



Topline

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: September 2012

September 2012

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). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC. For the landline sample, respondents were selected by asking for the youngest adult male or female currently at home based on a random rotation. If no one of that gender was available, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult of the opposite gender. For the cell phone sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone.

The combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the national population data from the Census Bureau's 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, nativity (for Hispanics only), and region along with data from the 2000 Census on population density. The sample was also weighted to match current patterns of telephone use using data from the July-December 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weight takes into account the fact that respondents with both a landline and cell phone have a higher probability of selection in the combined sample and also adjusts for the household size for the landline sample. All statistical tests of significance account for the effect of weighting. Weighted and unweighted values for key demographic variables are shown in the table below.

Sample Demographics		
	Unweighted	Weighted
Gender		
Male	48.3%	49.0%
Female	51.7%	51.0%
Age		
18-24	6.4%	12.1%
25-34	10.4%	16.3%
35-44	13.4%	16.4%
45-54	17.7%	19.0%
55-64	19.9%	16.4%
65+	29.7%	17.7%
Education		
Less than HS Grad.	6.3%	11.7%
HS Grad.	24.4%	33.7%
Some College	24.4%	24.2%
College Grad.	43.0%	28.8%
Race/Ethnicity		
White/not Hispanic	74.1%	67.0%
Black/not Hispanic	9.6%	11.1%
Hisp - US born	5.7%	6.3%
Hisp - born outside	3.5%	6.2%
Other/not Hispanic	3.7%	5.9%
Party Identification		
Democrat	34.2%	34.1%
Independent	33.1%	33.4%
Republican	25.6%	23.8%
Other	4.0%	4.3%

See table below for information on the margin of sampling error including the design effect. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margin of sampling errors for other subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Population	Number interviewed	Margin of sampling error
Full sample	1,534	± 3 percentage points
Seniors (age 65 or older)	455	± 6 percentage points

The response rate calculated based on the American Association of Public Opinion Research's Response Rate 3 formula was 12 percent for the landline sample and 11 percent for the cell phone sample.

NO QUESTION 1

2. Thinking ahead to the November election, please tell me how important each of the following will be in your vote for President. The first is (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE). Will that be extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or less important than that? How about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE NEXT ITEM)? [READ AS NECESSARY: In your vote for President, will that be extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or less important than that?]

Items d-g based on half sample A (n=764) / half sample A RVs (n=688)

Items h-k based on half sample B (n=770) / half sample B RVs (n=679)

		Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Less important	Don't know/Refused
a.	The economy					
	09/12 Total	49	42	5	3	1
	09/12 RVs	50	42	5	2	1
b.	Medicare, the government health insurance program for seniors					
	09/12 Total	36	42	15	6	1
	09/12 RVs	36	43	16	5	1
c.	Medicaid, the government health insurance and long term care program for certain low-income adults and children					
	09/12 Total	30	44	17	8	1
	09/12 RVs	29	44	18	8	1
d.	Spending on the military					
	09/12 Total	30	37	21	11	1
	09/12 RVs	31	36	21	11	1
e.	The federal budget deficit					
	09/12 Total	41	36	15	6	2
	09/12 RVs	41	37	15	6	1
f.	Immigration issues					
	09/12 Total	23	32	30	13	2
	09/12 RVs	23	32	30	14	1
g.	The 2010 health care law					
	09/12 Total	31	38	16	8	7
	09/12 RVs	32	39	14	9	6
h.	Social issues such as abortion and gay marriage					
	09/12 Total	20	25	21	32	3
	09/12 RVs	21	24	21	32	2
i.	International affairs					
	09/12 Total	24	40	24	9	3
	09/12 RVs	26	40	24	8	2
j.	Taxes					
	09/12 Total	29	43	20	7	1
	09/12 RVs	29	43	21	6	1
k.	The 2010 health care law, sometimes called ObamaCare					
	09/12 Total	29	36	15	15	5
	09/12 RVs	31	37	14	15	4
Summary Q2g and Q2k based on total						
g/k. The 2010 health care law [sometimes called ObamaCare]						
	09/12 Total	30	37	16	12	6
	09/12 RVs	31	38	14	12	5

3. Still thinking about the presidential election, which of the following matters most to you when you're deciding who to vote for: Is it the candidates' (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE), the candidates' (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) or the candidates' (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)?

