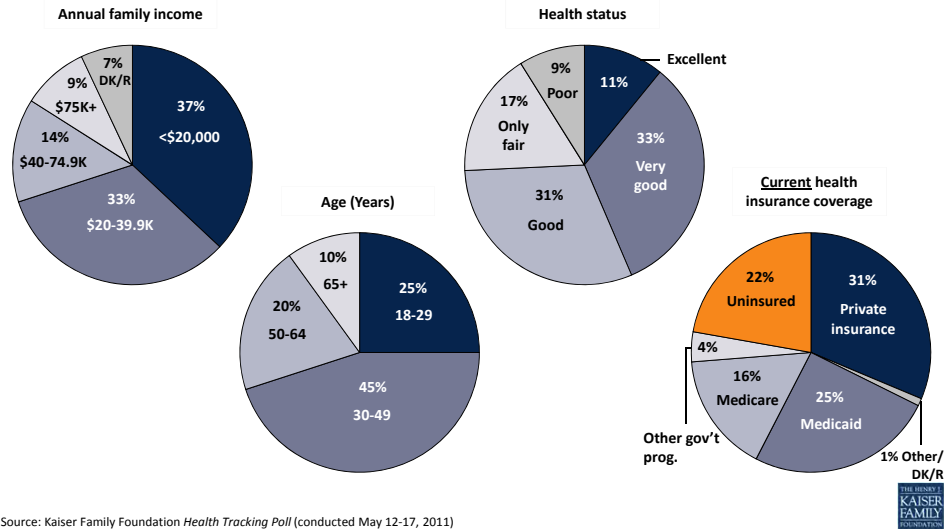
\* Respondents were asked about health insurance received through "the Medicaid program, which may also be known in your state as (INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC NAME)," since actual Medicaid program names and insurance options vary from state to state.

\*\* Question about "yourself!" only asked of those ages 65 and over or currently covered by Medicare. Result shown based on total population. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



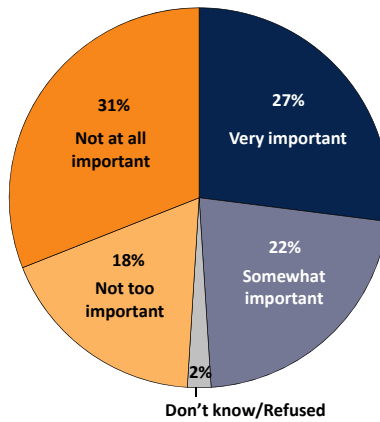
## Demographic Profile of Those Who Report Ever Receiving Medicaid Benefits

Among the 20% who say they have ever received health insurance, long-term care, or Medicare premium assistance from Medicaid, percent who fall into the following categories:



## Importance of Medicaid

[Next, I'd like to ask you some more questions about Medicaid, which is the government program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain low-income adults and children.]  
How important for you and your family is the Medicaid program?

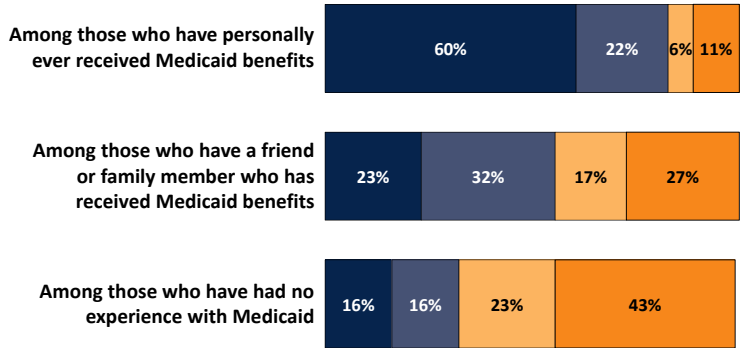


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)

## Importance of Medicaid by Level of Personal Connection

[Next, I'd like to ask you some more questions about Medicaid, which is the government program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain low-income adults and children.]  
 How important for you and your family is the Medicaid program?

■ Very important  
 ■ Somewhat important  
 ■ Not too important  
 ■ Not at all important



Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)

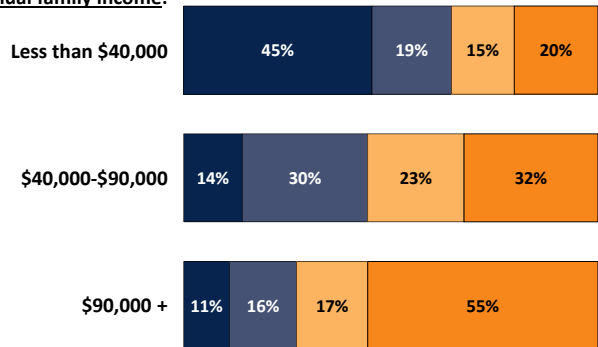


## Importance of Medicaid by Income

[Next, I'd like to ask you some more questions about Medicaid, which is the government program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain low-income adults and children.]  
 How important for you and your family is the Medicaid program?

