



Chartpack

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: September 2012

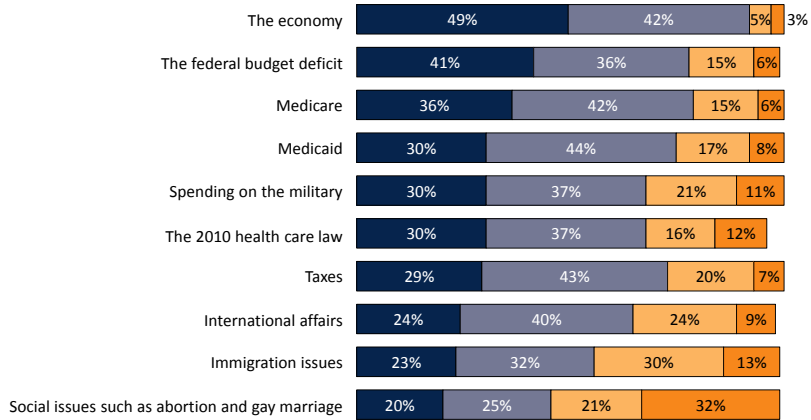
September 2012

SLIDE 1

Economy, Budget Deficit, Medicare Top Election Issue Priority List

Thinking ahead to the November election, please tell me how important each of the following will be to your vote for President.

Extremely important
 Very important
 Somewhat important
 Less important than that



Note: Some items asked of separate half samples. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



SLIDE 2

Medicare Pulls Close To Economy As Top Issue For Those Aged 55 And Up

Percent who say that each of the following issues will be extremely important to their vote for President:

Rank	18-54	55-64	65+
1	The economy (48%)	The economy (54%)	The economy (51%)
2	Federal budget deficit (38%)	Medicare (51%)	Medicare (46%)
3	Medicare (29%)	Federal budget deficit (51%)	Federal budget deficit (43%)
4	Medicaid (28%)	Medicaid (42%)	Taxes (36%)
5	The 2010 health care law (28%)	Taxes (38%)	Spending on the military (34%)
6	Spending on the military (28%)	Spending on the military (36%)	The 2010 health care law (32%)

Note: Some items asked of separate half samples. Only top six issues listed.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



SLIDE 3

Budget Deficit And Economy Top Issues For Republicans; Medicare A Higher Priority For Democrats

Percent who say that each of the following issues will be extremely important to their vote for President:

Rank	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
1	The economy (50%)	The economy (46%)	Federal budget deficit (57%)
2	Medicare (45%)	Federal budget deficit (38%)	The economy (54%)
3	Medicaid (38%)	Medicare (32%)	Spending on the military (41%)
4	The 2010 health care law (38%)	Spending on the military (31%)	Taxes (36%)
5	Federal budget deficit (33%)	Medicaid (27%)	The 2010 health care law (30%)
6	Taxes (29%)	Taxes (27%)	International affairs (30%)

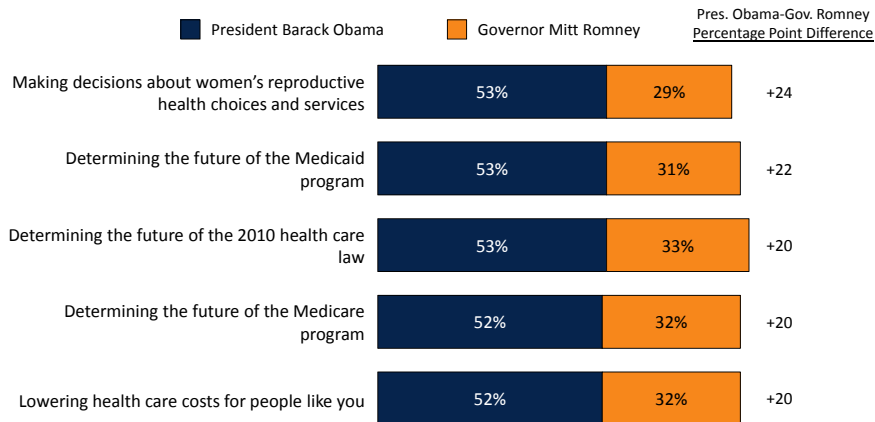
Note: Some items asked of separate half samples. Only top six issues listed.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



SLIDE 4

In September, President Obama Holds Double Digit Advantage On Health Policy Issues

Which presidential candidate, Barack Obama or Mitt Romney, do you trust to do a better job at each of the following?



Note: Both (vol.), Neither/Other (vol.), and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



SLIDE 5

Seniors More Likely Than Younger Americans To Trust Governor Romney On Medicare; Still, Seniors Overall Are Evenly Divided

Which presidential candidate, Barack Obama or Mitt Romney, do you trust to do a better job determining the future of the Medicare program?