	09/12 Total	09/12 RVs
Stands on the issues	54	55
Personal character, values, and experience	30	29
Political party	8	8
(VOL.) All	5	6
(VOL.) Other/None	1	1
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3	2

4. 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? [GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that a very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?] (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/ Refused
09/12 Total	25	20	12	28	14
09/12 RVs	26	19	12	30	13
08/12 Total	21	17	13	30	19
07/12 Total	20	18	13	31	17
06/12 Total	25	16	11	30	18
05/12 Total	17	20	12	32	19
04/12 Total	20	22	9	34	15
03/12 Total	18	23	11	29	19
02/12 Total	17	25	16	27	15
01/12 Total	18	19	14	30	19
12/11 Total ¹	19	22	15	28	17
11/11 Total	17	20	15	29	19
10/11 Total	12	22	20	31	15
09/11 Total	18	23	14	29	16
08/11 Total	16	23	17	27	17
07/11 Total	20	22	12	31	15
06/11 Total	15	27	16	30	12
05/11 Total	19	23	15	29	14
04/11 Total	20	21	14	27	18
03/11 Total	21	21	15	31	13
02/11 Total	16	27	19	29	8
01/11 Total	19	22	16	34	9
12/10 Total	22	20	14	27	18
11/10 Total	19	23	12	28	18
10/10 Total	18	24	15	29	15
09/10 Total	19	30	15	25	11
08/10 Total	19	24	13	32	12
07/10 Total	21	29	10	25	14
06/10 Total	20	28	16	25	10
05/10 Total	14	27	12	32	14
04/10 Total ²	23	23	10	30	14

¹ May 2010 through December 2011 trend wording was "As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year..."

² April 2010 trend wording was "[President Obama did sign a health reform bill into law last month...] Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? (Is that a very favorable/unfavorable or somewhat favorable/unfavorable opinion?)"

5. Do you think (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) will be (better off) or (worse off) under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES ACROSS INTERVIEWS, BUT NOT WITHIN SAME INTERVIEW) [READ IF NECESSARY: "Will (INSERT ITEM) be (better off) or (worse off) under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference?]

	Better off	Worse off	Not much difference	(VOL.) Depends	Don't know/ Refused
a. You and your family					
09/12 Total	31	26	33	--	9
09/12 RVs	31	29	32	--	8
08/12 Total	26	30	37	--	7
07/12 Total	25	32	37	--	6
05/12 Total	23	31	37	--	9
04/12 Total	26	32	34	--	8
03/12 Total	26	33	34	--	7
02/12 Total	27	25	41	--	7
01/12 Total	26	33	35	--	6
12/11 Total	26	31	39	--	5
11/11 Total	23	31	41	--	5
10/11 Total	18	31	44	--	6
09/11 Total	27	32	34	--	7
08/11 Total	24	33	37	--	6
07/11 Total	27	29	39	--	5
06/11 Total	24	34	35	--	7
05/11 Total	28	28	38	--	6
04/11 Total	27	28	37	--	8
03/11 Total	26	30	39	--	5
02/11 Total	28	31	38	--	3
01/11 Total	20	32	44	--	4
12/10 Total	32	33	28	--	7
11/10 Total	25	31	34	--	9
10/10 Total	31	29	32	--	7
09/10 Total	32	28	33	--	7
08/10 Total	29	30	36	--	5
07/10 Total	32	29	33	--	6
06/10 Total	28	28	39	--	5
05/10 Total	29	30	32	--	9
04/10 Total	31	32	30	--	8
03/10 Total ³	35	32	28	2	3
02/10 Total	34	32	26	3	5
01/10 Total	32	33	29	3	4
12/09 Total	35	27	32	3	3
11/09 Total	42	24	27	3	4
10/09 Total	41	27	28	2	3
09/09 Total	42	23	28	4	3
08/09 Total	36	31	27	2	4
07/09 Total	39	21	32	4	3
06/09 Total	39	16	36	3	5
04/09 Total	43	14	36	4	4
02/09 Total	38	11	43	4	3

Q5 continued on next page

³ February 2009 through March 2010 trend wording was "Do you think (INSERT) would be (better off) or (worse off) if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference?"