■ Very important  
 ■ Somewhat important  
 ■ Not too important  
 ■ Not at all important

**Annual family income:**



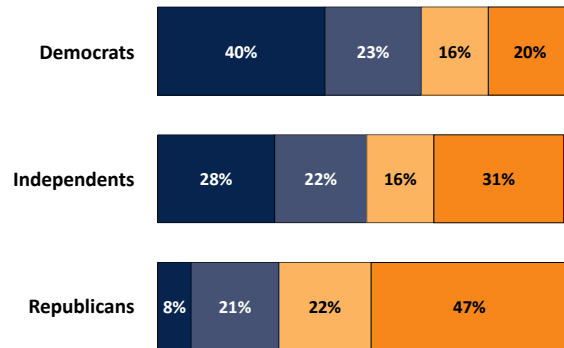
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Importance of Medicaid by Political Party Self-Identification

[Next, I'd like to ask you some more questions about Medicaid, which is the government program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain low-income adults and children.]  
 How important for you and your family is the Medicaid program?

■ Very important   ■ Somewhat important   ■ Not too important   ■ Not at all important

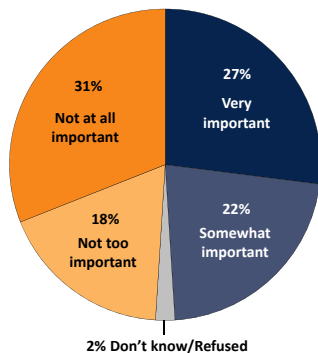


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



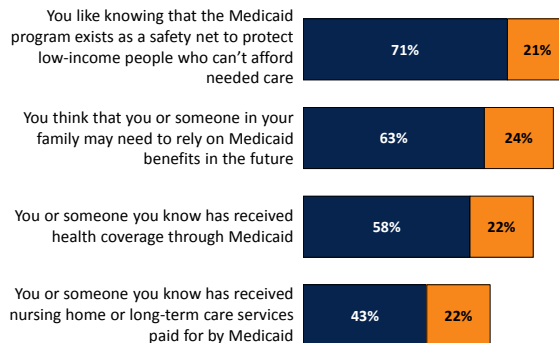
## Reasons for Medicaid's Importance

How important for you and your family is the Medicaid program?



Among the 49% who say Medicaid is "very" or "somewhat" important, percent who say each of the following is a reason:\*

■ Major reason   ■ Minor reason



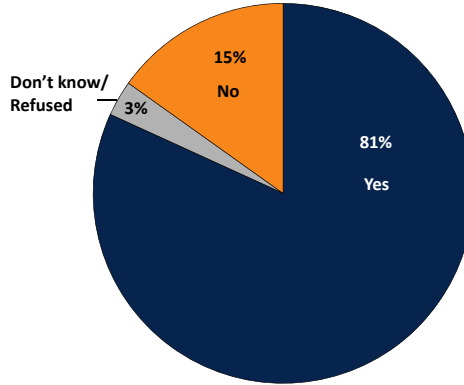
\*"Not a reason" and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



SLIDE 13

### Most Say They Would Enroll in Medicaid

If you were uninsured, needed health care, and qualified for Medicaid, would you enroll in the Medicaid program, or not?



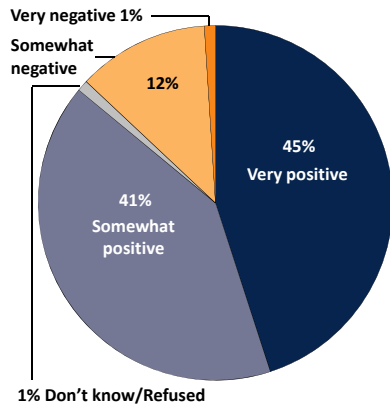
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



