



Chartpack

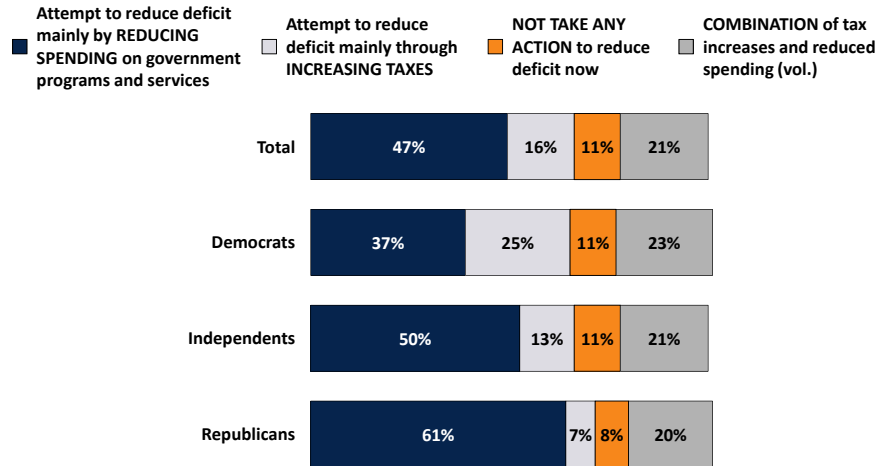
Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: June 2011

June 2011

SLIDE 1

Partisan Division Over How to Tackle Deficit

Which of the following would you prefer to see Congress do about the federal budget deficit?



Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



SLIDE 2

Most Believe Medicare Facing Financial Problems

	Which of the following four statements come closest to your own view of the Medicare program?				To the best of your knowledge, which comes closest to describing the projected financial situation of the Medicare hospital trust fund in about fifteen years if no changes are made?		
	Total public	Ages 18-64	Seniors (ages 65+)		Total public	Ages 18-64	Seniors (ages 65+)
The program is in financial crisis	29%	30%	26%	The hospital trust fund will be bankrupt and Medicare will no longer be able to pay any of the hospital bills for its enrollees	34%	35%	30%
The program has major problems, but is not in financial crisis	38	38	33	The hospital trust fund will face a shortfall, and Medicare will be able to pay for most, but not all of enrollees' hospital costs	37	39	30
The program has minor problems	21	19	31	The hospital trust fund will be financially sound and Medicare will not have problems paying hospital bills	18	16	23
The program has no problems	7	6	8	Don't know/Refused	11	10	16
Don't know/Refused	5	6	2				

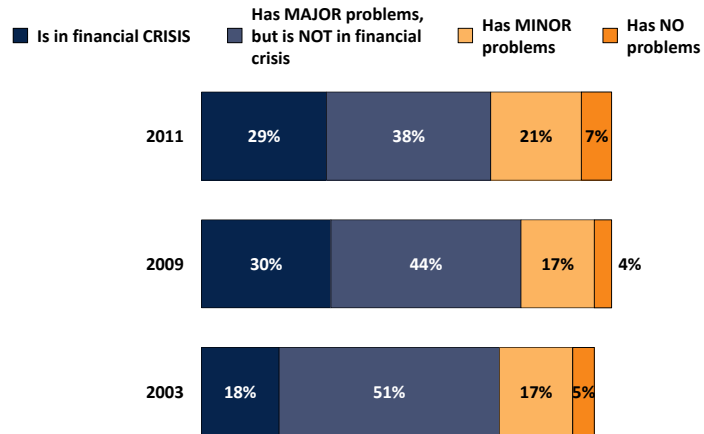
Note: Questions asked of separate half-samples.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



SLIDE 3

Two Thirds Say Medicare Has Major Financial Problems

Which of the following four statements come closest to your own view of the Medicare program? The program...



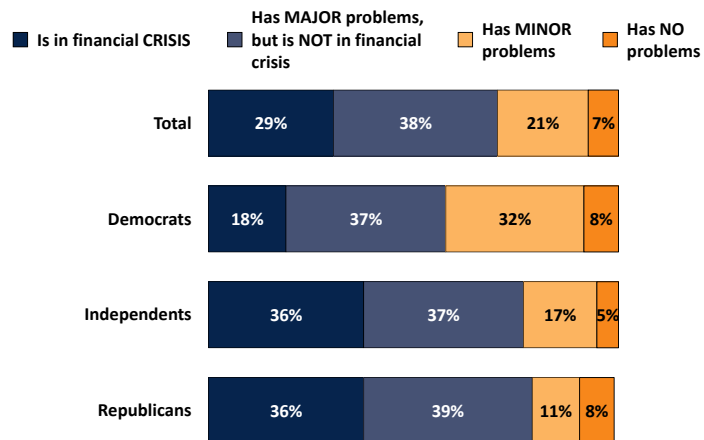
Note: 2011 based on half sample. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



SLIDE 4

Democrats Less Likely to See Financial Problems in Medicare

Which of the following four statements come closest to your own view of the Medicare program? The program...