Q5 continued

	Better off	Worse off	Not much difference	(VOL.) Depends	Don't know/ Refused
b. The country as a whole					
09/12 Total	40	33	17	--	10
09/12 RVs	40	35	16	--	9
08/12 Total	36	37	17	--	10
07/12 Total	35	41	18	--	7
05/12 Total	34	35	20	--	11
04/12 Total	39	38	17	--	6
03/12 Total	37	38	18	--	7
02/12 Total	39	32	22	--	7
01/12 Total	37	36	19	--	8
12/11 Total	37	37	19	--	7
11/11 Total	35	36	22	--	7
10/11 Total	28	36	29	--	7
09/11 Total	38	36	18	--	8
08/11 Total	33	37	21	--	9
07/11 Total	39	35	20	--	6
06/11 Total	35	39	20	--	6
05/11 Total	37	38	19	--	6
04/11 Total	39	35	18	--	9
03/11 Total	38	35	19	--	7
02/11 Total	37	39	19	--	5
01/11 Total	34	38	22	--	5
12/10 Total	40	37	15	--	8
11/10 Total	38	36	16	--	10
10/10 Total	39	34	18	--	9
09/10 Total	42	34	15	--	9
08/10 Total	39	37	18	--	6
07/10 Total	43	35	15	--	7
06/10 Total	42	32	19	--	6
05/10 Total	43	35	13	--	9
04/10 Total	45	35	11	--	9
03/10 Total	45	34	14	3	4
02/10 Total	45	34	12	4	5
01/10 Total	42	37	12	3	5
12/09 Total	45	31	17	4	3
11/09 Total	54	27	11	3	5
10/09 Total	53	28	12	2	4
09/09 Total	53	26	14	4	4
08/09 Total	45	34	14	3	4
07/09 Total	51	23	16	4	6
06/09 Total	57	16	19	3	5
04/09 Total	56	15	21	3	5
02/09 Total	59	12	19	5	5

Q5 continued on next page

Q5 continued

	Better off	Worse off	Not much difference	(VOL.) Depends	Don't know/Refused
c. Seniors, that is those ages 65 and older					
09/12 Total	40	31	17	--	12
09/12 RVs	40	32	18	--	11
02/12 Total	36	31	22	--	10
11/11 Total	32	36	21	--	11
07/11 Total	34	37	19	--	10
06/11 Total	31	41	19	--	9
05/11 Total	35	36	22	--	8
02/11 Total	31	42	22	--	5
01/11 Total	32	39	21	--	8
09/10 Total	38	35	18	--	9
07/10 Total	36	36	18	--	10
04/10 Total	36	33	20	--	12
12/09 Total	40	31	21	4	4
11/09 Total	43	29	19	4	6
10/09 Total	44	29	20	2	6
09/09 Total	46	25	20	3	6
d. The Medicare program					
09/12 Total	36	30	19	--	15
09/12 RVs	36	31	19	--	14
11/11 Total	22	32	27	--	19
07/11 Total	27	37	21	--	15
06/11 Total	26	37	24	--	14
04/11 Total	28	31	21	--	20
03/11 Total	26	33	22	--	19
02/11 Total	24	35	29	--	12
01/11 Total	24	36	25	--	15
12/10 Total	28	34	19	--	19
10/10 Total	31	32	19	--	18
09/10 Total	31	33	22	--	14
07/10 Total	33	30	22	--	15
08/09 Total	38	30	19	3	10

6. Which presidential candidate, (Barack Obama) or (Mitt Romney), do you trust to do a better job (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? How about (NEXT ITEM)? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES ACROSS INTERVIEWS, BUT NOT WITHIN SAME INTERVIEW) [READ IF NECESSARY: Do you trust (Barack Obama) or (Mitt Romney) to do a better job (INSERT ITEM)?]

	Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) Neither/Other	Don't know/Refused
a. Determining the future of the 2010 health care law					
09/12 Total	53	33	1	7	7
09/12 RVs	53	35	1	6	5
07/12 Total ⁴	45	34	2	11	7
05/12 Total	50	31	1	10	8
b. Making decisions about women's reproductive health choices and services					
09/12 Total	53	29	1	8	8
09/12 RVs	53	31	1	9	7
c. Determining the future of the Medicare program					
09/12 Total	52	32	1	7	7
09/12 RVs	52	35	1	7	6
07/12 Total ⁵	44	34	2	12	8
d. Lowering health costs for people like you					
09/12 Total	52	32	1	9	7
09/12 RVs	51	34	1	9	6
07/12 Total	43	33	2	14	8
e. Determining the future of the Medicaid program					
09/12 Total	53	31	1	7	8
09/12 RVs	53	33	1	6	7
07/12 Total ⁶	45	34	2	11	8

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

	09/12 Total	09/12 RVs
Yes, Medicare is working well	61	64
No, Medicare is not working well	26	24
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	13	12

8. 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)? (ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES)

	09/12 Total	09/12 RVs
Medicare needs to be changed to keep it sustainable	72	74
Medicare is fine if we leave it as is	21	20
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6	6

⁴ May through July 2012 trend wording was "Dealing with the future of the 2010 health care law."

