



Chartpack

## ***Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: March 2012***

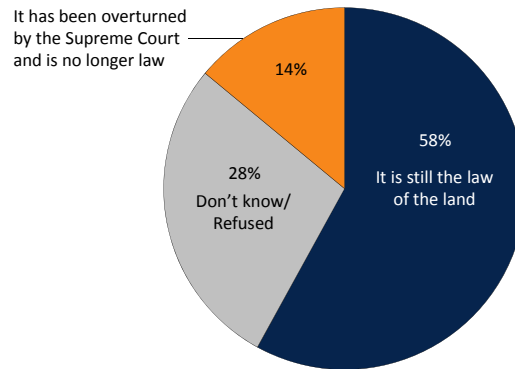
March 2012

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SLIDE 1

## Four In Ten Think Law Has Been Overturned By Supreme Court Or Are Unsure

As far as you know, which comes closest to describing the current status of the health reform law that was passed in 2010?



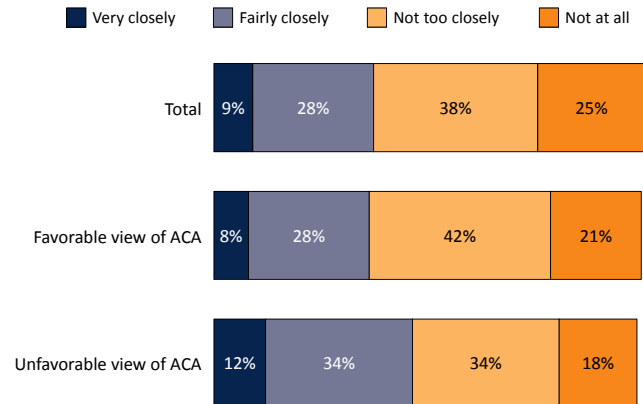
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll March 2012 Omnibus Supplement (conducted March 1-4, 2012)



SLIDE 2

## Just Under Four In Ten Closely Following News Of ACA Supreme Court Case

How closely have you been following news about the case before the Supreme Court challenging parts of the health care law?



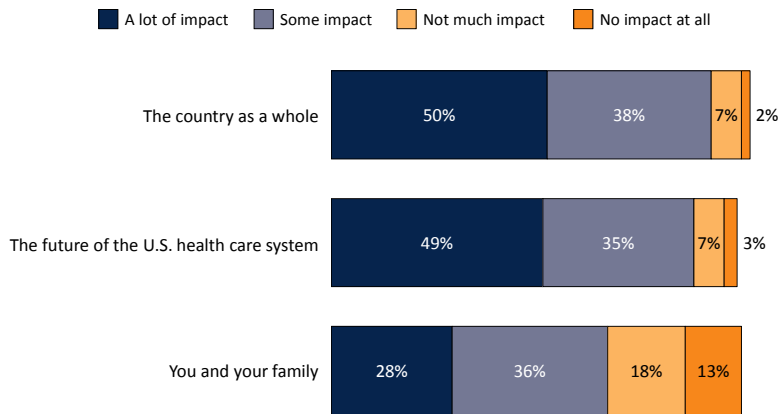
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 3

## Few Americans Expect The Supreme Court Decision To Have Big Impact On Their Own Lives

How much impact do you think the Supreme Court's decision on the case challenging parts of the health care law will have on each of the following?



Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)

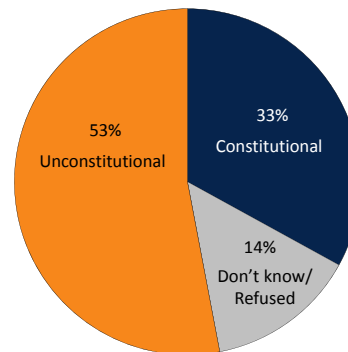
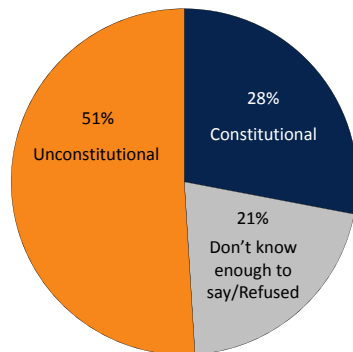


SLIDE 4

## More Than Half Expect Court To Find Mandate Unconstitutional

**In your own opinion**, do you think the Supreme Court should rule that it is constitutional or unconstitutional for the federal government to require all Americans to have health insurance, or do you not know enough to say?

**Do you expect** the Supreme Court to rule that the requirement that all Americans have health insurance is constitutional or unconstitutional?

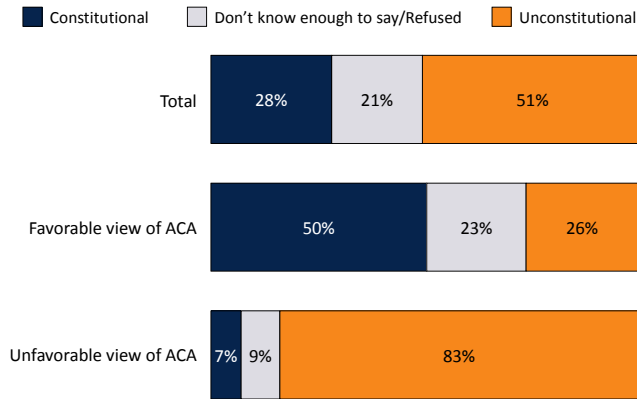


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



## Opinions On Constitutionality Of Mandate Largely In Line With Views Of ACA

In your own opinion, do you think the Supreme Court should rule that it is constitutional or unconstitutional for the federal government to require all Americans to have health insurance, or do you not know enough to say?

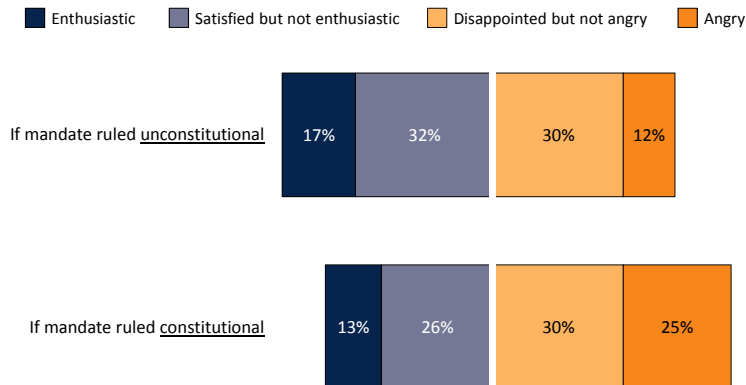


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



## More Say They Would Be Angry If Mandate Upheld Than If Struck Down

If the Supreme Court rules that the part of the law requiring all Americans to have health insurance is [unconstitutional and should be struck down/constitutional and should be upheld], how would you feel about this decision?