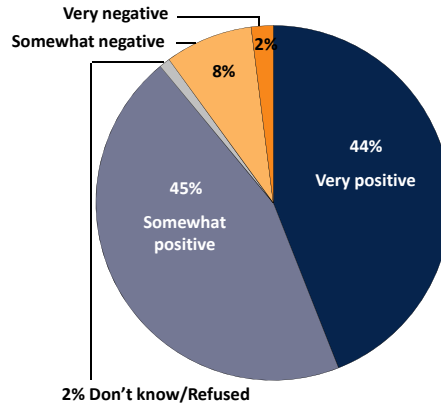
SLIDE 14

### Reported Overall Experiences With Medicaid, Private Insurance

*Among the 20% who have personally ever received Medicaid benefits: Overall, would you say your experiences with Medicaid have been...*



*Among the 55% who currently have private health insurance: Overall, would you say your experiences with your current health insurance plan have been...*

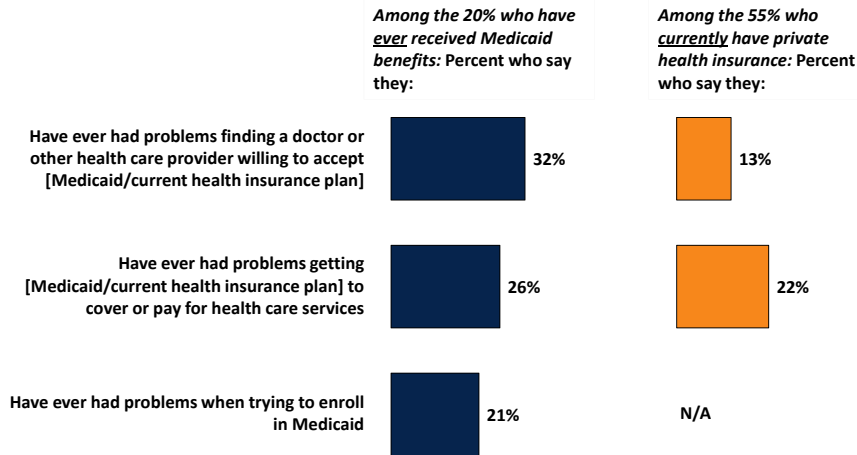


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)





## Reported Problems With Medicaid (Ever), Private Insurance (Current Plan)

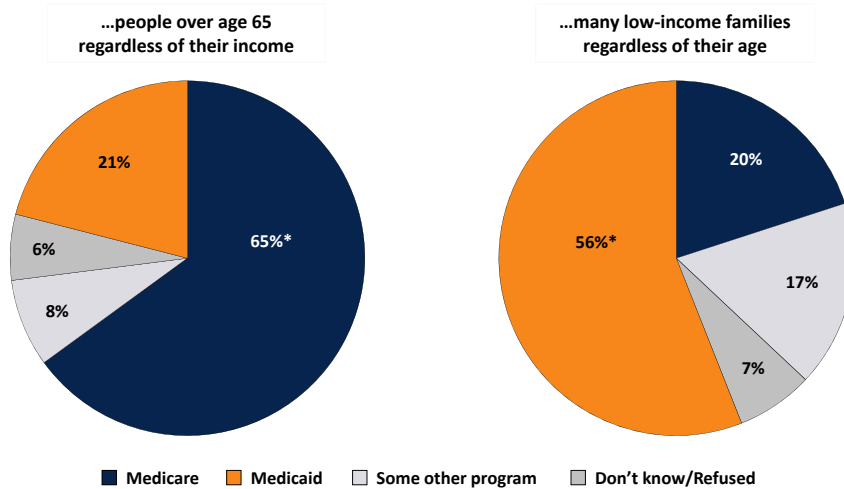


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Basic Knowledge of Government Health Programs

To the best of your knowledge, which of the following government programs is the primary source of health insurance for...



\* Indicates correct answer.

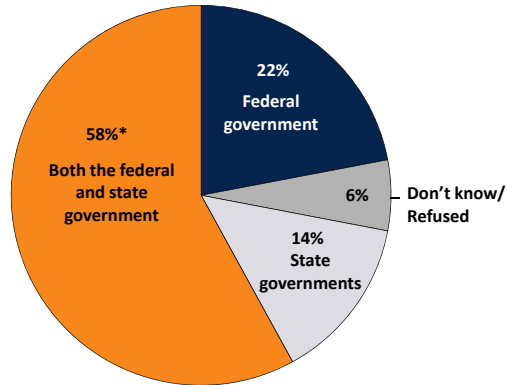
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



SLIDE 17

## Knowledge About Sources of Medicaid Funding

To the best of your knowledge, who currently pays for the Medicaid program—the federal government, state governments, or both federal and state governments?