⁵ Trend wording was "Handling the Medicare program."

⁶ Trend wording was "Handling the Medicaid program."

9. Do you think we need to make (major) changes or (minor) changes to Medicare to keep it sustainable for the future? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

Based on those who think Medicare needs to change

	09/12 Total	09/12 RVs
Major changes	50	49
Minor changes	44	45
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	5	6
	(n=1,138)	(n=1,026)

Summary Q8 and Q9 based on total

	09/12 Total	09/12 RVs
Medicare needs to be changed to keep it sustainable	72	74
Major changes	36	36
Minor changes	32	33
Don't know/Refused	4	4
Medicare is fine if we leave it as is	21	20
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6	6

10. 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. First, how much would you trust (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) to find the best ways to reduce Medicare spending? A great deal, a fair amount, just a little, or not at all? How about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? [REREAD STEM AS NECESSARY]

Items a and b asked of half sample A (n=764) / half sample A RVs (n=688)

Items c and d asked of half sample B (n=770) / half sample B RVs (n=679)

		A great deal	A fair amount	Just a little	Not at all	Don't know/ Refused
a.	An independent panel of full-time experts appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate					
	09/12 Total	22	32	18	20	8
	09/12 RVs	22	33	18	21	6
	06/11 Total ⁷	15	35	24	23	2
b.	Congress					
	09/12 Total	8	23	31	33	6
	09/12 RVs	8	24	30	34	5
	06/11 Total	8	26	33	31	2
c.	Private health insurance companies					
	09/12 Total	7	20	26	40	7
	09/12 RVs	7	21	26	40	6
	06/11 Total	7	27	27	36	2
d.	The federal agency that now runs Medicare					
	09/12 Total	8	34	26	25	8
	09/12 RVs	9	35	24	26	7
	06/11 Total	8	32	31	27	2
e.	Barack Obama					
	09/12 Total	31	23	15	29	3
	09/12 RVs	32	21	14	30	2
f.	Mitt Romney					
	09/12 Total	17	23	16	38	6
	09/12 RVs	18	23	16	38	5
g.	Vice President Joe Biden					
	09/12 Total	15	25	18	35	8
	09/12 RVs	17	24	17	36	7
h.	Vice Presidential candidate Paul Ryan					
	09/12 Total	19	18	15	38	10
	09/12 RVs	20	18	14	39	9

⁷ July 2011 trend wording was "How much would you trust (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) to make proposals about ways to reduce Medicare spending and keep the program sustainable in the future? A great deal, a fair amount, just a little, or not at all?"

ROTATE Q11 AND Q12

11. How familiar are you with (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) plans for the Medicare program? Very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not at all familiar? How about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) plans for Medicare?

		Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	Not too familiar	Not at all familiar	Don't know/ Refused
a. Barack Obama's	09/12 Total	24	46	16	13	2
	09/12 RVs	27	46	16	10	2
b. Mitt Romney's	09/12 Total	13	37	23	26	1
	09/12 RVs	13	38	23	24	1

12. How familiar are you with (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) plans for the 2010 health care law? Very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not at all familiar? How about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) plans for the 2010 health care law?

		Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	Not too familiar	Not at all familiar	Don't know/ Refused
a. Barack Obama's	09/12 Total	31	42	13	12	1
	09/12 RVs	34	43	13	9	1
b. Mitt Romney's	09/12 Total	16	33	21	27	2
	09/12 RVs	18	35	20	24	2

ROTATE Q13 AND Q14

13. Do you think Mitt Romney's handling of Medicare would be (good) for (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE), (bad) for (INSERT) or not make much difference? How about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? [READ AS NECESSARY: Do you think Mitt Romney's handling of Medicare would be (good) for (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE), (bad) for (INSERT) or not make much difference?] (ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES ACROSS INTERVIEWS, BUT NOT WITHIN SAME INTERVIEW)