	Total	By Age			Among Seniors By Party ID		
		18-54	55-64	65+	Dem	Ind	Rep
President Barack Obama	52%	56%	49%	44%	87%	30%	4%
Governor Mitt Romney	32	29	34	42	5	50	83
Neither/Other (vol.)	7	7	8	7	5	10	8
Both (vol.)	1	1	0	<1	0	1	<1
Don't know/Refused	7	7	8	6	3	7	5

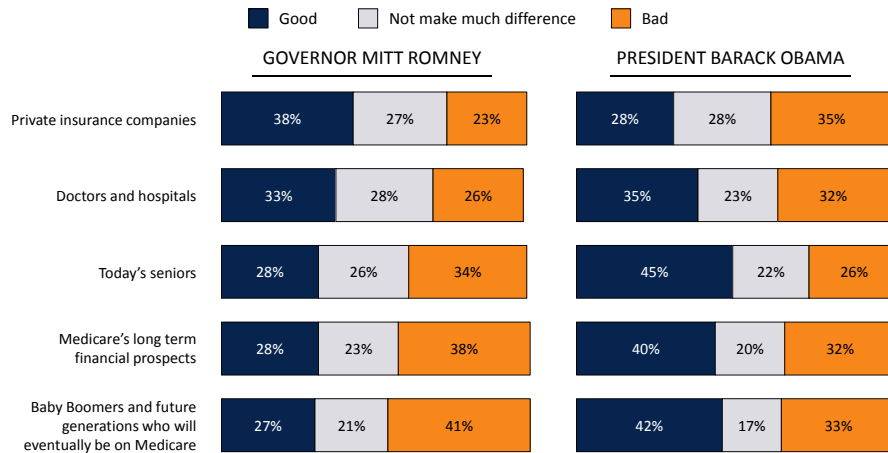
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



SLIDE 6

Who Will Benefit In A Governor Romney/President Obama Medicare Program?

Do you think [Mitt Romney's/Barack Obama's] handling of Medicare would be good, bad or not make much difference for each of the following?



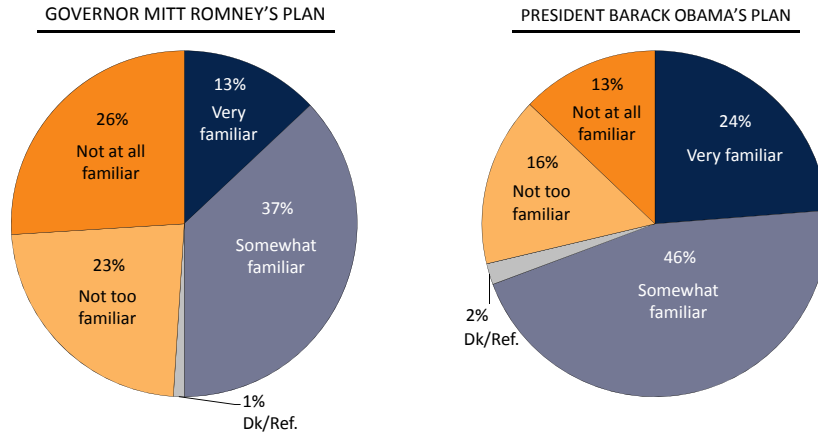
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



SLIDE 7

Majority Familiar With President Obama's Plans For Medicare, Half With Governor Romney's

How familiar are you with [Mitt Romney's/Barack Obama's] plans for the Medicare program?



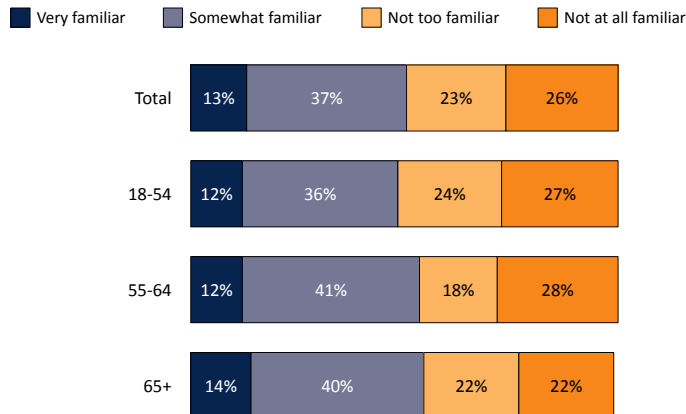
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



SLIDE 8

Seniors And Near Seniors No More Familiar With Romney's Plans For Medicare Than Younger Americans

How familiar are you with Governor Mitt Romney's plans for the Medicare program?



Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



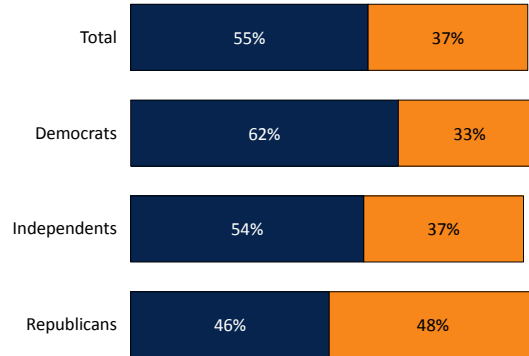
SLIDE 9

Majority Support Medicare Status Quo Over Change To 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 guaranteeing all seniors the same set of health insurance benefits

Medicare should be changed to a system in which the government guarantees each senior a fixed amount of money to help them purchase coverage either from traditional Medicare or from a list of private health plans



Note: Other (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



SLIDE 10

Support For Medicare Status Quo Stronger Among Those Aged 55 And Up

Which of these two descriptions comes closer to your view of what Medicare should look like in the future?