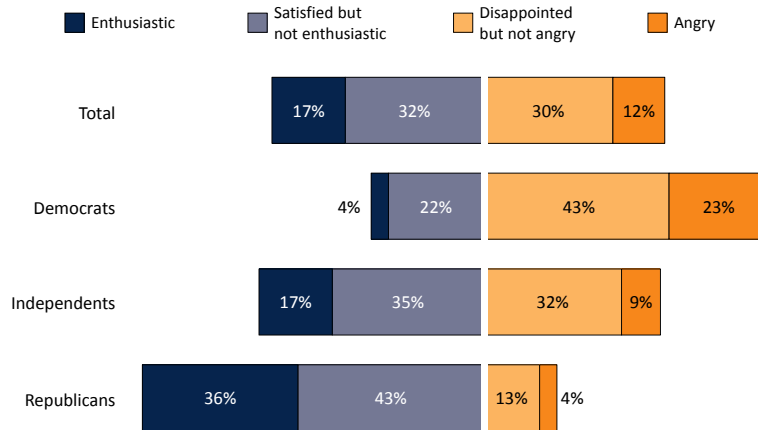
Note: Some other emotion (vol.), Would not care (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 7

### Partisan Gap In Reactions If Supreme Court Rules Mandate Unconstitutional

If the Supreme Court rules that the part of the law requiring all Americans to have health insurance is unconstitutional and should be struck down, how would you feel about this decision?



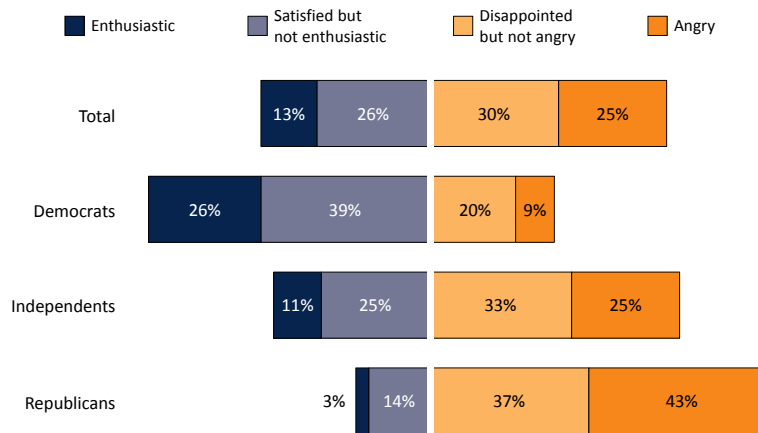
Note: Some other emotion (vol.), Would not care (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 8

### Partisan Gap In Reactions If Supreme Court Rules Mandate Constitutional

If the Supreme Court rules that the part of the law requiring all Americans to have health insurance is constitutional and should be upheld, how would you feel about this decision?

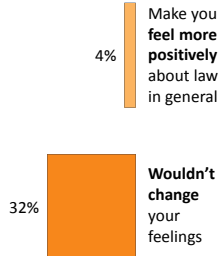


Note: Some other emotion (vol.), Would not care (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)

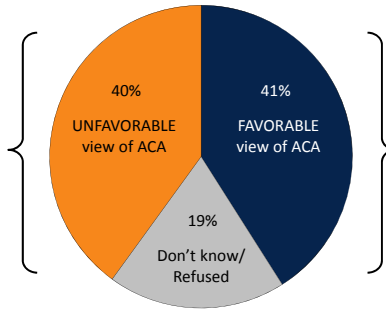


## Most Of Those With Favorable And Unfavorable Views Of ACA Say Court Ruling Would Not Change Their Views

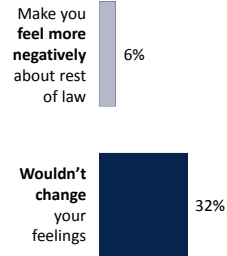
Asked of the 40% who have an unfavorable view of the ACA: If the Supreme Court rules that the part of the law requiring all Americans to have health insurance is CONSTITUTIONAL, would that...



Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?



Asked of the 41% who have a favorable view of the ACA: If the Supreme Court rules that the part of the law requiring all Americans to have health insurance is UNCONSTITUTIONAL, would that...

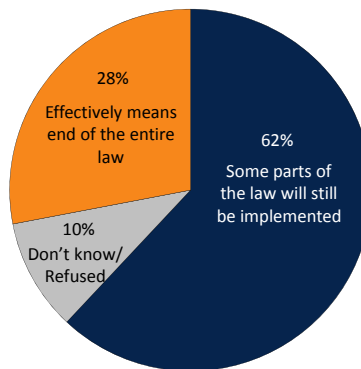


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown for both follow-up questions.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



## What Happens If Court Strikes Down The ACA's Mandate?

If the Supreme Court rules that the federal government cannot require Americans to have health insurance, do you expect some parts of the health care law will still be implemented, or do you think this will effectively mean the end of the entire law?



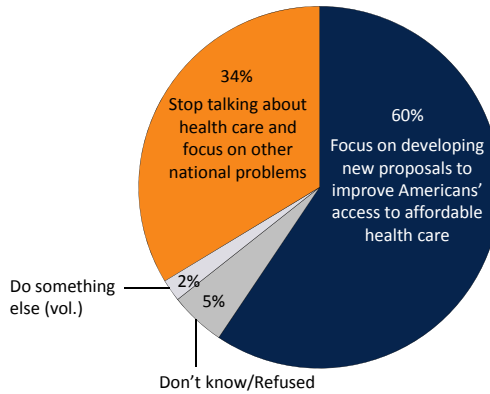
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 11

## Six In Ten Want Lawmakers To Keep Working On Proposals To Improve Access To Care If Supreme Court Rules ACA Unconstitutional

If the Supreme Court rules that the health care law is unconstitutional, do you think lawmakers should focus on developing new proposals to improve Americans' access to affordable health care, or should they stop talking about health care and focus on other national problems?



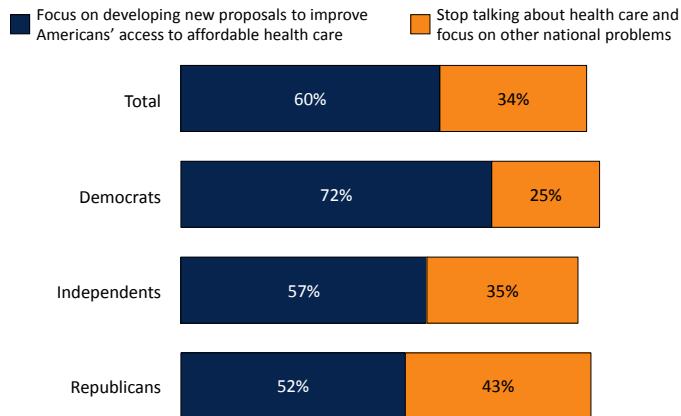
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 12

## Majorities Across Parties Want Lawmakers To Keep Working On Proposals To Improve Access To Care If Supreme Court Rules ACA Unconstitutional

If the Supreme Court rules that the health care law is unconstitutional, do you think lawmakers should focus on developing new proposals to improve Americans' access to affordable health care, or should they stop talking about health care and focus on other national problems?



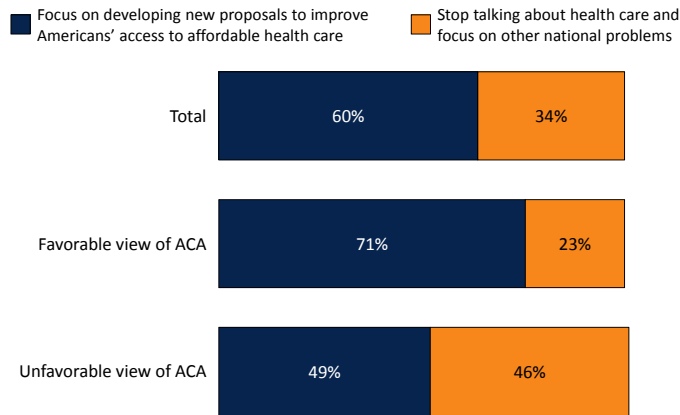
Note: Lawmakers should do something else (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 13

## Half Of ACA Opponents Want Lawmakers To Keep Working On Health Care Proposals If Supreme Court Rules ACA Unconstitutional

If the Supreme Court rules that the health care law is unconstitutional, do you think lawmakers should focus on developing new proposals to improve Americans' access to affordable health care, or should they stop talking about health care and focus on other national problems?