		Good	Bad	Not make much diff.	Don't know/ Refused
a. Today's seniors	09/12 Total	28	34	26	11
	09/12 RVs	29	36	24	10
b. Baby Boomers and future generations who will eventually be on Medicare	09/12 Total	27	41	21	12
	09/12 RVs	28	42	19	10
c. Medicare's long term financial prospects	09/12 Total	28	38	23	12
	09/12 RVs	30	38	22	10
d. Doctors and hospitals	09/12 Total	33	26	28	14
	09/12 RVs	34	27	27	12
e. Private insurance companies	09/12 Total	38	23	27	13
	09/12 RVs	40	23	25	12

14. Do you think Barack Obama’s handling of Medicare would be (good) for (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE), (bad) for (INSERT) or not make much difference? How about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? [READ AS NECESSARY: Do you think Barack Obama’s handling of Medicare would be (good) for (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE), (bad) for (INSERT) or not make much difference?] (ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES ACROSS INTERVIEWS, BUT NOT WITHIN SAME INTERVIEW)

		Good	Bad	Not make much diff.	Don’t know/Refused
a. Today’s seniors	09/12 Total	45	26	22	7
	09/12 RVs	45	29	21	5
b. Baby Boomers and future generations who will eventually be on Medicare	09/12 Total	42	33	17	9
	09/12 RVs	42	36	15	7
c. Medicare’s long term financial prospects	09/12 Total	40	32	20	9
	09/12 RVs	40	34	19	8
d. Doctors and hospitals	09/12 Total	35	32	23	10
	09/12 RVs	34	35	22	8
e. Private insurance companies	09/12 Total	28	35	28	10
	09/12 RVs	28	37	27	8

15. 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)? (ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES)

	09/12 Total	09/12 RVs
Policymakers can reduce deficit without reducing Medicare spending	58	60
Medicare spending needs to be reduced in order to reduce the deficit	32	31
(DO NOT READ) Don’t know/Refused	10	9

16. 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. First, to the best of your knowledge, would you say the new law does or does not (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? Would you say the law does or does not (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)?

Items a, c, e, g, i based on half sample A (n=764) / half sample A RVs (n=688)

Items b, d, f, h based on half sample B (n=770) / half sample B RVs (n=679)

		Yes, law does this	No, law does not do this	Don't know/ Refused
a.	Gradually close the Medicare prescription drug "doughnut hole" or "coverage gap" so people on Medicare will no longer be required to pay the full cost of their medications when they reach the gap			
	09/12 Total	48	30	22
	09/12 RVs	49	30	21
	06/11 Total	45	32	23
	07/10 Total	49	30	21
	09/10 Seniors ⁸	43	27	30
b.	Eliminate co-pays and deductibles that people previously had to pay for many preventive services under Medicare, such as annual wellness exams			
	09/12 Total	37	40	22
	09/12 RVs	40	40	20
	06/11 Total ⁹	36	47	17
	07/10 Total	38	42	20
	09/10 Seniors	27	42	31
c.	Increase the Medicare payroll tax on earnings for upper income Americans			
	09/12 Total	47	33	20
	09/12 RVs	47	33	20
	06/11 Total	43	37	19
	07/10 Total	58	25	17
	09/10 Seniors	46	25	29
d.	Increase premiums for higher income people on Medicare			
	09/12 Total	46	35	19
	09/12 RVs	50	31	18
	06/11 Total ¹⁰	50	33	17
	07/10 Total	54	28	18
	09/10 Seniors	48	27	25
e.	Reduce Medicare payments to private plans, also known as Medicare Advantage plans, that provide coverage to some people on Medicare			
	09/12 Total	42	29	29
	09/12 RVs	42	29	29
	06/11 Total	38	36	26
	07/10 Total	45	30	25
	09/10 Seniors	41	25	34
f.	Cut benefits for people in the traditional Medicare program			
	09/12 Total	35	44	21
	09/12 RVs	39	42	19

Q16 continued on next page

⁸ September 2010 trend question was only asked of those ages 65 or older.

⁹ September 2010 through June 2011 trend wording was "Eliminate co-pays and deductibles that people previously had to pay for many preventive services under Medicare."

¹⁰ September 2010 through June 2011 trend wording was "Increase the premiums some higher income people on Medicare pay to receive coverage for doctor visits and prescription drugs."