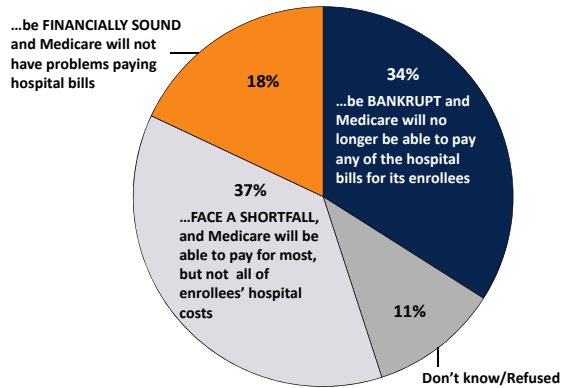
Note: Based on half sample. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



SLIDE 5

One Third Think Medicare Hospital Trust Fund Will Be Bankrupt in the Future

To the best of your knowledge, which comes closest to describing the projected financial situation of the Medicare hospital trust fund in about fifteen years if no changes are made? The hospital trust fund will...



Note: Based on half sample.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)

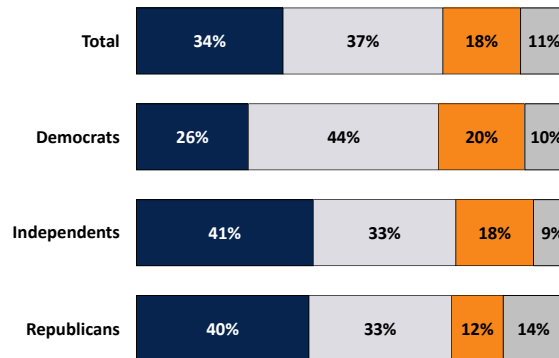


SLIDE 6

Democrats Less Likely to Think Medicare Trust Fund Going Bankrupt

To the best of your knowledge, which comes closest to describing the projected financial situation of the Medicare hospital trust fund in about fifteen years if no changes are made? The hospital trust fund will...

...be BANKRUPT and Medicare will no longer be able to pay any of the bills for its enrollees
 ...FACE A SHORTFALL, and Medicare will be able to pay for most, but not all of enrollees' hospital costs
 ...be FINANCIALLY SOUND and Medicare will not have problems paying hospital bills
 Don't know/Refused

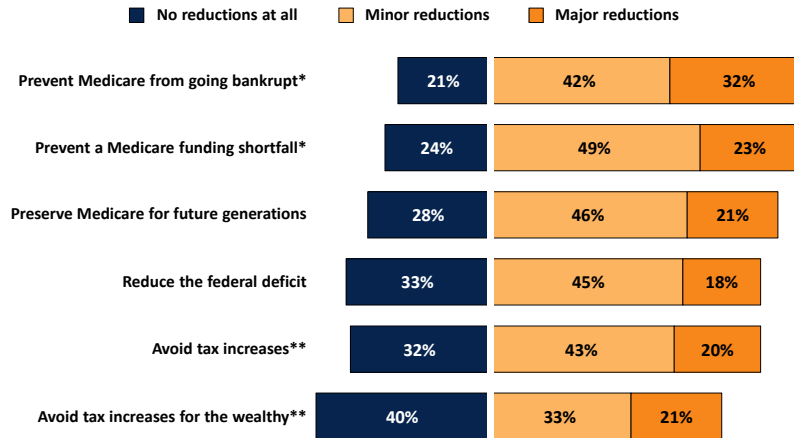


Note: Based on half sample.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



Level of Support for Medicare Spending Reductions Varies by Reason

In order to [INSERT], would you support major reductions, minor reductions, or no reductions at all to current levels of Medicare spending?

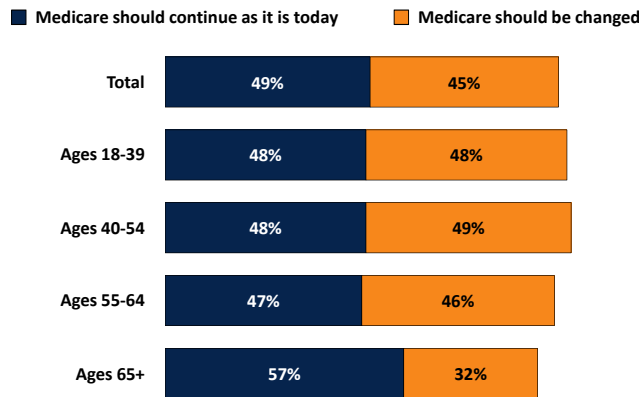


* Items asked of separate half samples. Question and response wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8202.cfm> for complete wording.
 **Items asked of separate half samples. Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



Adults Under 65 Split on Premium Support; Seniors Prefer Current System

Which of these two descriptions comes closer to your view of what Medicare should look like in the future? Medicare **should continue as it is today**, with the government providing health insurance and guaranteeing the same set of benefits to everyone enrolled in the program, OR Medicare **should be changed** to a system in which people choose their insurance from a list of private health plans that may offer different benefits at different premium amounts, and the government pays a fixed amount towards that cost.