	Total	By Age			AMONG SENIORS By Party ID		
		18-54	55-64	65+	Dem	Ind	Rep
Medicare should continue as it is today , with the government guaranteeing all seniors the same set of health insurance benefits	55%	50%	67%	64%	75%	65%	50%
Medicare should be changed to a system in which the government guarantees each senior a fixed amount of money to help them purchase coverage either from traditional Medicare or from a list of private health plans	37	44	24	26	18	24	39

Note: Other (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Which Arguments May Sway Supporters Of Traditional Medicare?

Which comes closer to your view: *Medicare should continue as it is today*, OR *Medicare should be changed* to a system in which each senior is given a fixed amount of money to help them purchase coverage.

KEEP MEDICARE AS IS	CHANGE MEDICARE
55%	37%

ASKED OF THOSE WHO WANT TO **KEEP MEDICARE AS IS**:

I'd like to read you some arguments FOR changing Medicare. Would that make you more interested in making this change to Medicare, or would you still want to keep Medicare as it is?

Results for total after those who want to keep Medicare as is heard follow-up argument:

	Still keep Medicare as is	Now MORE interested in making change	Originally want to change Medicare
This proposal is needed to sustain Medicare for future generations	27%	25%	37%
The proposal would reduce Medicare spending through competition, with private plans competing with traditional Medicare for seniors' business and seniors choosing plans based on cost, benefits, and quality	29%	22%	37%
This proposal will help reduce the federal budget deficit	32%	21%	37%
The proposal would not affect people who are now ages 55 or older, including today's seniors	34%	19%	37%

Note: Some question wording abbreviated. See topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8361.cfm> for full question wording. Other (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Which Arguments May Sway Backers Of Premium Support?

Which comes closer to your view: *Medicare should continue as it is today*, OR *Medicare should be changed* to a system in which each senior is given a fixed amount of money to help them purchase coverage.

KEEP MEDICARE AS IS	CHANGE MEDICARE
55%	37%

ASKED OF THOSE WHO WANT TO **CHANGE MEDICARE**:

I'd like to read you some arguments AGAINST changing Medicare. Would that make you less interested in making this change to Medicare, or would you still want to make this change to Medicare?

Results for total after those who want to change Medicare heard follow-up argument:

	Originally want to keep Medicare as is	Now LESS interested in making change	Still want to change Medicare
The proposed change will save the federal government money by shifting costs onto seniors	55%	19%	16%
The proposal gives the insurance industry too much influence over seniors' health care	55%	19%	16%
The proposal will turn Medicare into a voucher program	55%	15%	19%
Under this proposal, traditional Medicare as we know it will no longer exist	55%	14%	21%

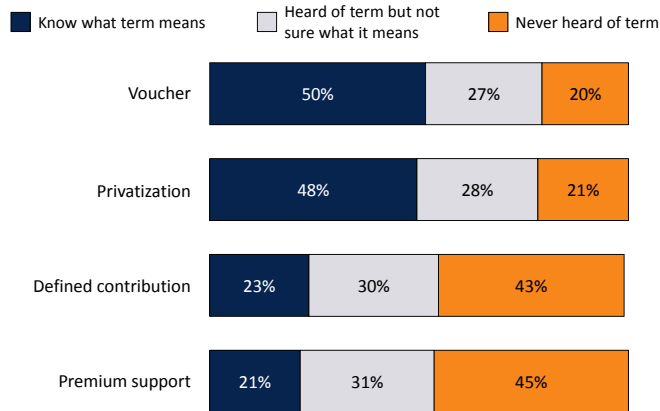
Note: Some question wording abbreviated. See topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8361.cfm> for full question wording. Other (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



SLIDE 13

Many Americans Unfamiliar With Key Terms Of Medicare Debate

Thinking about proposals to change the Medicare program, how familiar are you with each of the following terms? Do you know what this term means, have you heard of it, but are not sure what it means, or have you never heard of the term when it comes to Medicare?



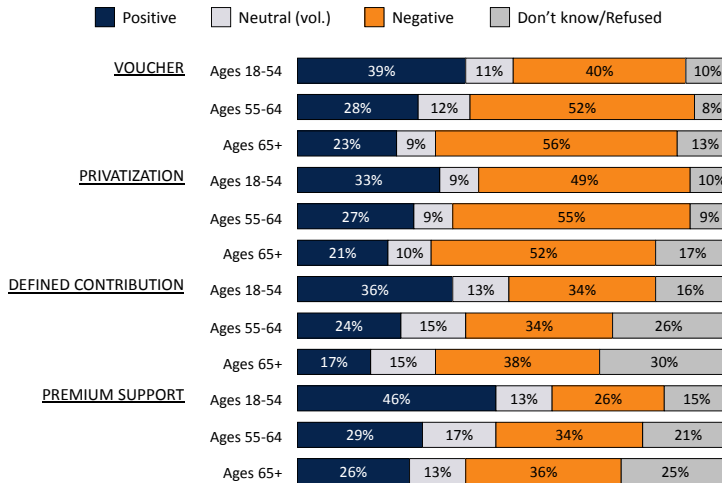
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



SLIDE 14

Seniors Less Likely Than Younger Americans To View Terms Of Premium Support Debate Positively

And still thinking in the context of Medicare, do you have a positive or negative reaction to each of the following terms?