Q16 continued

		Yes, law does this	No, law does not do this	Don't know/ Refused
g. Establish a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare				
	09/12 Total	39	39	22
	09/12 RVs	39	40	21
	06/11 Total ¹¹	31	48	20
	07/10 Total	41	43	16
	09/10 Seniors	30	48	22
h. Create an expert panel to recommend ways to reduce Medicare spending if costs grow too rapidly				
	09/12 Total	40	36	23
	09/12 RVs	42	36	22
	06/11 Total	47	36	17
i. Provide a bonus to physicians who provide primary care services to people on Medicare				
	09/12 Total	34	39	27
	09/12 RVs	32	41	27
	09/10 Seniors	24	41	36

17. Which of these two descriptions comes closer to your view of what Medicare should look like in the future? (READ AND ROTATE ITEMS. ENTER ONE ONLY)

	09/12 Total	09/12 RVs	07-08/12 Total
OPTION A: Medicare should continue as it is today, with the government guaranteeing all seniors the same set of health insurance benefits (or)	55	57	58
OPTION B: 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 (or)	37	36	36
(VOL.) Other	2	2	1
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6	5	4

¹¹ September 2010 through June 2011 trend wording was "Allow a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare."

18. I'd like to read you some arguments FOR changing Medicare to a system where the government would guarantee each senior a fixed amount of money to put toward health insurance. What if you heard that (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? Would that make you more interested in making this change to Medicare, or would you still want to keep Medicare as it is?

Based on those who prefer to keep Medicare as is

		More interested in making change	Keep Medicare as is	Don't know Refused
a.	The proposal would not affect people who are now ages 55 or older, including today's seniors			
	09/12 Total (n=886)	34	61	5
	09/12 RVs (n=803)	31	63	6
b.	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			
	09/12 Total	39	53	8
	09/12 RVs	37	55	8
c.	This proposal is needed to sustain Medicare for future generations			
	09/12 Total	46	48	6
	09/12 RVs	44	50	6
d.	This proposal will help reduce the federal budget deficit			
	09/12 Total	37	57	5
	09/12 RVs	36	58	5

Summary of Q17 and Q18a-d based on total

	09/12 Total	09/12 RVs
a.		
Still prefer to keep Medicare as it is today	34	36
Prefer to change Medicare to a premium support system	56	54
Originally wanted to make change to Medicare	37	36
Now more interested in making change after hearing "The proposal would not affect people who are now ages 55 or older, including today's seniors"	19	18
(VOL.) Other	2	2
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	9	8
b.		
Still prefer Medicare as it is today	29	31
Prefer to change Medicare to a premium support system	59	57
Originally wanted to make change to Medicare	37	36
Now more interested in making change after hearing "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"	22	21
(VOL.) Other	2	2
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	10	9
c.		
Still prefer Medicare as it is today	27	28
Prefer to change Medicare to a premium support system	62	61
Originally wanted to make change to Medicare	37	36
Now more interested in making change after hearing "This proposal is needed to sustain Medicare for future generations"	25	25
(VOL.) Other	2	2
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	9	8
d.		
Still prefer Medicare as it is today	32	33
Prefer to change Medicare to a premium support system	58	57
Originally wanted to make change to Medicare	37	36
Now more interested in making change after hearing "This proposal will help reduce the federal budget deficit"	21	21
(VOL.) Other	2	2
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	9	8

19. I'd like to read you some arguments AGAINST changing Medicare to a system where the government would guarantee each senior a fixed amount of money to put toward health insurance. What if you heard that (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? Would that make you less interested in making this change to Medicare, or would you still want to make this change to Medicare? {new}

Based on those who prefer to change Medicare to premium support system

		Less interested in making change	Still want to change Medicare	Don't know Refused
a. Under this proposal, traditional Medicare as we know it will no longer exist	09/12 Total (n=525)	37	56	7
	09/12 RVs (n=458)	37	56	7
b. The proposed change will save the federal government money by shifting costs onto seniors	09/12 Total	51	42	6
	09/12 RVs	54	39	7
c. The proposal will turn Medicare into a voucher program	09/12 Total	40	51	10
	09/12 RVs	40	51	9
d. The proposal gives the insurance industry too much influence over seniors' health care	09/12 Total	50	43	6
	09/12 RVs	54	41	5