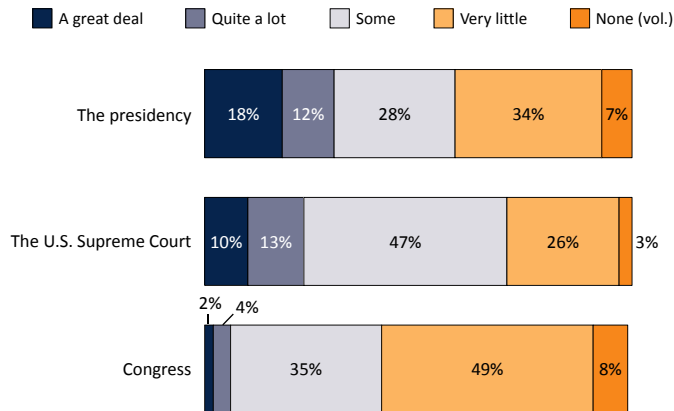
Note: Lawmakers should do something else (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 14

## Few Have A Lot Of Confidence In Supreme Court

I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one:



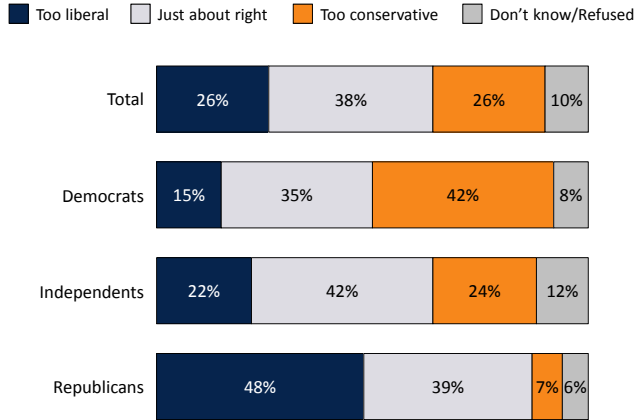
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)





## Partisans Disagree On Ideological Balance Of Court

In general, do you think the current Supreme Court is too liberal, too conservative, or just about right?



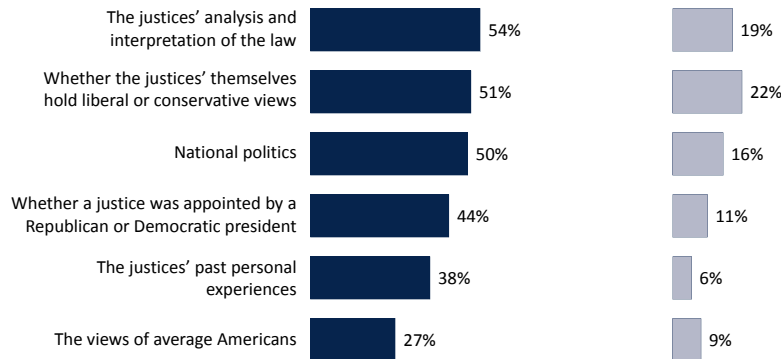
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



## Public Expects Justices' Ideology And Legal Analysis To Play Biggest Role In Court's Decision On ACA

Percent who say each of the following **WILL** play a major role in the Supreme Court decision on the case challenging parts of the health care law:

Percent who say each **WILL** play the most important role in the justices' decision on this case:



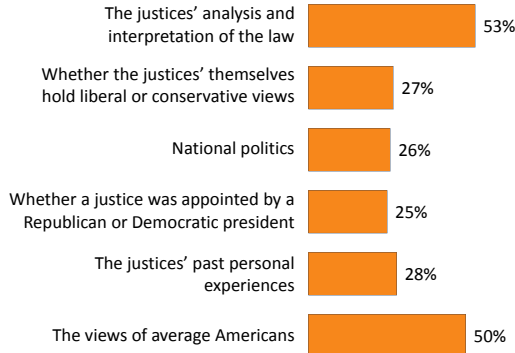
Note: Based on half sample. None of these/Some other factor (vol.) and None will play a major role answers not shown for follow-up.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



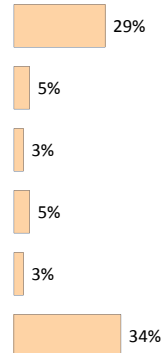
SLIDE 17

## Public Thinks Legal Analysis And Views Of Average Americans SHOULD Play Biggest Role In Court's Decision On ACA

Percent who say each of the following **SHOULD** play a major role in the Supreme Court decision on the case challenging parts of the health care law:



Percent who say each **SHOULD** play the most important role in the justices' decision on this case:



Note: Based on half sample. None of these/Some other factor (vol.) and None will play a major role answers not shown for follow-up.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)

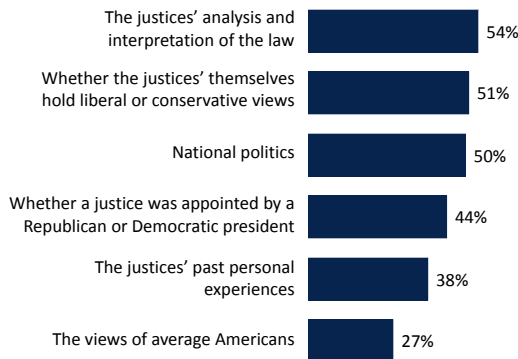


SLIDE 18

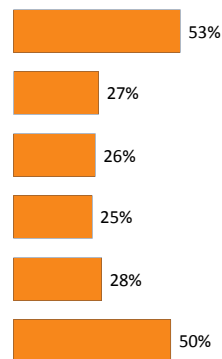
## Disconnect Between Public's Desires And Expectations On What Will Factor Into Court's Decision

In the Supreme Court decision on the case challenging parts of the health care law...

...percent who say each of the following **WILL** play a major role:



...percent who say each of the following **SHOULD** play a major role:



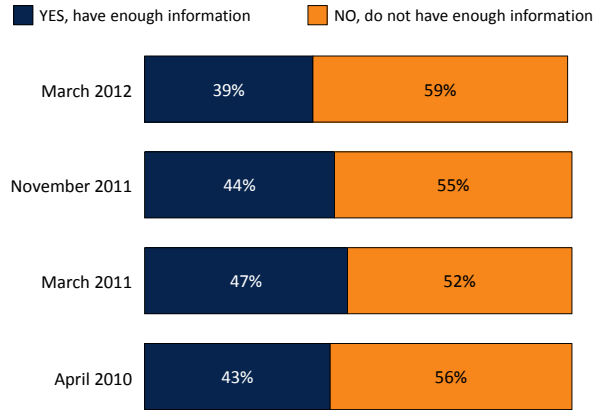
Note: Asked of separate half samples.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 19

## Majority Say They Don't Understand ACA's Personal Impact

Do you feel you have enough information about the health reform law to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?