\* Indicates correct answer.

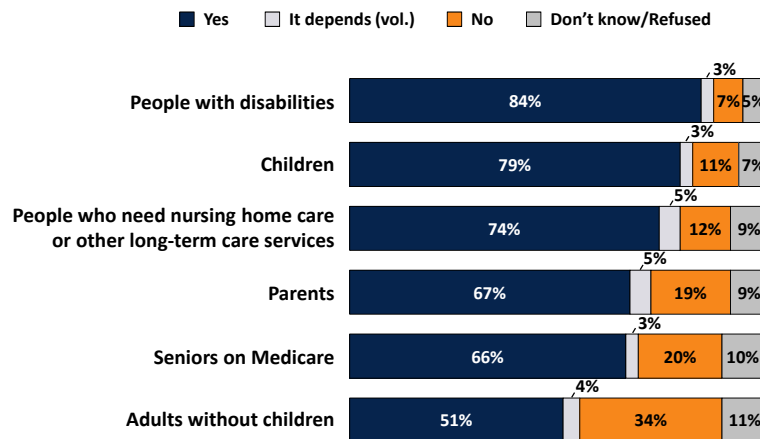
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



SLIDE 18

## Perceptions About Medicaid Eligibility

As far as you know, who among the low-income population is eligible to qualify for the Medicaid program? Are LOW-INCOME (insert item) eligible, or not?

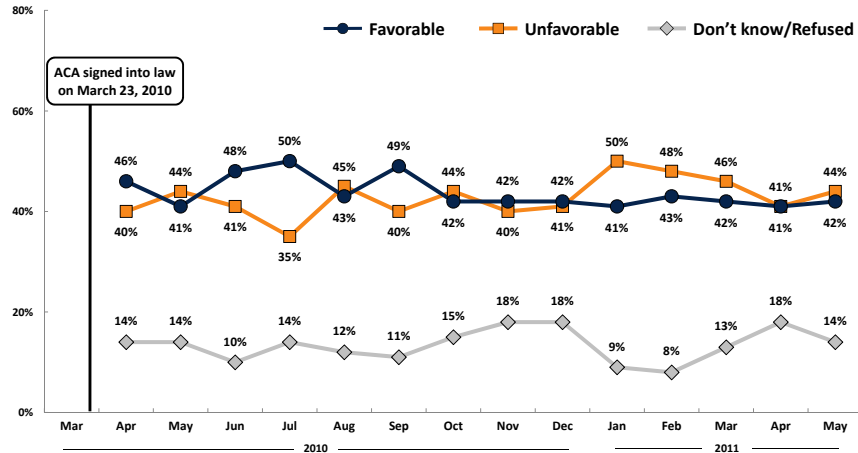


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Views on Health Reform Remain Divided

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?

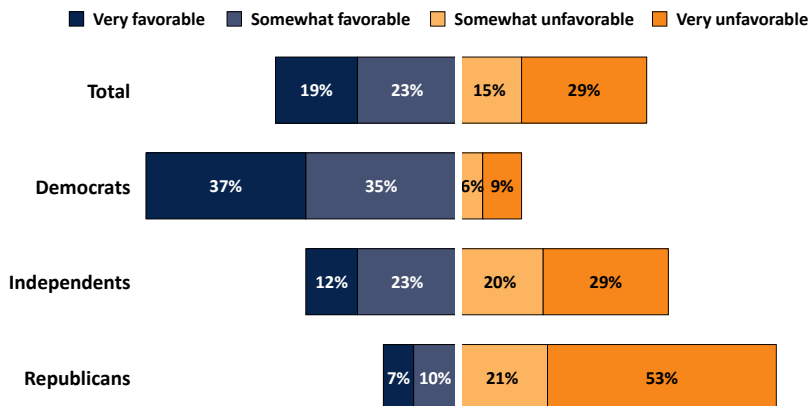


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



## Views on Health Reform Law Differ Sharply by Party Self-Identification

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?



