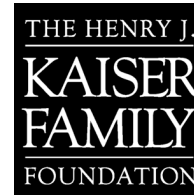


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**Chartpack**



**HARVARD  
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**The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health**

# **National Survey of the Public's Views on Medicare**

**June 2003**

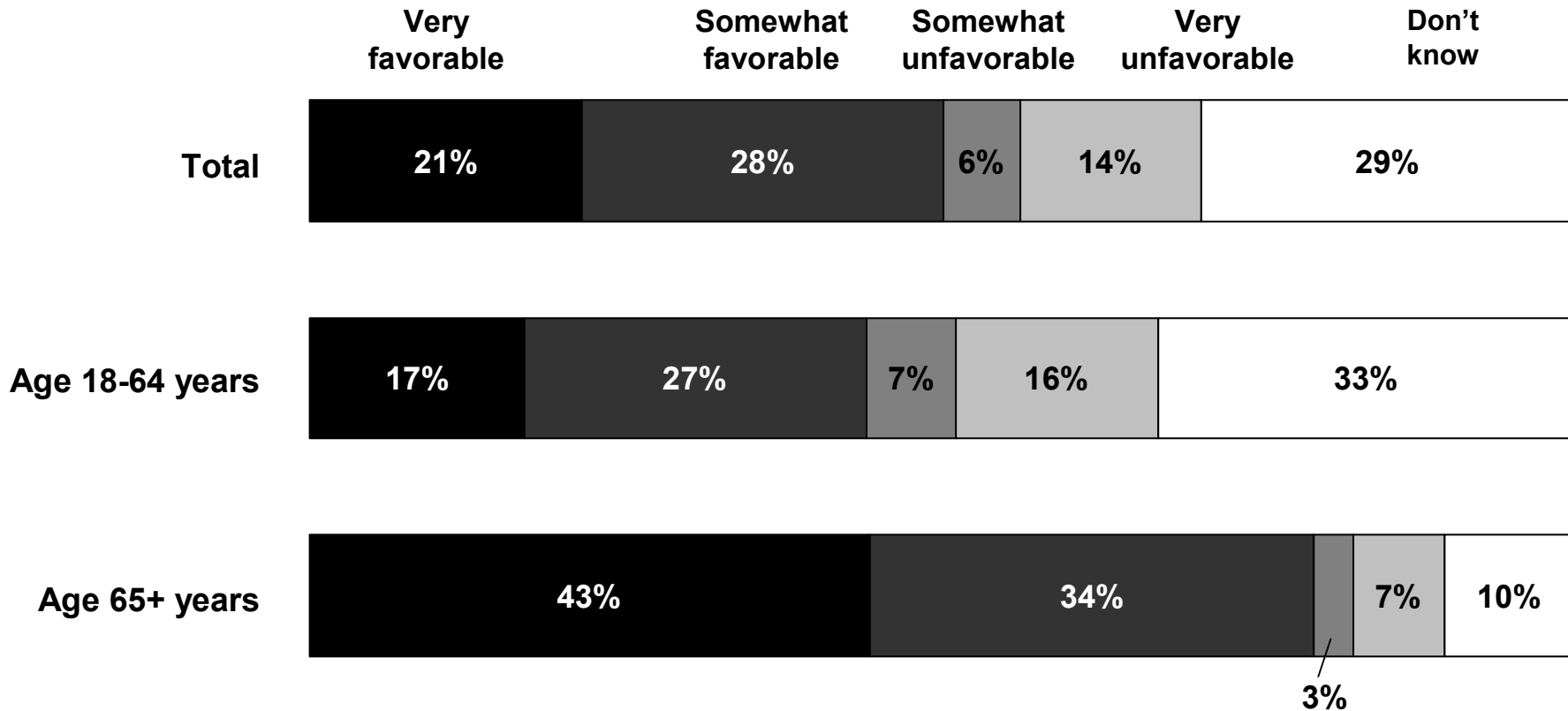
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# **General Impressions of the Medicare Program**

Chart 1

# Seniors Have a More Favorable Opinion of Medicare

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Medicare? Is that very or somewhat favorable/unfavorable?