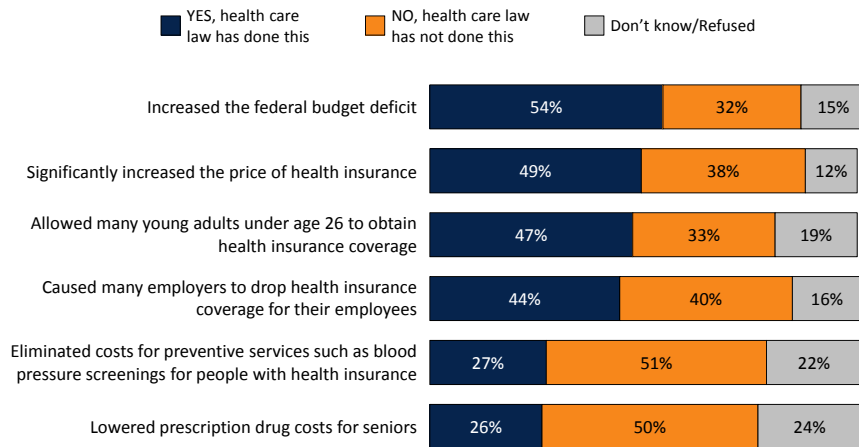
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 20

## Larger Proportions Perceive Negative Impacts Of Law Rather Than Positive

As of today, do you think the health care law has or has not done each of the following:



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



## Individual Mandate Most Widely Recognized Element Of ACA

I'm going to read you a list of specific elements or parts of the law. For each, please tell me whether you think it is included in the health reform law, or not.

ELEMENTS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH REFORM LAW			
	Yes (correct answer)	No	Don't know
Individual mandate/penalty	64%	23%	14%
Basic benefits package, defined by government	57	21	22
Subsidy assistance to individuals	56	28	17
Medicaid expansion	54	30	16
Employer mandate/penalty for large employers	53	24	23
Health plan decision appeals	51	26	24
Guaranteed issue	51	33	15
Tax credits to small businesses	49	27	24
Require easy-to-understand plan summaries	49	33	19
Increase Medicare payroll tax on upper income	43	31	25
No cost sharing for preventive services	37	39	24
Medical loss ratio	35	34	30

Note: Items asked of separate half samples. Response wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8285.cfm> for complete wording.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll Omnibus Supplement (conducted March 1-4, 2012)



## A Third Say ACA Includes Death Panels, Another One In Five Unsure

I'm going to read you a list of specific elements or parts of the law. For each, please tell me whether you think it is included in the health reform law, or not.

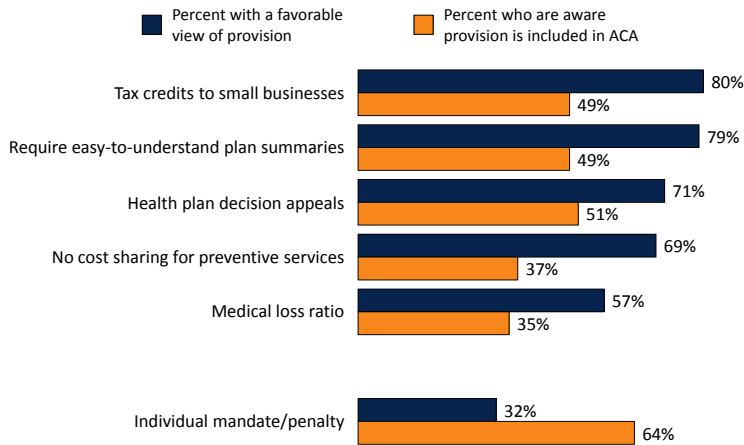
ELEMENTS THAT ARE <u>NOT</u> INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH REFORM LAW			
	Yes	No (correct answer)	Don't know
Allow a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare			
Total	36%	45%	20%
Democrats	35	54	10
Independents	36	44	20
Republicans	41	39	21
Create a new government run insurance plan to be offered along with private plans			
Total	52%	30%	18%
Democrats	43	38	19
Independents	50	34	16
Republicans	68	20	13

Note: Items asked of separate half samples.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll Omnibus Supplement (conducted March 1-4, 2012)



### Most Popular Provisions Among Least Widely Recognized (And Vice Versa)

Percent who say they have a favorable opinion of each of the following and percent who say they are aware each is included in the health reform law:

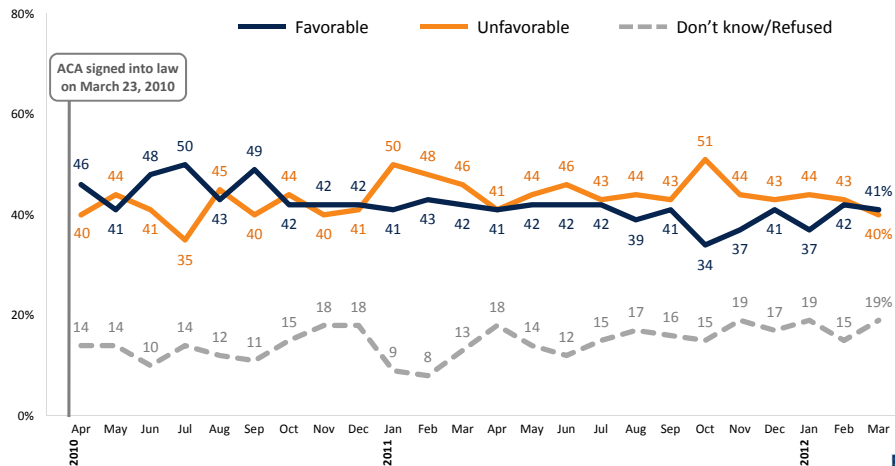


Note: Items asked of separate half samples.  
 Source: Percent Favorable, Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012); Percent aware, Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll Omnibus Supplement (conducted March 1-4, 2012)



### Two Years Of Closely Divided Opinion On ACA

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?

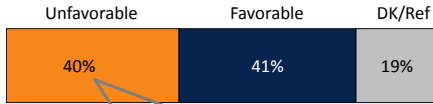


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls

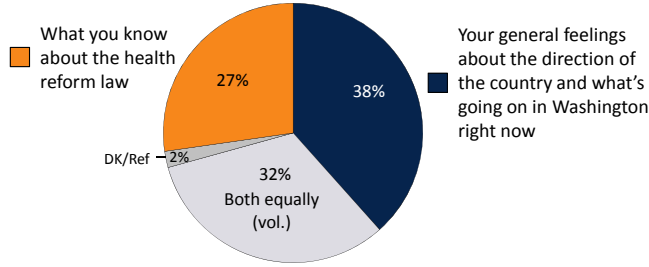


### Unfavorable Views Of Law Proxy For Anti-Washington Sentiment

Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of it?



Among the 40% who have an *unfavorable* opinion of the law: Would you say your unfavorable view is more about...