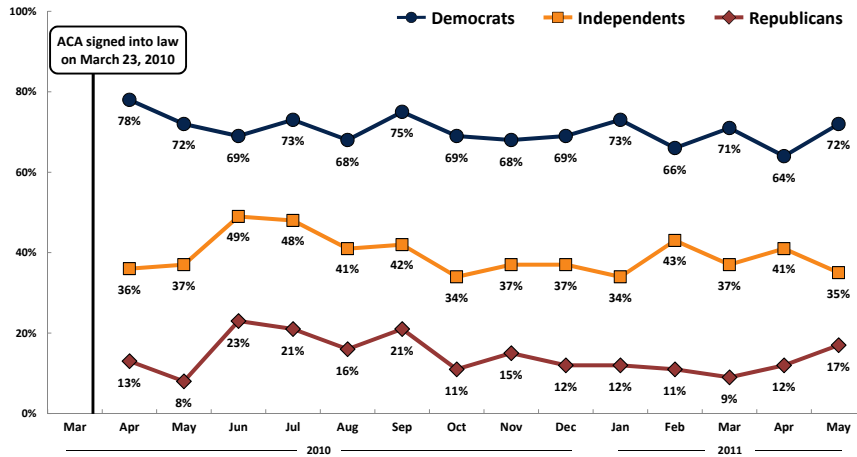
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



SLIDE 21

## Partisan Disagreement Over ACA Continues

Percent who say they have a favorable opinion of the health reform law:



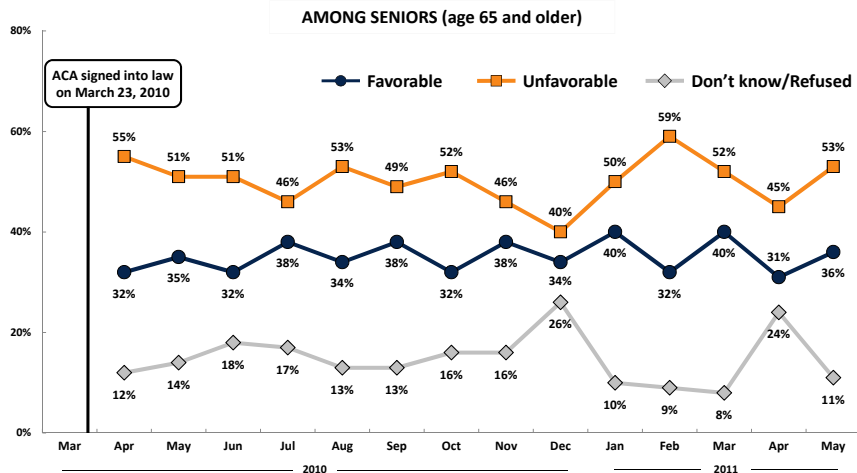
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



SLIDE 22

## Half of Seniors Have Unfavorable View of Law

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?

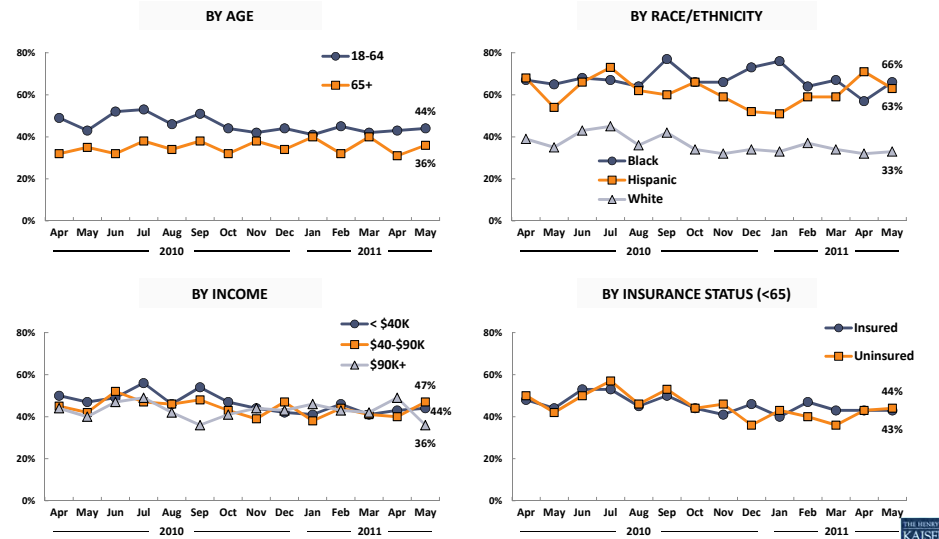


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



## Favorability of the ACA Among Key Subgroups

Percent who say they have a favorable opinion of the health reform law:

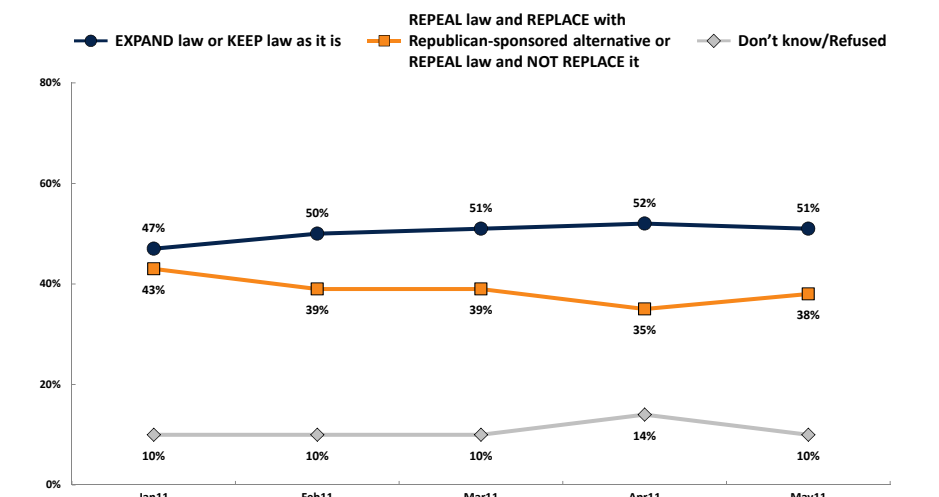


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



## Half Want Health Care Law Kept As Is or Expanded

What would you like to see Congress do when it comes to the health care law?

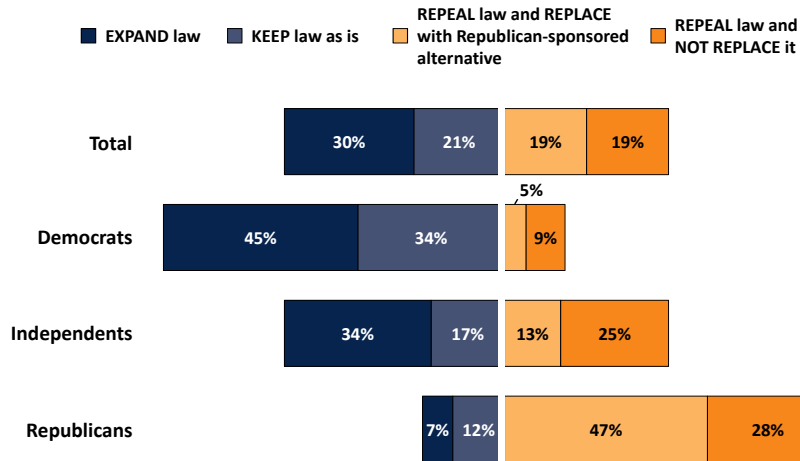


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



## Partisan Divisions as to 'What Next' for Health Reform

What would you like to see Congress do when it comes to the health care law?

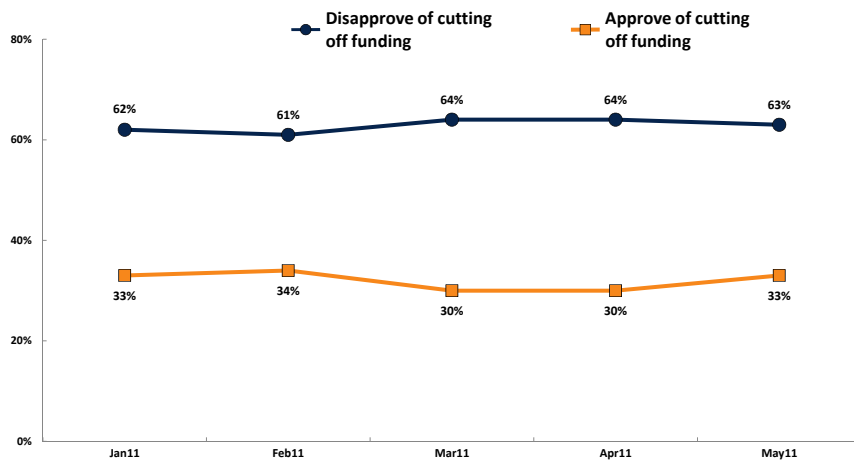


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Two Thirds Consistently Disapprove of Cutting Funding to Health Reform

Whether or not you like the health reform law, would you say you approve or disapprove of cutting off funding as a way to stop some or all of health reform from being put into place?