Summary of Q17 and Q19a-d based on total

		09/12 Total	09/12 RVs
a. Prefer to keep Medicare as it is today		69	70
	Originally wanted to keep Medicare as is	55	57
	Now less interested in making change after hearing "Under this proposal, traditional Medicare as we know it will no longer exist"	14	13
	Still prefer to change Medicare to a premium support system	21	20
	(VOL.) Other	2	2
	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	9	8
b. Prefer to keep Medicare as it is today		74	77
	Originally wanted to keep Medicare as is	55	57
	Now less interested in making change after hearing "The proposed change will save the federal government money by shifting costs onto seniors"	19	20
	Still prefer to change Medicare to a premium support system	16	14
	(VOL.) Other	2	2
	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	8	7
c. Prefer to keep Medicare as it is today		70	72
	Originally wanted to keep Medicare as is	55	57
	Now less interested in making change after hearing "The proposal will turn Medicare into a voucher program"	15	15
	Still prefer to change Medicare to a premium support system	19	18
	(VOL.) Other	2	2
	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	10	8
d. Prefer to keep Medicare as it is today		74	76
	Originally wanted to keep Medicare as is	55	57
	Now less interested in making change after hearing "The proposal gives the insurance industry too much influence over seniors' health care"	19	19
	Still prefer to change Medicare to a premium support system	16	15
	(VOL.) Other	2	2
	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	8	7

20. Thinking about proposals to change the Medicare program, how familiar are you with the term (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? 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 (INSERT) when it comes to Medicare?

		Know what term means	Heard but not sure of meaning	Never heard	Don't know/ Refused
a. Premium support	09/12 Total	21	31	45	3
	09/12 RVs	23	32	42	3
	02/12 Total	10	27	63	1
	04/11 Total	12	28	58	2
b. Voucher	09/12 Total	50	27	20	3
	09/12 RVs	54	28	15	3
	02/12 Total	27	37	34	2
	04/11 Total	30	36	32	2
c. Privatization	09/12 Total	48	28	21	3
	09/12 RVs	53	27	18	2
d. Defined contribution	09/12 Total	23	30	43	4
	09/12 RVs	26	30	41	3

21/22. [IF HEARD OF TERM OR KNOW WHAT IT MEANS: And still thinking in the context of Medicare, do you have/IF NEVER HEARD OF TERM OR DON'T KNOW: Even though you're not familiar with this term in the context of Medicare, would you say you have] a positive or negative reaction to the term (INSERT ITEM FROM Q20)? (If positive/negative: Is that very positive/negative, or somewhat positive/negative?)

		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	(Vol.) Neutral	Don't know/ Refused
a. Premium support	09/12 Total	8	31	20	9	14	18
	09/12 RVs	9	31	20	9	13	18
	02/12 Total	7	28	17	8	22	17
	04/11 Total	7	24	16	8	25	21
b. Voucher	09/12 Total	9	25	24	20	11	11
	09/12 RVs	9	25	24	23	10	9
	02/12 Total	8	27	22	14	18	12
	04/11 Total	10	23	19	12	22	14
c. Privatization	09/12 Total	10	20	25	26	9	11
	09/12 RVs	11	19	24	28	8	9
d. Defined contribution	09/12 Total	7	24	24	11	14	21
	09/12 RVs	7	23	24	11	14	20

DEMOGRAPHICS

Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey...

D1. Record respondent's sex

Male	49
Female	51

D4. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? (READ IF NECESSARY: A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or [Medicaid/Medi-CAL])?

Covered by health insurance	79
Not covered by health insurance	19
Don't know/Refused	1

D4a. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your or your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself, are you covered by Medicare or (Medicaid/Medi-CAL), some other government program, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

Based on those who are insured (n=1,329)

Plan through your/your spouse's employer	55
Plan you purchased yourself	10
Medicare	18
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	6
Some other government program	5
Somewhere else (SPECIFY)	2
Plan through your parents/mother/father (VOL.)	4
Don't know/Refused	1

Summary D4 and D4a based on total

Covered by health insurance	79	
Employer or spouse's employer	44	
Self-purchased plan	8	
Medicare	15	
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	4	
Other government program	4	
Somewhere else	2	
Plan through parents/mother/father (VOL.)	3	
Don't know/Refused	*	
Not covered by health insurance	19	
Don't know/Refused	1	

D5. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)

D6. (ASK IF DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED AGE) Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ LIST)...?

18-29	20
30-49	34
50-64	27
65 and older	18
Don't know/Refused	1

D8. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?