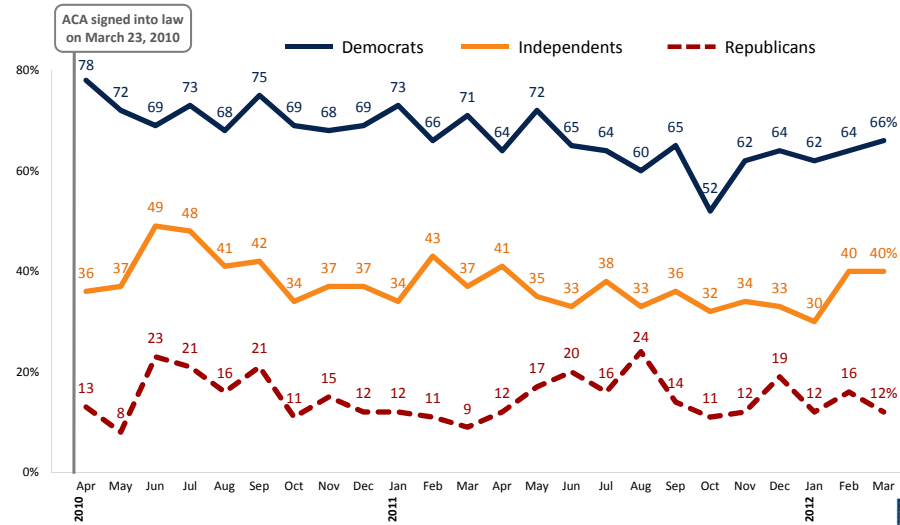


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



### A Lasting Partisan Gap On The ACA

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

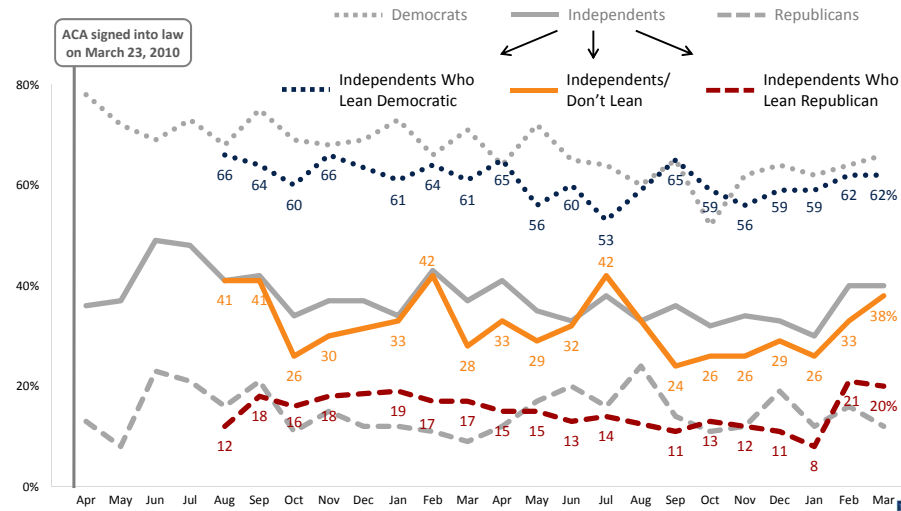


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



## Leaned Independents' Views Of ACA Look Similar To Partisans

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

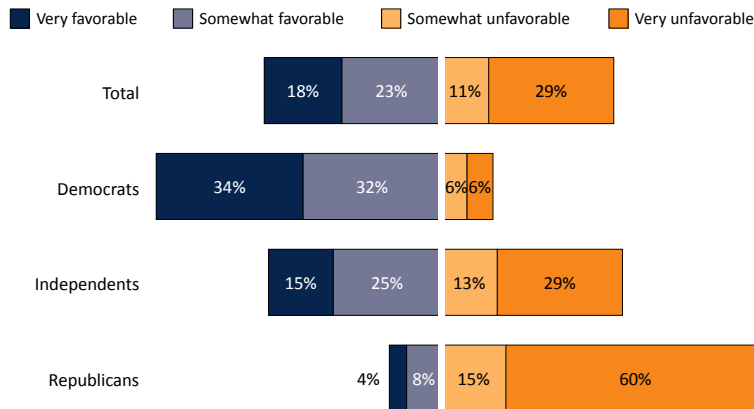


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



## Republican Opposition Markedly More Intense Than Democratic Support

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?



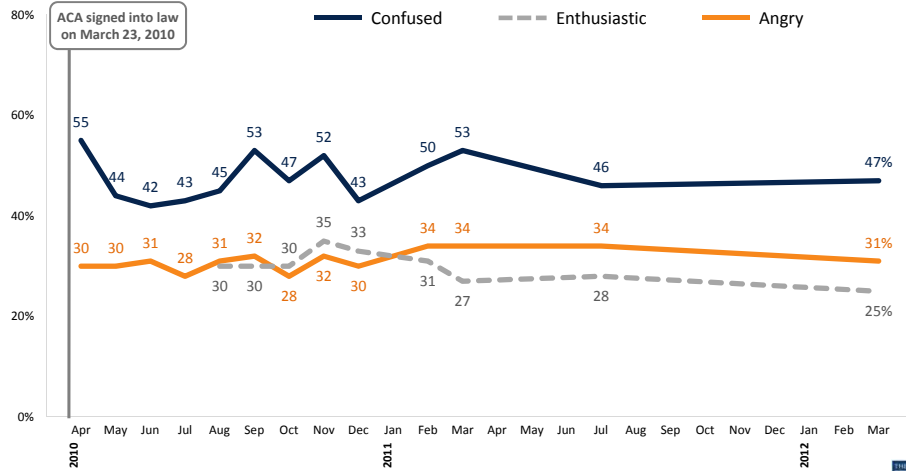
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 29

## Nearly Half Say They Feel Confused About ACA; Three In Ten Angry; Quarter Enthusiastic

Percent who say that each of the following describes their feelings about the health reform law:



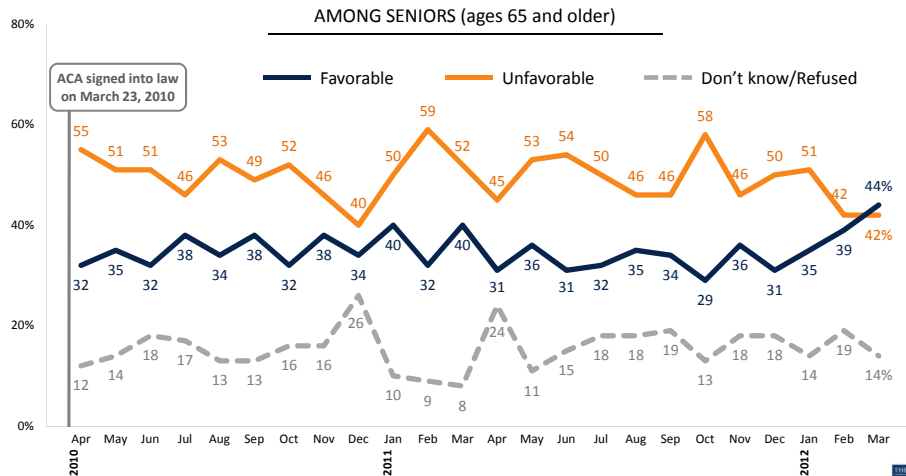
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



SLIDE 30

## Past Three Months Suggest Seniors May Be Shifting On ACA

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. 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