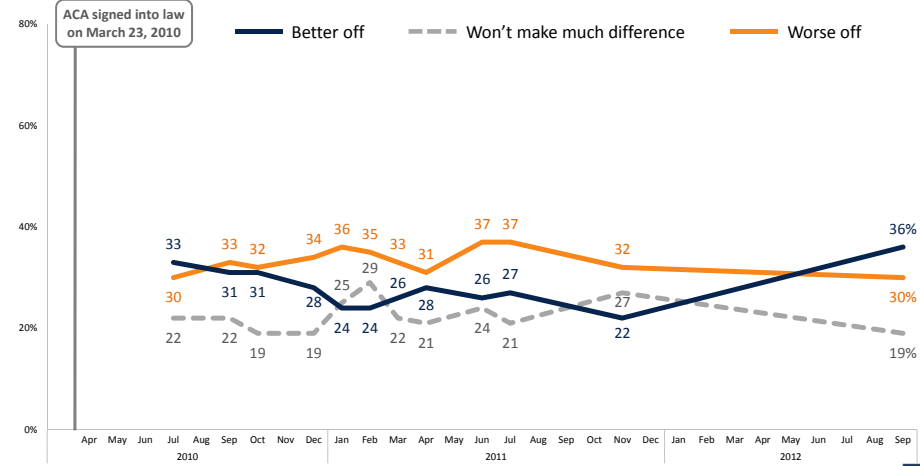


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Will Medicare Be Helped Or Hurt? Mixed Views, Shallow Upward Tick In Positive Views

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?

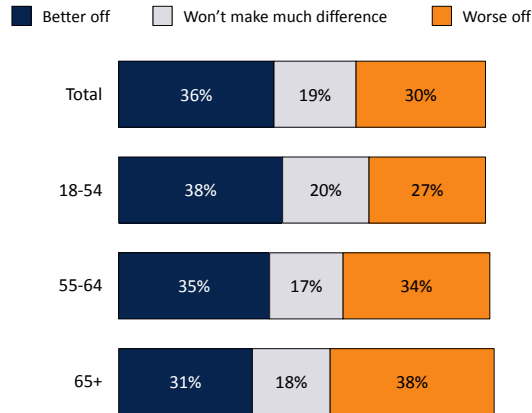


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



Seniors Split On Whether Medicare Will Suffer Or Benefit Under ACA

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?

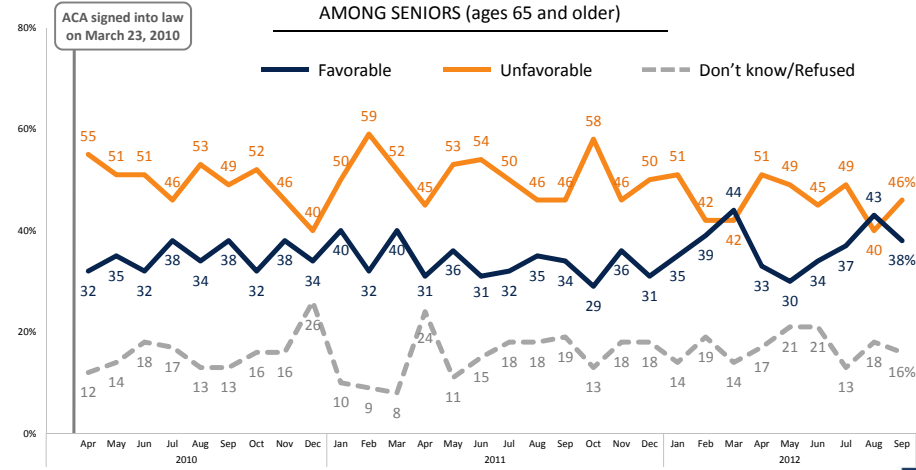


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Unfavorable Views Of ACA Outstrip Favorable Among Seniors

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



Mixed Familiarity With Medicare-Related Elements Of ACA

I'm going to read you a list of specific ways the new health reform law may or may not impact Medicare. For each, please tell me if you think it is something the law does or does not do.

ELEMENTS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH CARE LAW			
	Yes, law does this (correct answer)	No, law does not do this	Dk/Ref.
Gradually close the Medicare "doughnut hole"	48%	30%	22%
Increase Medicare payroll tax on upper income Americans	47	33	20
Increase premiums for higher income people on Medicare	46	35	19
Reduce Medicare payments to private plans, also known as Medicare Advantage plans	42	29	29
Create an expert panel to recommend ways to reduce Medicare spending if costs grow too rapidly	40	36	23
Eliminate costs for preventive services under Medicare	37	40	22
Provide a bonus to physicians who provide primary care services to people on Medicare	34	39	27
ELEMENTS THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE HEALTH CARE LAW			
	Yes, law does this	No, law does not do this (correct answer)	Dk/Ref.
Cut benefits for people in the traditional Medicare program	35%	44%	21%
Establish a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare	39	39	22

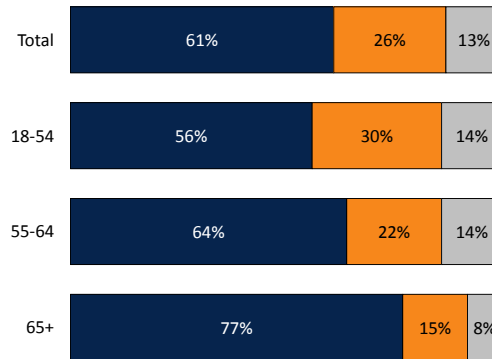
Note: Items asked of separate half samples. Response wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8361.cfm> for complete wording. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Those Of Medicare Age Overwhelmingly Say Program Working Well

Would you say the current Medicare program is working well for most seniors, or not?