Republican	24
Democrat	34
Independent	33
Or what/Other/None/No preference/Other party	4
Don't know/Refused	4

D8a. Do you LEAN more towards the [ROTATE: Republican Party or the Democratic Party/Democratic Party or the Republican Party]? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS D8)

Summary D8 and D8a based on total

Republican/Lean Republican	36
Democrat/Lean Democratic	48
Other/Don't lean/Don't know	17

Five-Point Party ID

Democrat	34
Independent Lean Democratic	13
Independent/Don't lean	16
Independent Lean Republican	12
Republican	24
Undesignated	1

D8e. Would you call yourself a strong (IF D8=2: Democrat/IF D8=1: Republican) or not a very strong (IF D8=2: Democrat/IF D8=1: Republican)?

Summary of D8, D8a and D8e based on total

Strong Democrat	23
Regular Democrat	11
Independent Lean Democratic	13
Pure Independent	16
Independent Lean Republican	12
Regular Republican	10
Strong Republican	14
Undesignated	1

D8b. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

Liberal	23
Moderate	37
Conservative	34
Don't know/Refused	6

D8c. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

Yes, supporter of Tea Party movement	23
No, not a supporter of Tea Party movement	66
Don't know/Refused	12

D9. Are you registered to vote at your present address, or not?

Yes	82
No	16
Don't know/Refused	1

D10. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the presidential election in November: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

Based on registered voters (n=1,367)

Absolutely certain to vote	80
Probably vote	12
Chances 50-50	5
Less than that	1
Don't think will vote (VOL.)	1
Don't know/Refused	*

Summary D9 and D10 based on total

Yes, registered to vote	82
Absolutely certain to vote	66
Probably vote	10
Chances 50-50	4
Less than that	1
Don't think will vote (VOL.)	1
Don't know/Refused	*
No, not registered	16
Don't know/Refused	1

D10b. Have you already decided which presidential candidate you will vote for in November, or have you not yet made up your mind?

Decided who to vote for	64
Have not made up mind	29
Don't plan on voting (VOL.)	4
Don't know/Refused	3

D11. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ)

None, or grade 1-8	3
High school incomplete (grades 9-11)	9
High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	28
Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	6
Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	24
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)	18
Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school)	11
Don't know/Refused	2

D12. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D13. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race? (IF RESPONDENT SAYS HISPANIC ASK: Do you consider yourself a white Hispanic or a black Hispanic?)

White, non-Hispanic	67
Total non-White	30
Black or African-American, non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	12
Asian, non-Hispanic	4
Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic	2
Undesignated	4

D12a. Were you born in the United States, on the island of Puerto Rico, or in another country?

Based on Hispanics (n=141)

U.S.	43
Puerto Rico	6
Another country	50
Don't know/Refused	2

D14. Last year—that is, in 2011—what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ)

Less than \$20,000	14
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	10
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	11
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	10
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	7
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	4
\$100,000 or more	13
Don't know/Refused	14

END OF INTERVIEW: That's all the questions I have. Thanks for your time.

Trend Information:

08/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (August 7-12, 2012)
07-08/12: *The Washington Post*/Kaiser Family Foundation *Dimensions of Partisanship Survey* (July 25 – August 5, 2012)
07/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Early Reaction to Supreme Court Decision on the ACA* (July 17-23, 2012)
06/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (June 28-30, 2012)
05/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (May 8-14, 2012)
04/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 4-10, 2012)
03/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 29 – March 5, 2012)
02/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 13-19, 2012)
01/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (January 12-17, 2012)
12/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (December 8-13, 2011)
11/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (November 10-15, 2011)
10/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (October 13-18, 2011)
09/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (September 7-12, 2011)
08/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (August 10-15, 2011)
07/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (July 13-18, 2011)
06/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (June 9-14, 2011)
05/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (May 12-17, 2011)
04/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 7-12, 2011)
03/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (March 8-13, 2011)
02/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 8-13, 2011)
01/11: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 112th Congress* (January 4-14, 2011)
12/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (December 1-6, 2010)
11/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (November 3-6, 2010)
10/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (October 5-10, 2010)
09/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (September 14-19, 2010)
08/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (August 16-22, 2010)
07/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (July 8-13, 2010)
06/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (June 17-22, 2010)
05/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (May 11-16, 2010)
04/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 9-14, 2010)
03/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (March 10-15, 2010)
02/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 11-15, 2010)
01/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (January 7-12, 2010)
12/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (December 7-13, 2009)
11/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (November 5-12, 2009)
10/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (October 8-15, 2009)
09/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (September 11-18, 2009)
08/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (August 4-11, 2009)
07/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (July 7-14, 2009)
06/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (June 1-8, 2009)
04/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 2-8, 2009)
02/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 3-12, 2009)



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