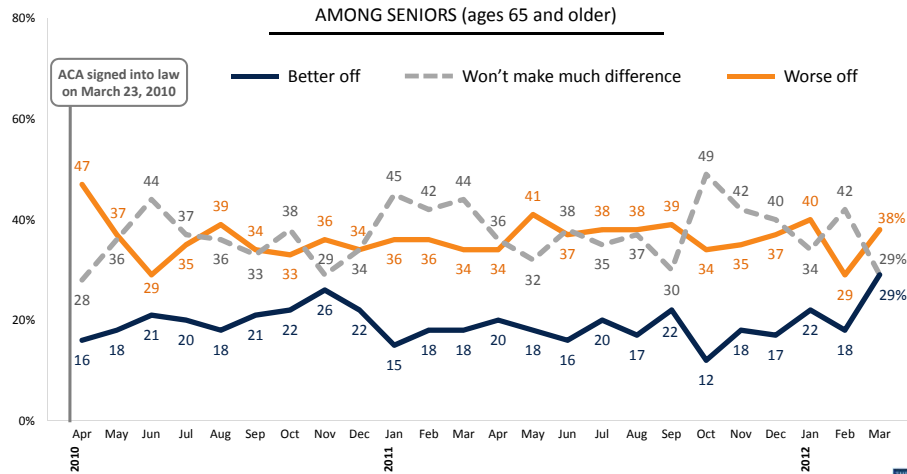




SLIDE 31

## Plurality Of Seniors Say They'll Be Worse Off Under Law, But Jump In Share Who Say Better Off

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?



SLIDE 32

## Most Elements Of Law Viewed Favorably By Majority Of Public; Exception: Individual Mandate

Next, I'm going to read you several elements of the health reform law. As I read each one, please tell me whether you feel very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable about it.

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Require easy-to-understand plan summaries	50%	29%	7%	11%
Guaranteed issue	45	24	11	17
Tax credits to small businesses	44	36	8	8
Subsidy assistance to individuals	43	28	10	15
No cost sharing for preventive services	42	27	15	13
Health plan decision appeals	37	34	12	12
Medicaid expansion	36	34	12	15
Medical loss ratio	32	25	16	19
Employer mandate/penalty for large employers	29	25	15	29
Increase Medicare payroll tax on upper income	26	27	17	24
Basic benefits package, defined by government	23	28	15	31
Individual mandate/penalty	15	17	12	54

Note: Items asked of separate half samples. Response wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8285.cfm> for complete wording. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



## Many Elements Of Health Reform Law Continue To Be Popular Across Parties

Percent who say they feel favorable about each of the following elements of the health reform law:

	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep
Tax credits to small businesses	80%	89%	78%	77%
Require easy-to-understand plan summaries	79	87	75	76
Subsidy assistance to individuals	71	87	70	51
Health plan decision appeals	71	84	73	57
Medicaid expansion	70	88	69	51
Guaranteed issue	69	76	70	62
No cost sharing for preventive services	69	87	66	53
Medical loss ratio	57	73	51	45
Employer mandate/penalty for large employers	54	74	51	31
Increase Medicare payroll tax on upper income	53	74	50	26
Basic benefits package, defined by government	51	80	49	20
Individual mandate/penalty	32	45	32	19

Note: Items asked of separate half samples. Response wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8285.cfm> for complete wording.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



## Most Popular Elements Of ACA Among Least Widely Known

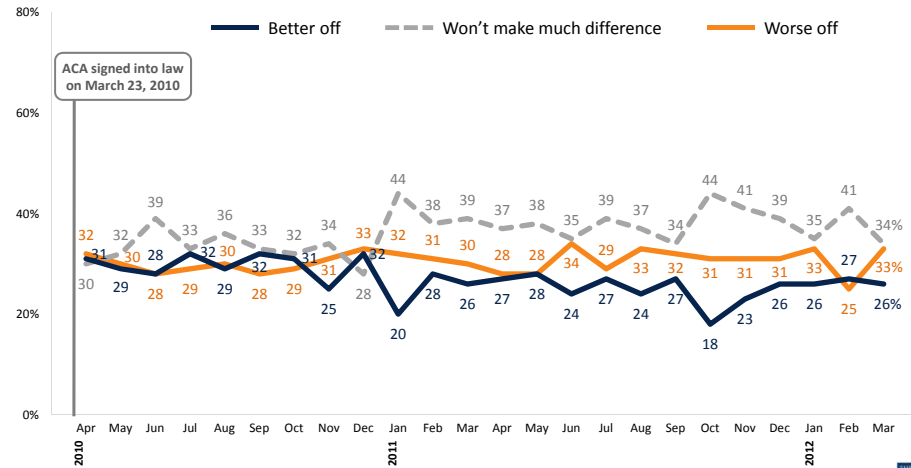
Element of health reform law	% favorable to element	% aware element IS included in law
Tax credits to small businesses	80%	49%
Require easy-to-understand plan summaries	79	49
Subsidy assistance to individuals	71	56
Health plan decision appeals	71	51
Medicaid expansion	70	54
Guaranteed issue	69	51
No cost sharing for preventive services	69	37
Medical loss ratio	57	35
Employer mandate/penalty for large employers	54	53
Increase Medicare payroll tax on upper income	53	43
Basic benefits package, defined by government	51	57
Individual mandate/penalty	32	64

Note: Items asked of separate half samples. Response wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8285.cfm> for complete wording.  
Source: Percent favorable, Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012); Percent aware, Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll Omnibus Supplement* (conducted March 1-4, 2012)



### Some Bounce, But Public Still Split On Anticipated Personal Impact

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?

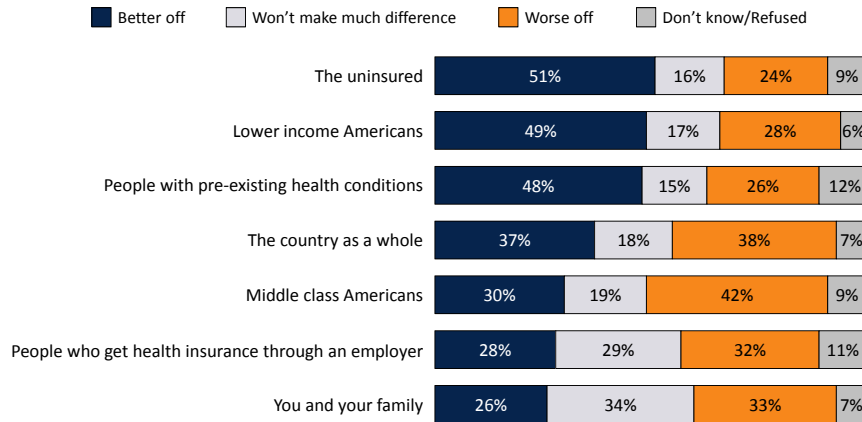


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



### Uninsured, Lower Income, Those With Pre-Existing Conditions Seen As Most Likely To Benefit

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?