■ YES, Medicare is working well
 ■ NO, Medicare is not working well
 ■ Dk/Ref.



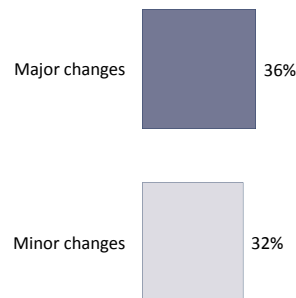
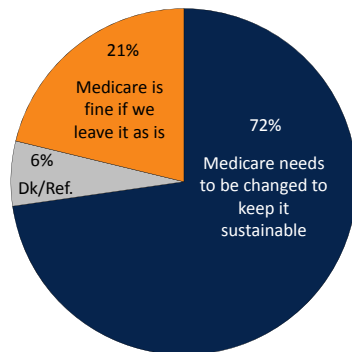
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Seven In Ten Say Medicare Needs Changes To Stay Sustainable

Do you think changes need to be made to the Medicare program to keep it sustainable for the future, or do you think the Medicare program will basically be fine if we leave it as is?

Asked of those who say Medicare needs to be changed: Do you think we need to make major changes or minor changes to Medicare to keep it sustainable for the future?

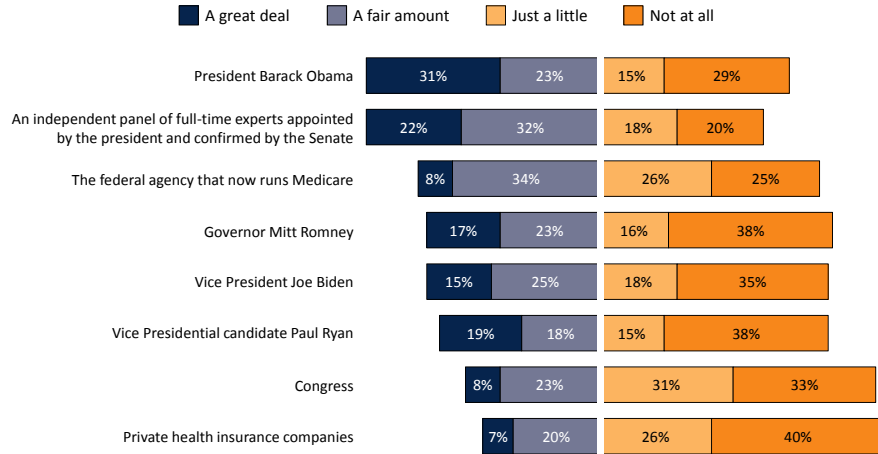


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown for follow-up question.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Who Do You Trust To Find The Best Ways To Reduce Medicare Spending?

For each of the following people or groups I mention, please tell me how much you would trust them to find the best ways to reduce Medicare spending in order to keep the program sustainable in the future.



Note: Some items asked of separate half sample. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Who Does The Public Trust To Reduce Medicare Spending Wisely? By Party ID

Percent who say they would trust each of the following a great deal or a fair amount to find the best ways to reduce Medicare spending in order to keep the program sustainable in the future:

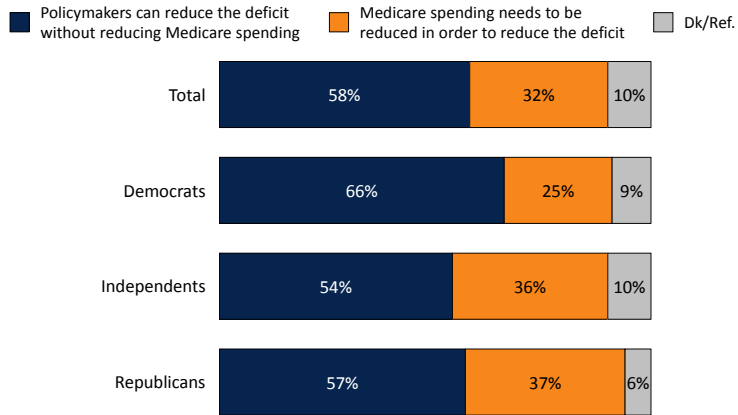
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
President Barack Obama	54%	86%	50%	18%
An independent panel of full-time experts appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate	54	64	54	43
The federal agency that now runs Medicare	42	55	43	28
Vice President Joe Biden	40	64	36	11
Governor Mitt Romney	40	14	42	75
Vice Presidential candidate Paul Ryan	37	17	40	63
Congress	31	36	23	34
Private health insurance companies	27	23	29	36

Note: Some items asked of separate half sample.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Majority Say Deficit Could Be Reduced Without Reducing Medicare Spending

Which comes closer to your opinion—if policymakers made the right changes, they could reduce the federal budget deficit without reducing Medicare spending, or in order to significantly reduce the federal budget deficit, policymakers will need to reduce Medicare spending?