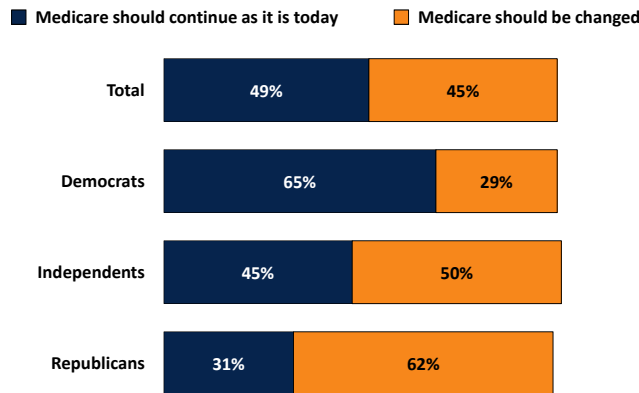


Note: Other (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



Partisan Division on Premium Support

Which of these two descriptions comes closer to your view of what Medicare should look like in the future? Medicare ***should continue as it is today***, with the government providing health insurance and guaranteeing the same set of benefits to everyone enrolled in the program, OR Medicare ***should be changed*** to a system in which people choose their insurance from a list of private health plans that may offer different benefits at different premium amounts, and the government pays a fixed amount towards that cost.



Note: Other (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)

Impact of Arguments in Favor of Medicare Premium Support Proposal

What if you heard that [INSERT]? Would that make you more or less likely to support changing Medicare to a system in which the government pays a fixed amount toward the cost of private health plans for seniors, or would it not make much difference either way?

	Total public			Seniors (ages 65+)		
	More likely	Less likely	No difference	More likely	Less likely	No difference
People now ages 55 and older will be able to remain in the current Medicare system and won't be subject to the proposed changes	51%	18%	27%	47%	18%	27%
Private plans will compete for seniors' business and seniors will be able to choose plans based on cost and quality	50	23	23	39	32	23
This proposal will help reduce the federal budget deficit by reducing Medicare spending over time	40	29	27	32	31	29
Government payments will be greater for seniors who are poor or sick than for wealthy or healthy seniors	38	36	22	38	32	22
Without this change, Medicare's costs will be unsustainable and the program will not be able to pay its bills for future generations	30	38	26	25	40	23

Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)

SLIDE 11

Impact of Arguments Against Medicare Premium Support Proposal

What if you heard that [INSERT]? Would that make you more or less likely to support changing Medicare to a system in which the government pays a fixed amount toward the cost of private health plans for seniors, or would it not make much difference either way?

	Total public			Seniors (ages 65+)		
	More likely	Less likely	No difference	More likely	Less likely	No difference
This change will increase costs for seniors , who will pay more for their health care than they would under traditional Medicare	18%	56%	21%	16%	58%	21%
This proposed change will put private insurance companies in charge of deciding what benefits people on Medicare receive and how much they pay	21	55	20	13	61	17
This proposed change will eliminate Medicare as we know it	19	53	22	13	58	21
Moving seniors into private health insurance plans will increase costs because the cost of these plans have grown faster than Medicare's costs in recent years	19	48	27	18	50	24
The proposed plan also repeals the health reform law , and by doing that will eliminate some new Medicare benefits , like expanded coverage for prescription drugs for people who have reached Medicare's "doughnut hole" or coverage gap	29	41	24	30	35	25

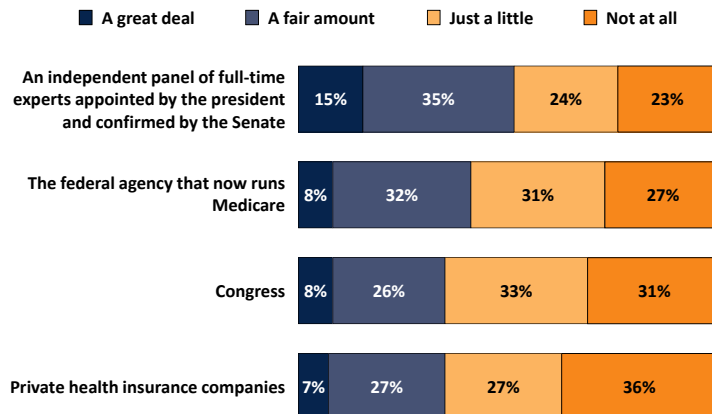
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



SLIDE 12

No Group Gets Overwhelming Trust to Make Medicare Recommendations

How much would you trust each of the following to make proposals about ways to reduce Medicare spending and keep the program sustainable in the future?