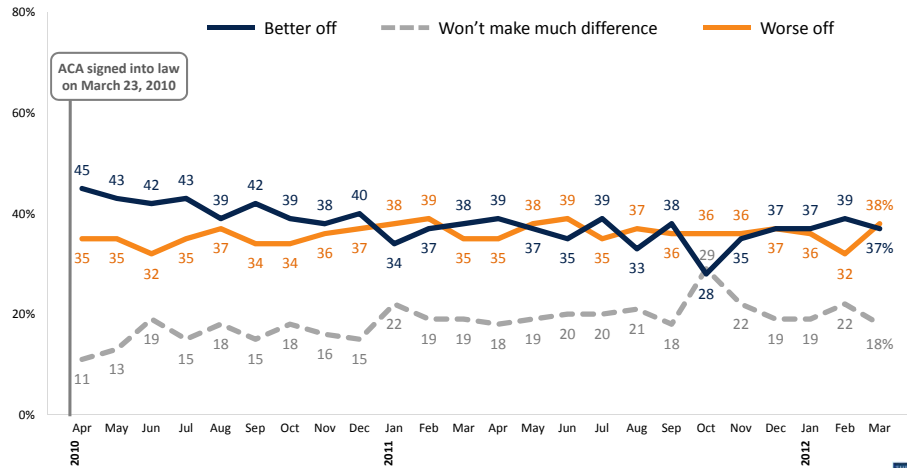
Note: Various items asked of half sample.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



SLIDE 37

## Will Country Benefit From ACA? Another Lasting Division Of Opinion

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?



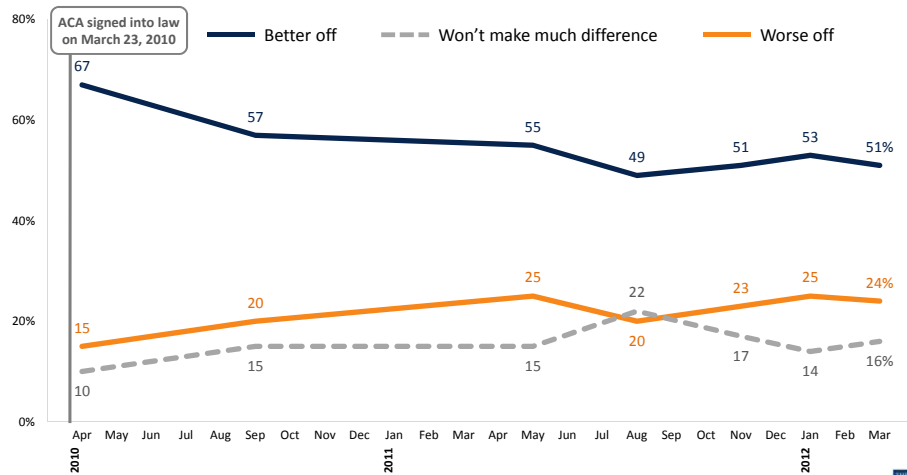
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



SLIDE 38

## Twice As Many Say Uninsured Will Benefit As Say Will Be Worse Off

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

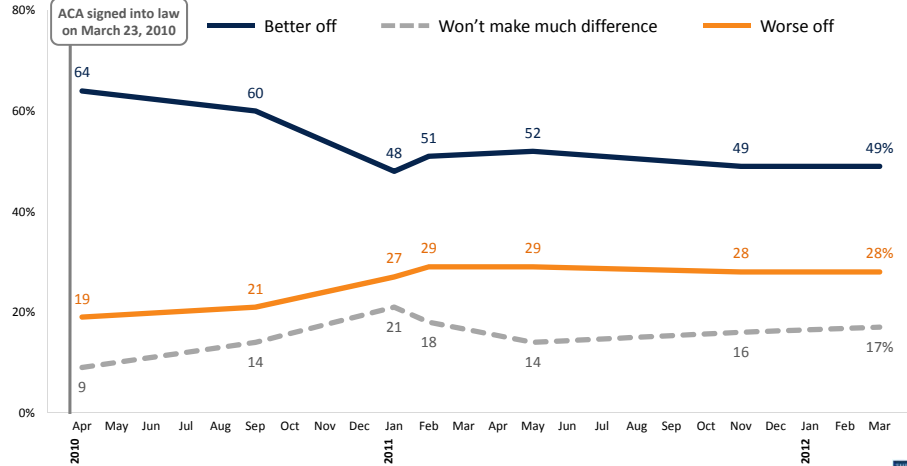


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



### More Say Lower Income Will Benefit Than Expect Them To Be Worse Off

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

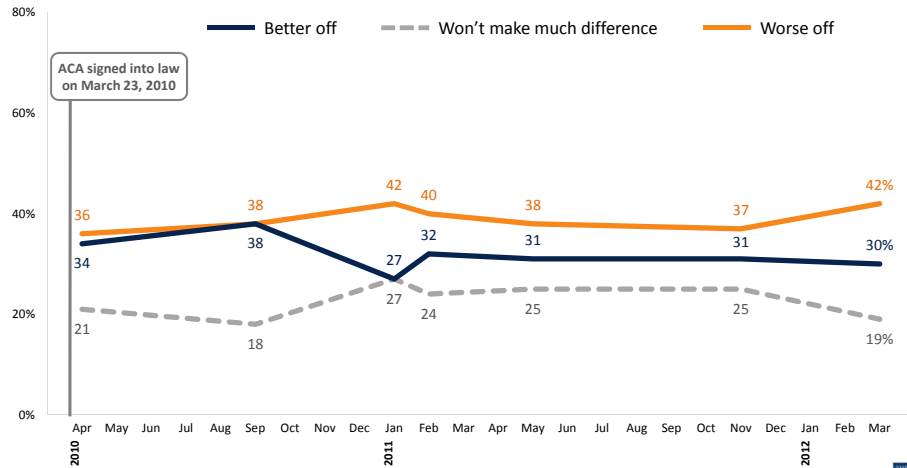


Note: Some months question asked of half sample. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



### Closer Divide, And Little Change, In Terms Of Impact On Middle Class

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

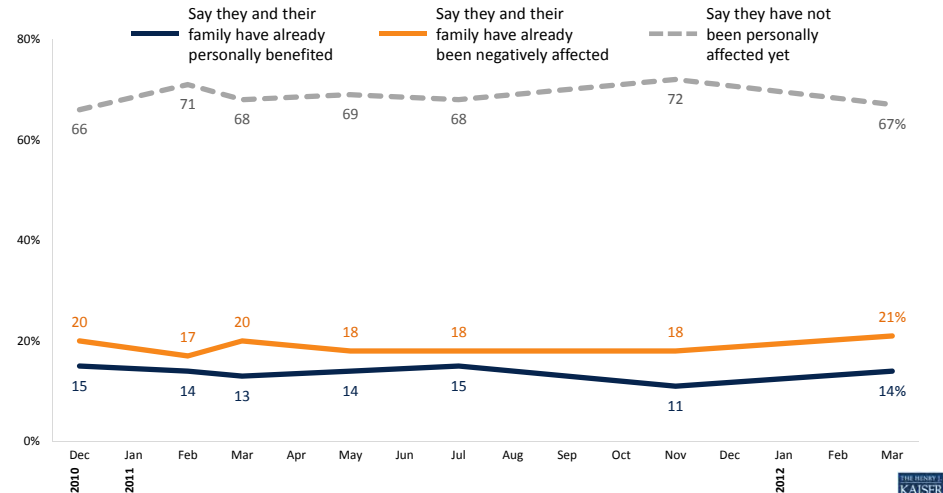


Note: Some months question asked of half sample. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



## Majority Say They Have Not Yet Experienced Personal Impact of ACA

Percent who say they or their family have either personally benefited from or been negatively affected by the health reform law so far:



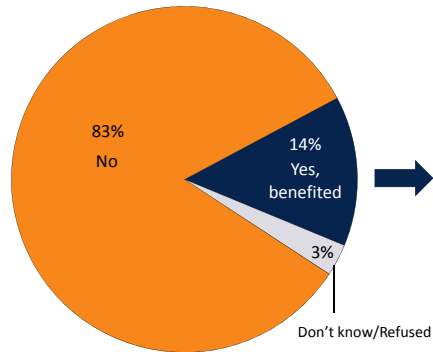
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



## Better Access To Care Continues To Be Most Commonly Cited Benefit Of Law

So far, would you say you and your family have personally benefited from the health reform law, or not?