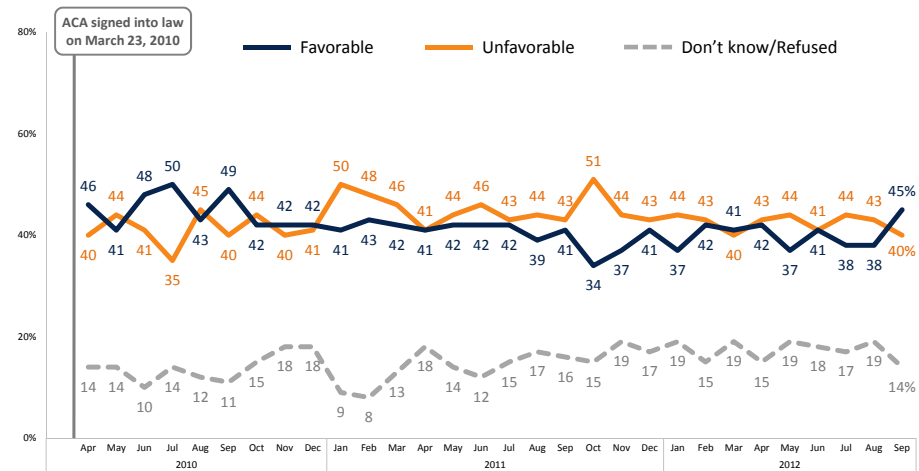


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Public Still Divided On ACA; Favorable Views Tick Up This Month

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?

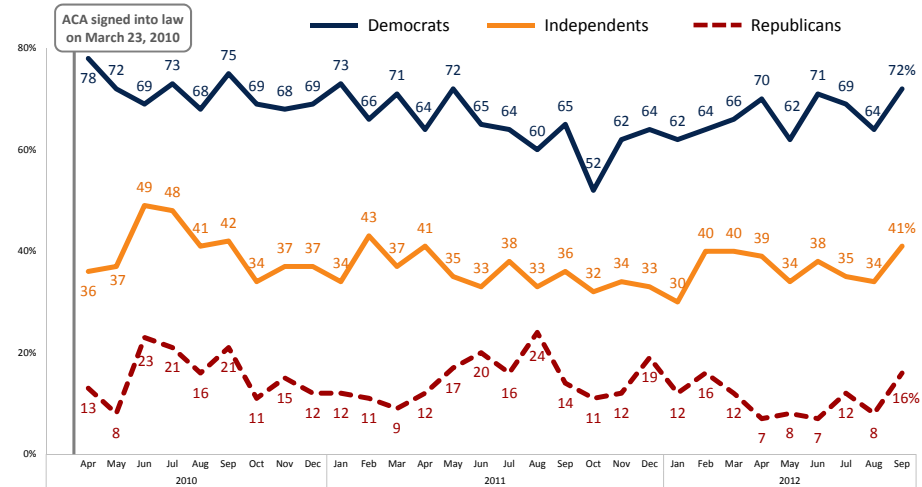


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



Chronic Partisan Divide Over ACA

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



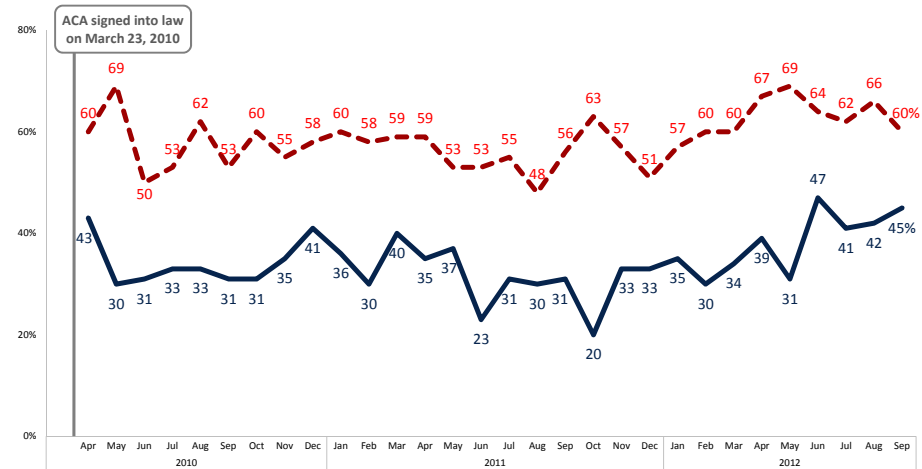
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



Republicans' Intense Opposition Outpaces Democrats' Enthusiastic Support, Though Democrats Have Rallied Somewhat Since Start Of The Year

Percent of Democrats who say they have a VERY FAVORABLE opinion of the health care law

Percent of Republicans who say they have a VERY UNFAVORABLE opinion of the health care law

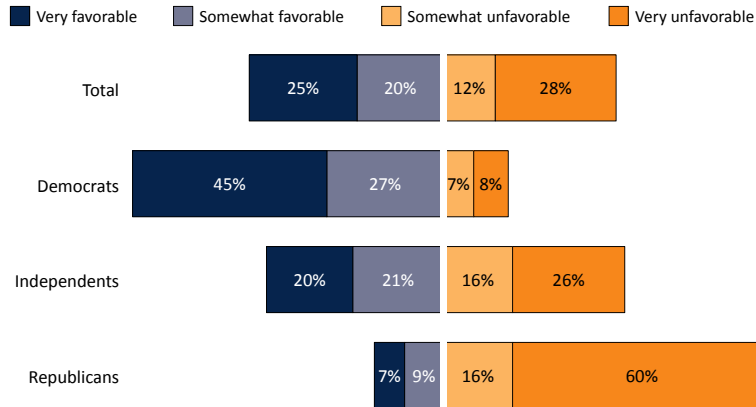


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



Large Share Of Republicans Intense In Their Opposition To 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?