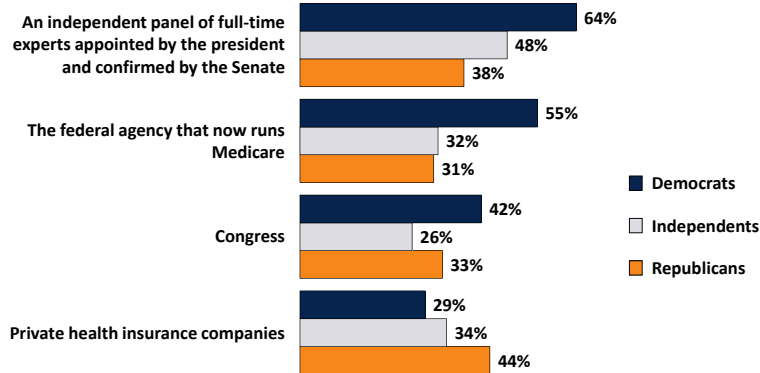
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



SLIDE 13

Dems More Trusting of Independent Panel; Reps of Insurance Companies

Percent who say they trust each of the following "a great deal" or "a fair amount" to make proposals about ways to reduce Medicare spending and keep the program sustainable in the future:



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



SLIDE 14

Familiarity with Medicare Provisions in Health Reform Law

To the best of your knowledge, would you say the new law does or does not do each of the following?

ELEMENTS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH REFORM LAW			
	Yes (correct answer)	No	Dk/Ref.
Increase the premiums some higher income people on Medicare pay	50%	33%	17%
Create an expert panel to recommend ways to reduce Medicare spending if costs grow too rapidly	47	36	17
Gradually close the Medicare "doughnut hole"	45	32	23
Create new ways for Medicare to improve how health care is delivered	45	40	16
Increase Medicare payroll tax on upper income Americans	43	37	19
Reduce Medicare payments to private plans, also known as Medicare Advantage plans	38	36	26
Eliminate co-pays and deductibles for many preventive services under Medicare	36	47	17
Strengthen the financial condition of the Medicare trust fund that pays for hospital services	34	43	23
ELEMENTS THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH REFORM LAW			
	Yes	No (correct answer)	Dk/Ref.
Cut benefits that were previously provided to all people on Medicare	48%	35%	17%
Allow a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare	31	48	20

Note: Question and response wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8202.cfm> for complete wording.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



Familiarity with Medicare Provisions in Health Reform Law Among Seniors

To the best of your knowledge, would you say the new law does or does not do each of the following?

AMONG SENIORS (age 65 and older)

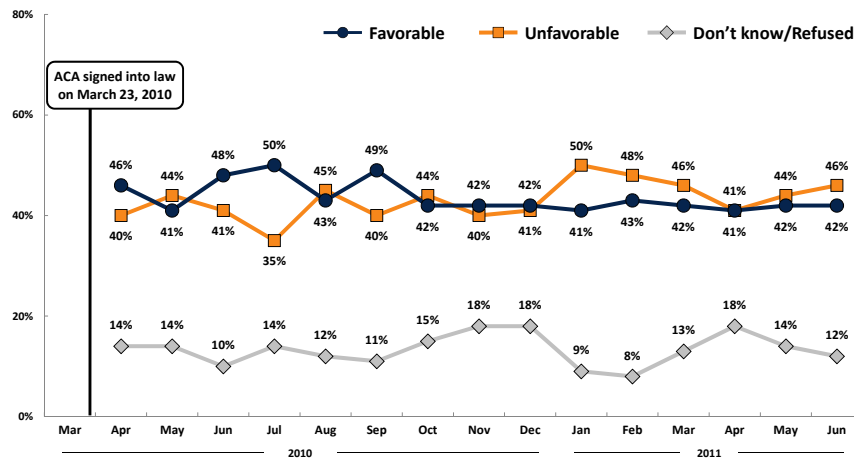
ELEMENTS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH REFORM LAW			
	Yes (correct answer)	No	Dk/Ref.
Increase the premiums some higher income people on Medicare pay	46%	30%	23%
Gradually close the Medicare "doughnut hole"	42	26	31
Increase Medicare payroll tax on upper income Americans	38	28	34
Create an expert panel to recommend ways to reduce Medicare spending if costs grow too rapidly	37	39	24
Reduce Medicare payments to private plans, also known as Medicare Advantage plans	36	26	38
Create new ways for Medicare to improve how health care is delivered	33	38	29
Strengthen the financial condition of the Medicare trust fund that pays for hospital services	26	40	34
Eliminate co-pays and deductibles for many preventive services under Medicare	21	49	30
ELEMENTS THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH REFORM LAW			
	Yes	No (correct answer)	Dk/Ref.
Cut benefits that were previously provided to all people on Medicare	35%	31%	34%
Allow a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare	22	47	31

Note: Question and response wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8202.cfm> for complete wording.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 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?