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?



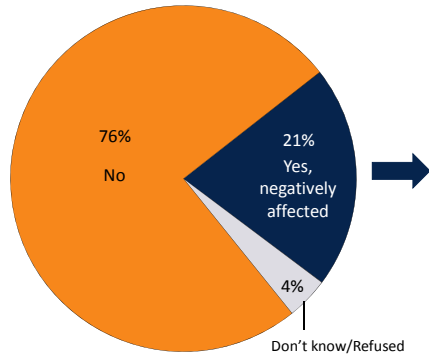
Benefit	Percent who mentioned
Access to health care	39%
Extension of dependent coverage	18
Lower health care costs	15
Health reform will help in general	6
Help dealing with pre-existing conditions	6
Help for seniors/close Medicare doughnut hole	5
Other insurance reforms	4

Note: Only responses of 4% or more shown for follow-up question. Other and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



### Cost Most Frequently Cited Negative Effect Of Law

So far, would you say you and your family have been negatively affected by the health reform law, or not?



Among the 21% 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?

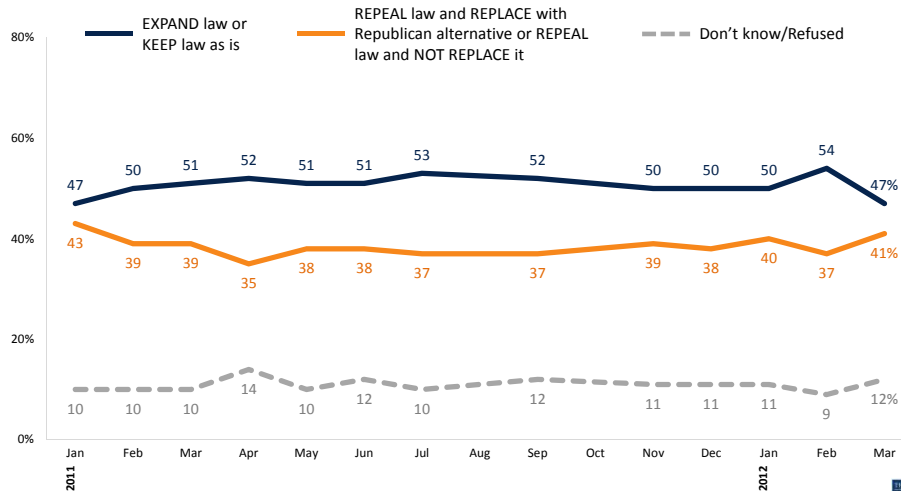
Negative Effect	Percent who mentioned
Cost	53%
Cuts to benefits/fewer options	17
Unable to get/dropped by insurance	6
Bad for providers/providers have quit	6
Too much government intrusion	6
Bad for business/jobs	5
Don't want to pay for freeloaders/non-citizens	4
Taking away my religious freedom	4
Haven't seen any changes yet	4

Note: Only responses of 4% or more shown for follow-up question. Other and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



### Edge Goes To Those Who 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?

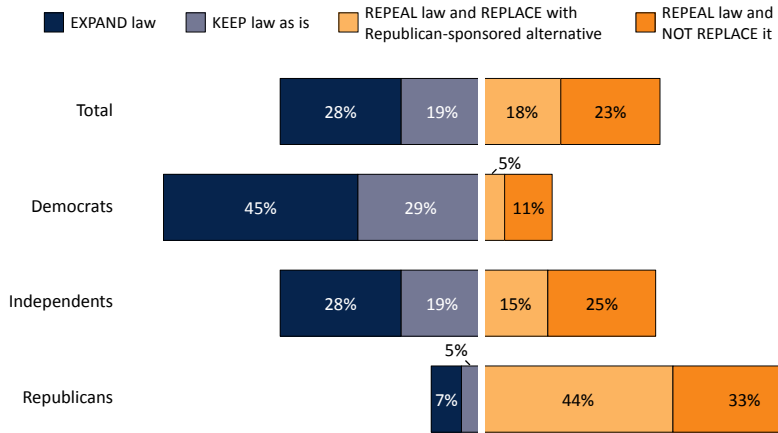


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



## Partisans Disagree On Next Steps For Health Reform Law

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

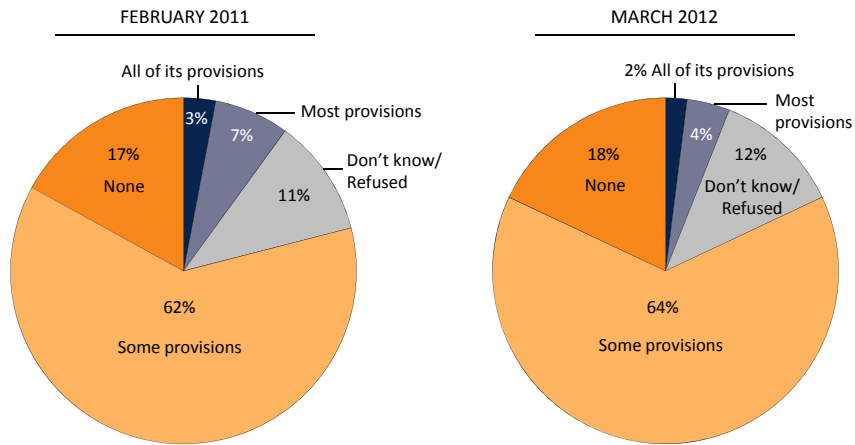


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 29 - March 5, 2012)



## Six In Ten Correctly Gauge Pace Of Implementation

As far as you know, how much of the health reform law has been put into place thus far:



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls





## 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, Claudia Deane, Bianca DiJulio, Sarah Cho, and Theresa Boston. The survey was conducted February 29 – March 5, 2012, among a nationally representative random digit dial telephone sample of 1,208 adults ages 18 and older, living in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. Interviews conducted by landline (704) and cell phone (504, including 279 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Braun Research, Inc. under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI). The combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to balance the sample demographics to match Census estimates for the national population on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, nativity (for Hispanics only), region, and telephone usage. Two questions about knowledge of the law's provisions and whether it has already been overturned by the Supreme Court were fielded on a separate survey conducted March 1–4, 2012 among a nationally representative random sample of 1,009 adults ages 18 and older, living in the continental United States. For the *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll Omnibus Supplement*, telephone interviews conducted by landline (603) and cell phone (406, including 201 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English by Princeton Data Source under the direction of PSRAI. The omnibus sample was weighted to match national estimates by sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, household size, region, and telephone usage.

All statistical tests of significance account for the effect of weighting. The margin of sampling error including the design effect is plus or minus 3 percentage points for the main survey and 4 percentage points for the omnibus supplement. For results based on 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.

The full question wording and methodology of the polls can be viewed online at: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8285.cfm>.



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*The Kaiser Family Foundation, a leader in health policy analysis, health journalism and communication, is dedicated to filling the need for trusted, independent information on the major health issues facing our nation and its people.  
The Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California.*