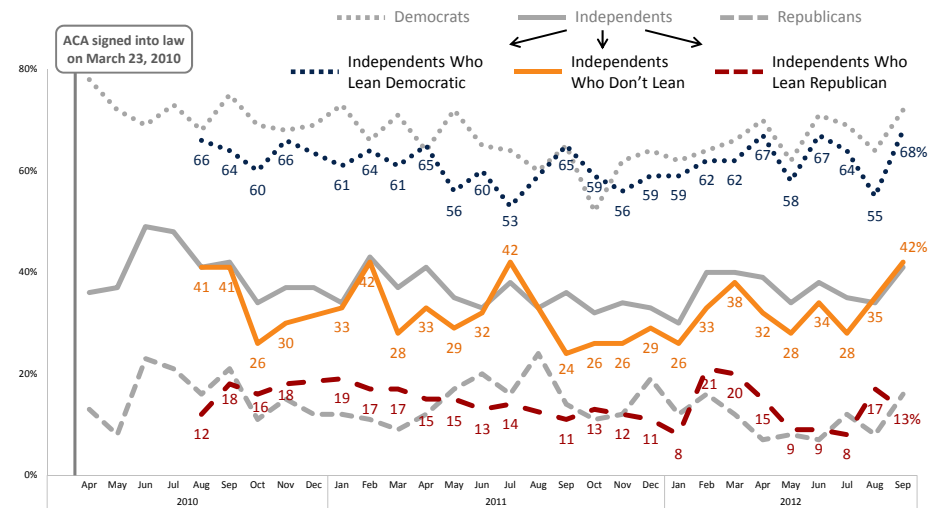


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



On ACA, Independents Who Lean Still Look Like Partisans

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

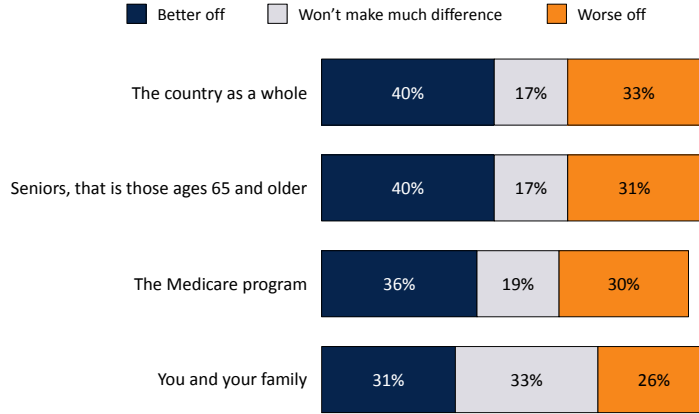


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



Country Divided On Whether ACA Will Help Or Hurt

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?

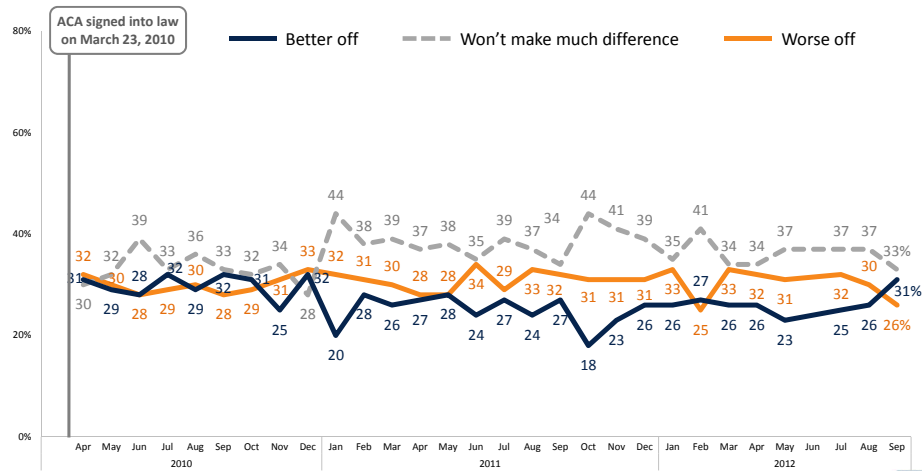


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Also Divided On Personal Impact Of Health 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?