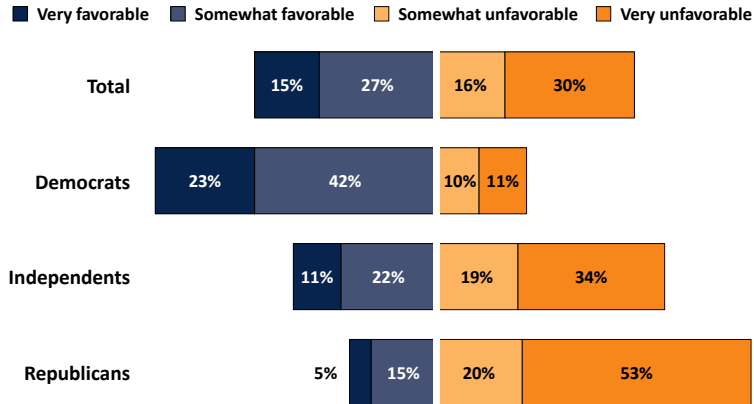


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



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?

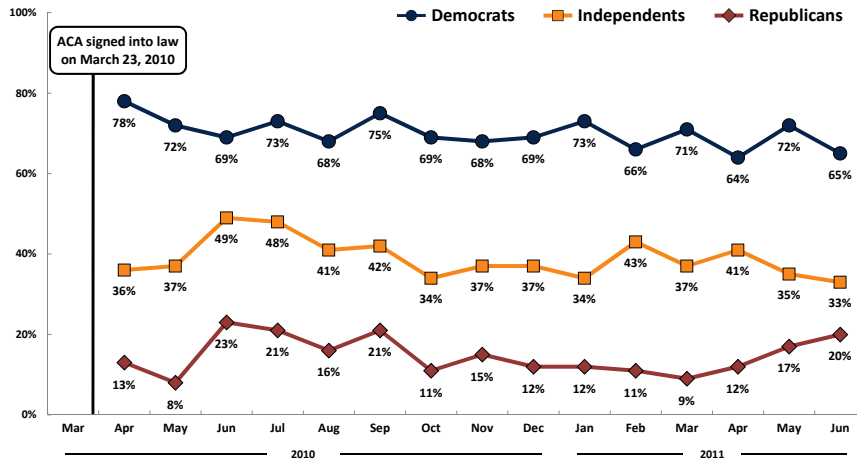


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



Partisan Disagreement Over ACA Continues

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

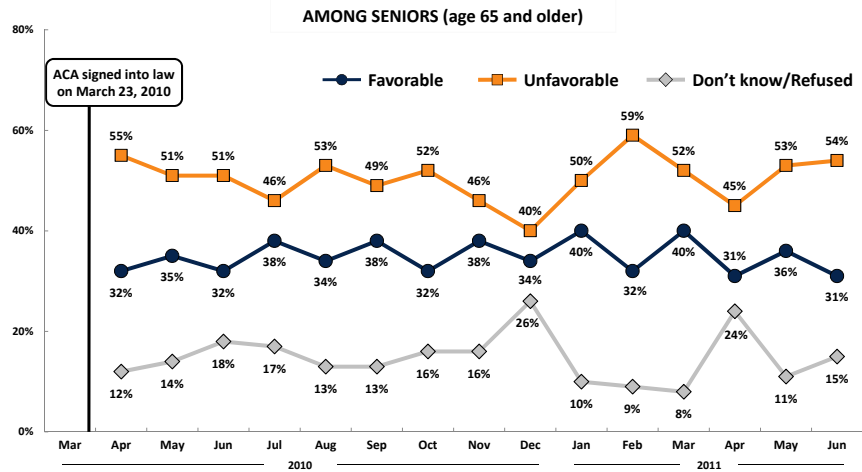


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



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?

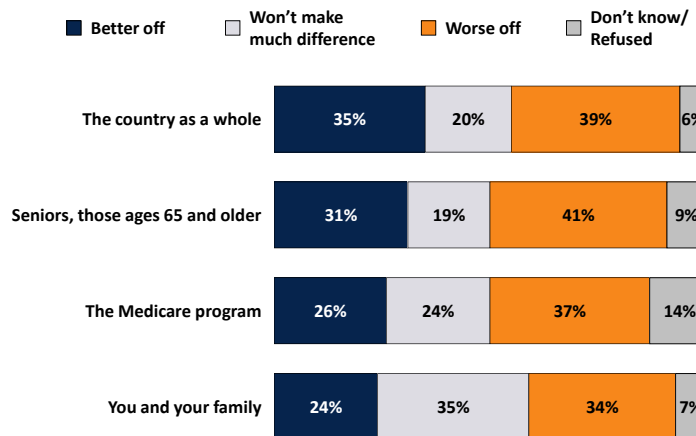


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



Public More Likely to See Negative Than Positive Impact on Their Family, Seniors, Medicare

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?