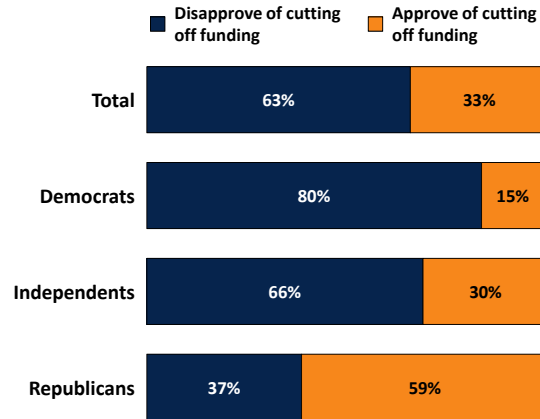


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



## Partisan Divide Over Cutting off ACA Funding

Whether or not you like the health reform law, would you say you approve or disapprove of cutting off funding as a way to stop some or all of health reform from being put into place?

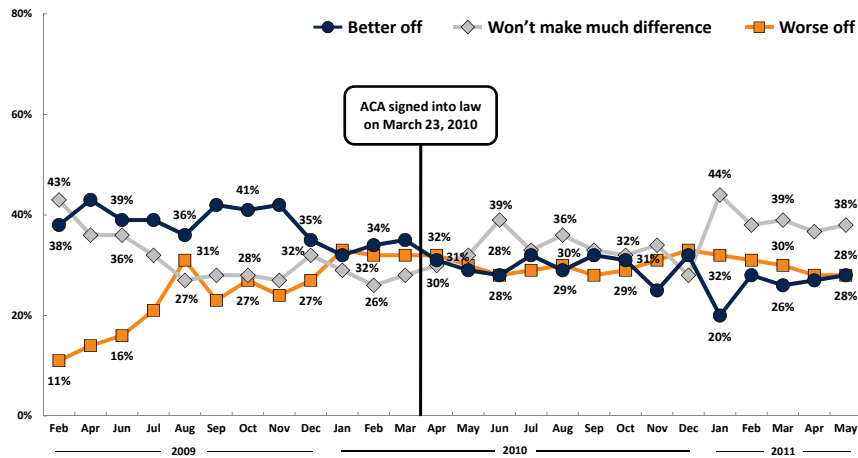


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Public Split on Personal Impact of Law

Do you think you and your family will be better off or worse off under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference?



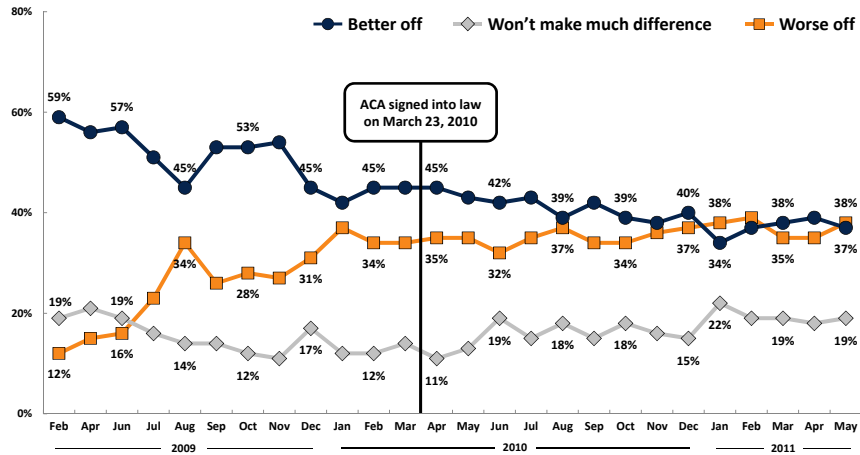
Note: "Depends" (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



SLIDE 29

## No Agreement as to Whether Country Will Benefit

Do you think the country as a whole will be better off or worse off under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference?



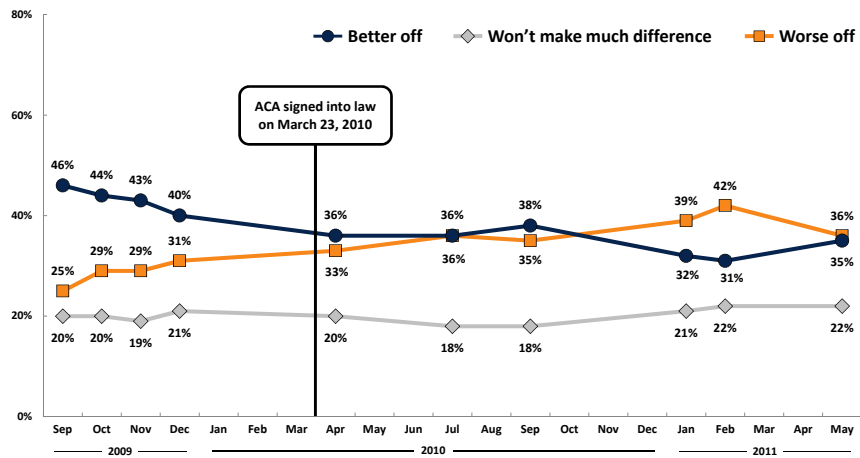
Note: "Depends" (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



SLIDE 30

## Divided on Health Care Reform's Impact on Seniors

Do you think seniors, that is those ages 65 and older, will be better off or worse off under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference?