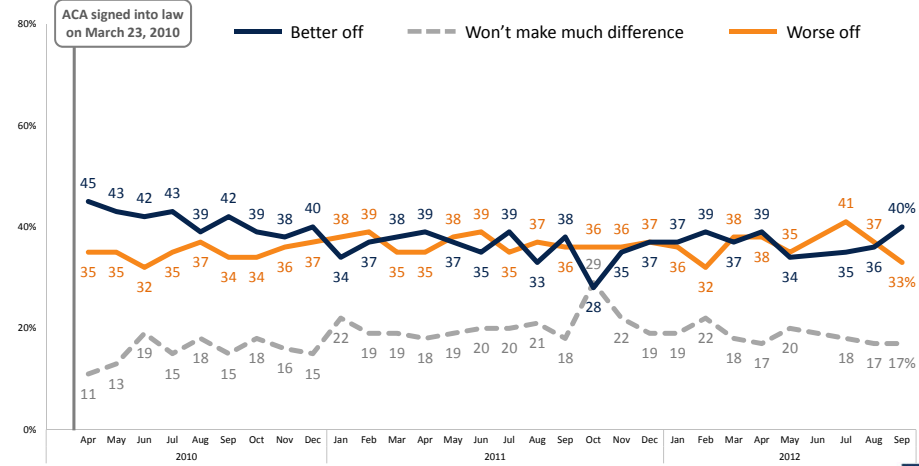


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



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?

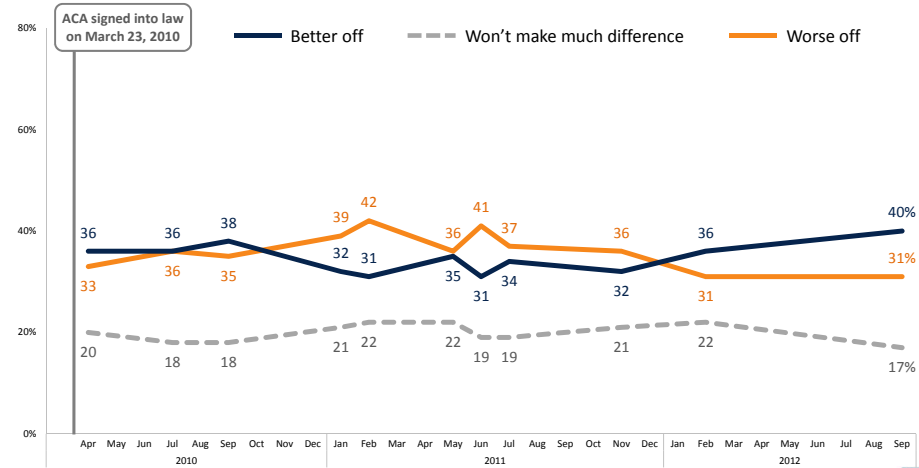


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



Public Still Divided On ACA's Impact On Seniors, But In 2012 Positive Views Outstrip Negative

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?

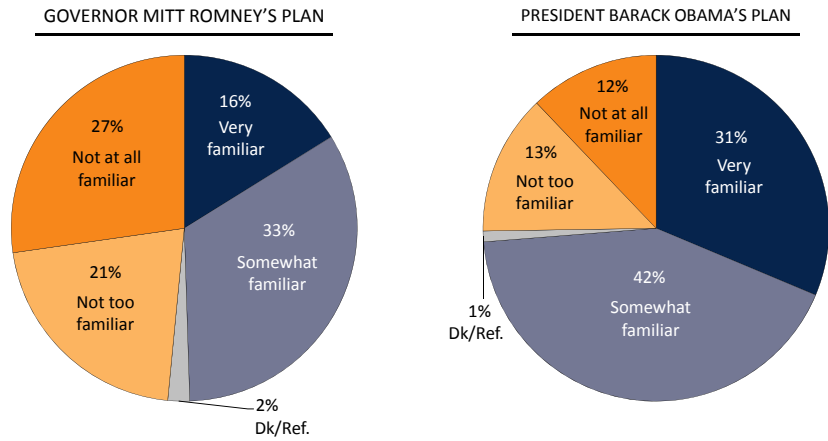


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls



More Familiar With President Obama's Plans For Health Care Law

How familiar are you with [Mitt Romney's/Barack Obama's] plans for the 2010 health care law?

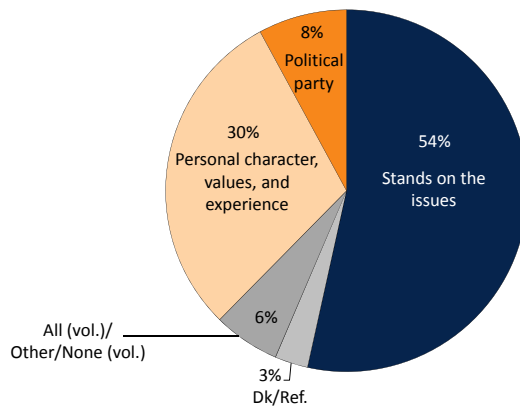


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



Just Over Half Say Issues Are Main Driver Of Their Vote Choice

Still thinking about the presidential election, which of the following matters most to you when you're deciding who to vote for:



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)



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 Claudia Deane, Sarah Cho, and Theresa Boston. The survey was conducted September 13-19, 2012, among a nationally representative random digit dial telephone sample of 1,534 adults ages 18 and older, living in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (1,033) and cell phone (501, including 284 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.

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. Margin of error for seniors is plus or minus 6 percentage points (n=455). 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.

The full question wording and methodology of the polls can be viewed online at:
<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8361.cfm>.



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