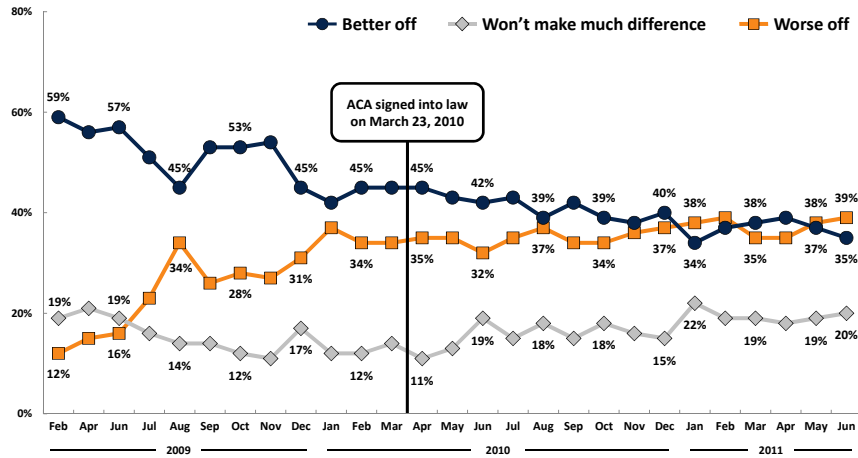
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



SLIDE 21

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?



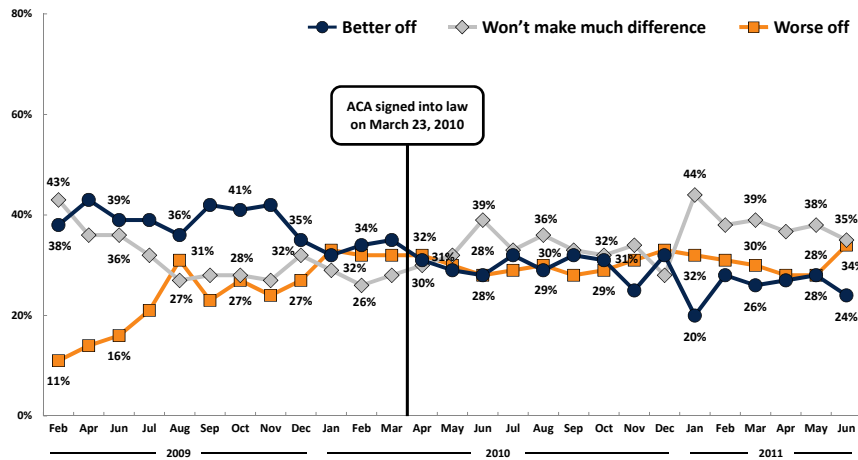
Note: Depends (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



SLIDE 22

Trend in Perception of 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?



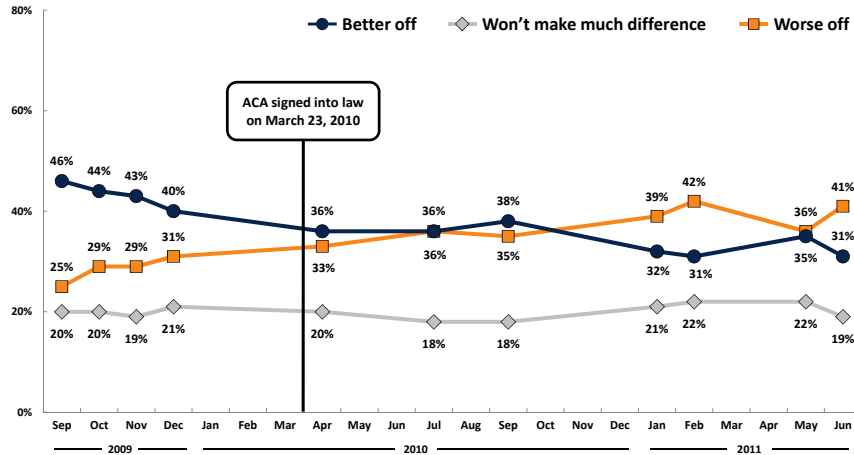
Note: Depends (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



SLIDE 23

Perception of ACA'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?