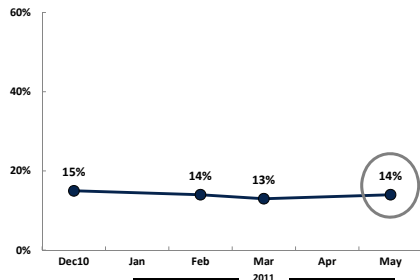
Note: "Depends" (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls





## Better Access to Care Most Commonly Cited Benefit of Law

Percent who say they or their family have personally benefited from the health reform law:



*Among the 14% who say they have benefited from the health reform law: In what ways would you say you have benefited from the health reform law?*

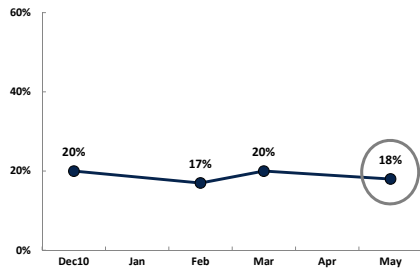
Benefit	Percent who mentioned
Access to health care	42%
Lower health care costs	16
Extension of dependent coverage	15
Health reform will help in general	5
Help for seniors/close Medicare doughnut hole	4
Help dealing with pre-existing conditions	3

Note: Only responses of 3% or more shown. "Other" and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Cost Most Frequently Cited Negative Effect of Law

Percent who say they or their family have been negatively affected by the health reform law:



*Among the 18% who say they have been negatively affected by the health reform law: In what ways would you say you have been negatively affected by the health reform law?*

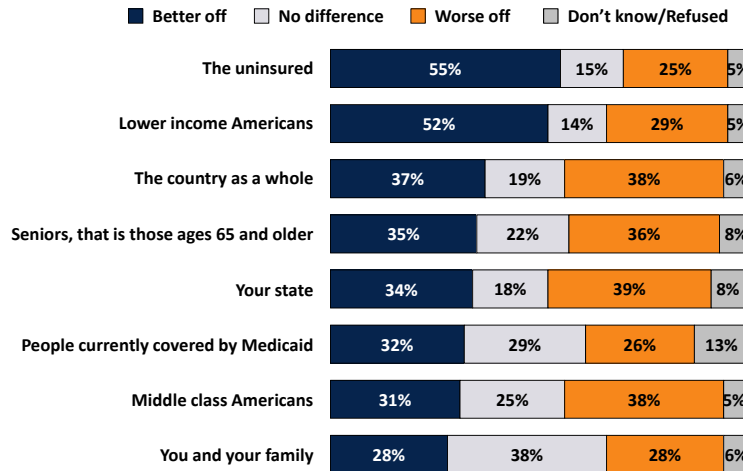
Negative Effect	Percent who mentioned
Cost	55%
Cuts to benefits/fewer options	19
Unable to get/dropped by insurance	7
Harm to Medicare/seniors	6
Angry at process/government involvement	5
Bad for providers/providers have quit	4
Declining quality of care	4

Note: Only responses of 4% or more shown. "Other" and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Which Groups Will Benefit from the ACA?

Do you think each of the following will be better off or worse off under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference?



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)



## Methodology

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Liz Hamel, Sarah Cho, and Theresa Boston. The survey was conducted May 12 through May 17, 2011, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,203 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (801) and cell phone (402, including 197 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be 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.

Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

For questions about personal and friend/family experience with Medicaid, respondents were asked about health insurance received through “the Medicaid program, which may also be known in your state as (INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC NAME),” since actual Medicaid program names and insurance options vary from state to state. For full question wording, please see the topline questionnaire: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8190.cfm>





**The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation**

Headquarters  
2400 Sand Hill Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Offices and  
Barbara Jordan Conference Center  
1330 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

**[www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)**

This publication (#8190-C) is available on the  
Kaiser Family Foundation website at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

*The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, dedicated to producing and communicating the best possible analysis and information on health issues.*