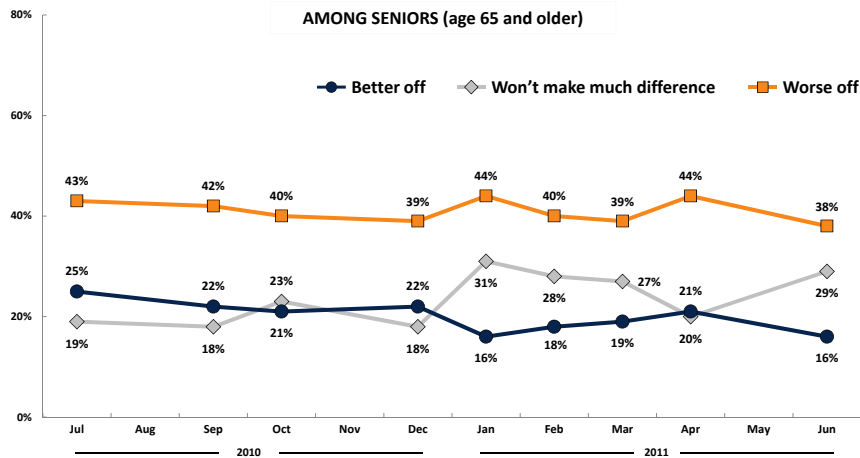
Note: Depends (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



SLIDE 24

Plurality of Seniors Continue To See ACA as Challenge for Medicare

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

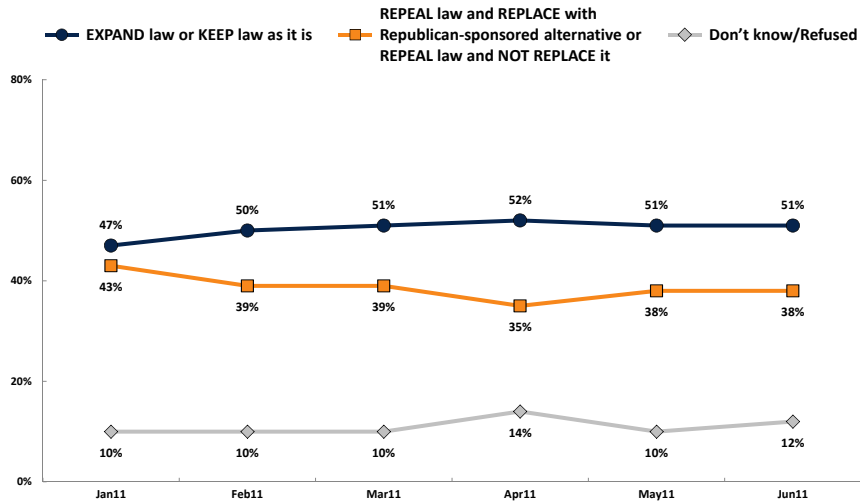


Note: Depends (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



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?

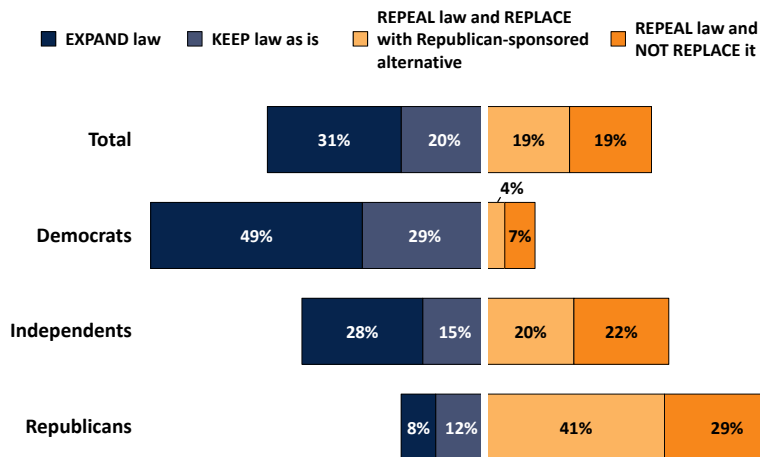


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



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?



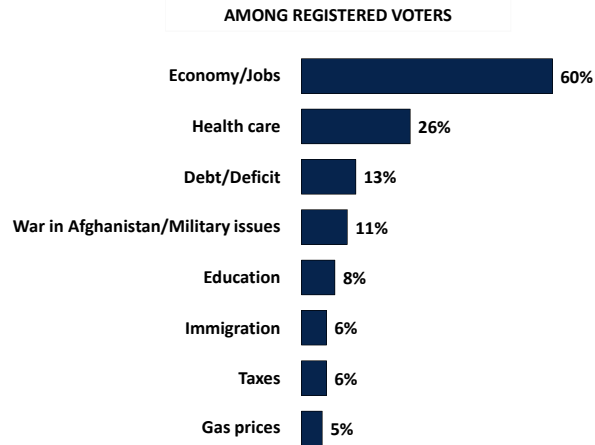
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



SLIDE 27

Economy and Jobs Dominate Voters' Top Issues for Presidential Campaign

Even though it is still a long way off, thinking about the campaign for the presidential election in 2012, what two issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about? (*open-ended*)



Note: Only responses of 5 percent or more shown. Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



SLIDE 28

Voters' Top Issues for Presidential Campaign by Party ID

Even though it is still a long way off, thinking about the campaign for the presidential election in 2012, what two issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about? (*open-ended*)

AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS

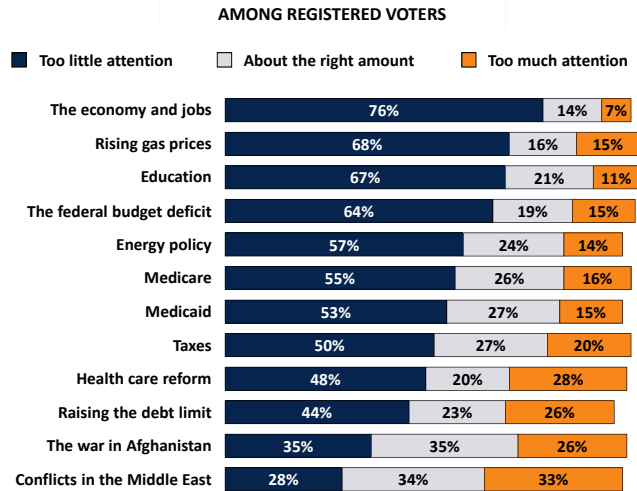
Rank	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
1	Economy/Jobs (65%)	Economy/Jobs (54%)	Economy/Jobs (62%)
2	Health care (29%)	Health care (26%)	Health care (20%)
3	War in Afghanistan/Military issues (13%)	Debt/Deficit (14%)	Debt/Deficit* (20%)
4	Education (11%)	War in Afghanistan/Military issues (12%)	Taxes (8%)
5	Debt/Deficit (7%)	Immigration (9%)	War in Afghanistan/Military issues (7%)

* Tied with item above. Note: Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



Voters Wants Lawmakers to Pay More Attention to Issues, Starting With Economy

As I read you some different issues, please tell me if you think lawmakers in Washington are paying too much attention, too little attention, or about the right amount of attention to each.

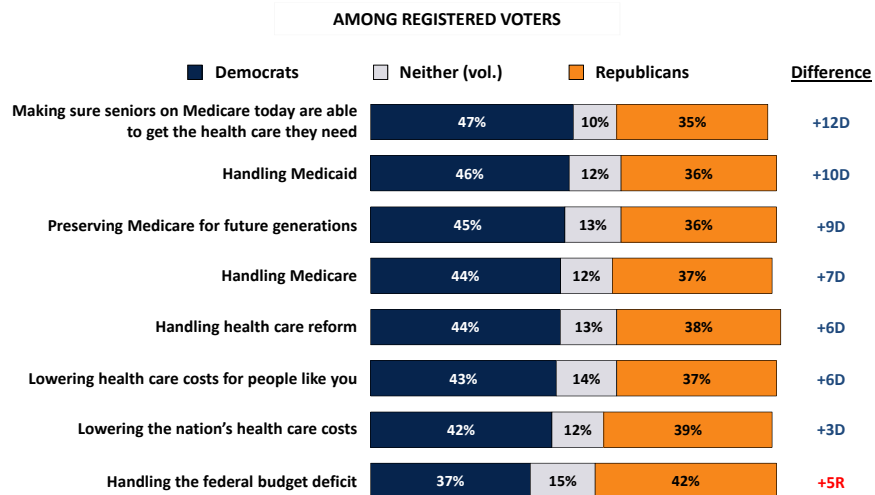


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



Democrats Have Advantage in Voters' Trust on Health Care

Overall, which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job with each of the following?



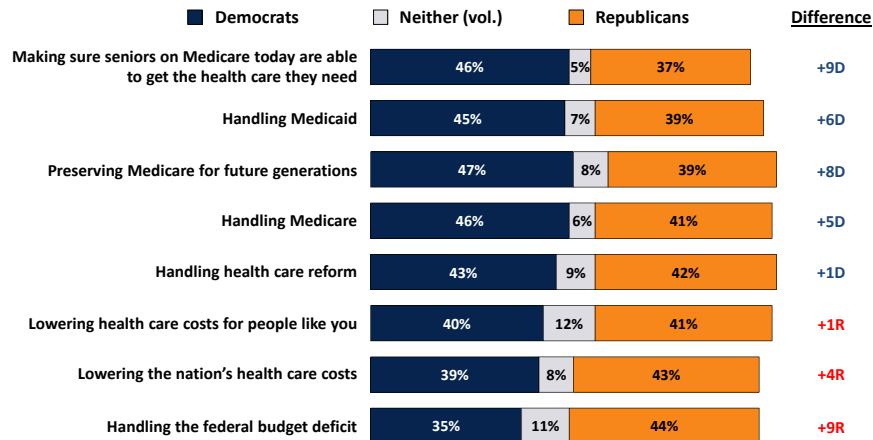
Note: Both (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)



Democratic Advantage on Health Care Issues Smaller Among Seniors

Overall, which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job with each of the following?

AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS AGES 65+



Note: Both (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted June 9-14, 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 June 9 through June 14, 2011, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,203 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (803) and cell phone (400, including 174 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 full question wording, please see the topline questionnaire: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8202.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

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