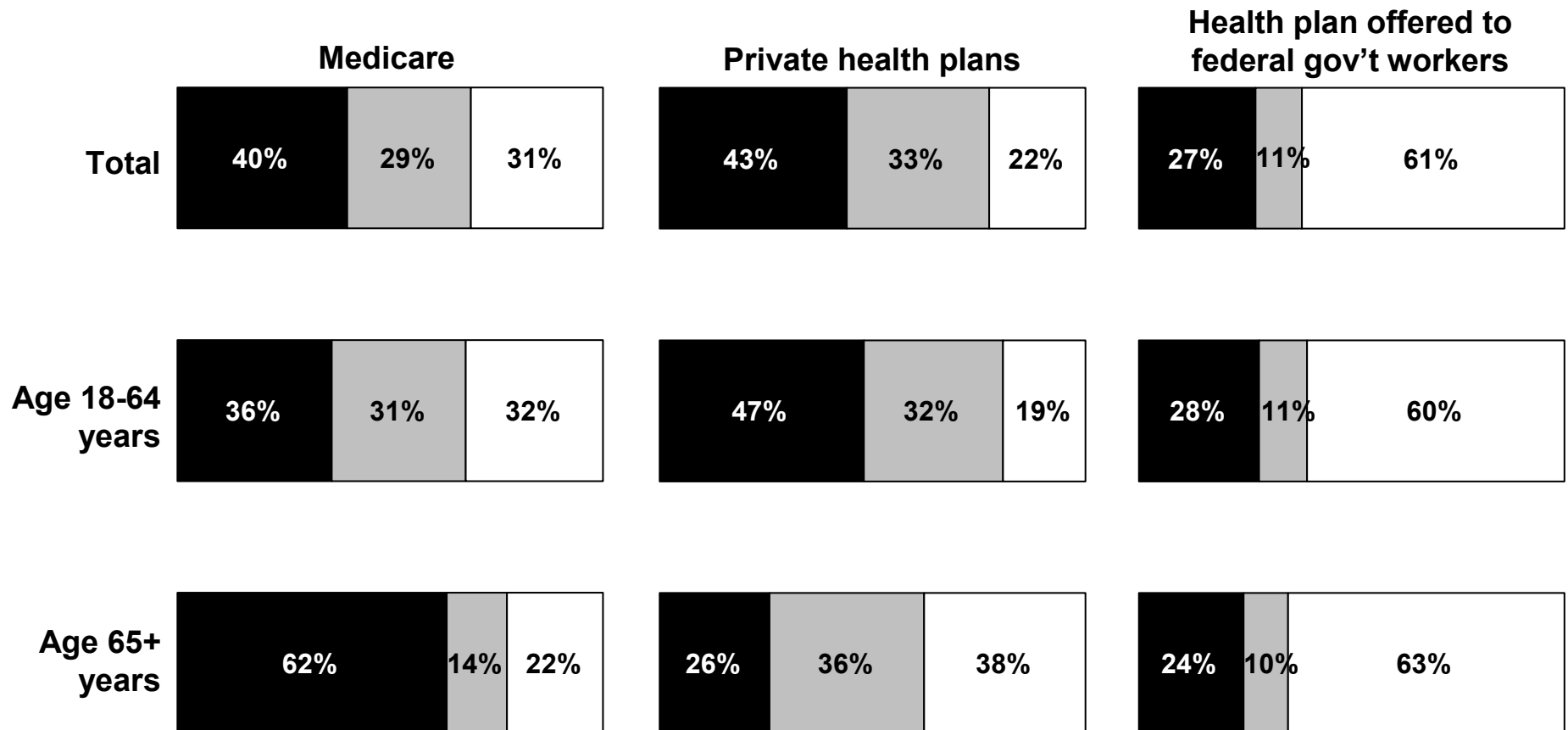
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

Chart 2

# Seniors Say Medicare is Well-Run

Percent saying each of the following is run...

■ Very well/  
Somewhat well      ■ Not too well/  
Not well at all      □ Don't know  
enough to say



Note: "Refused" responses not shown

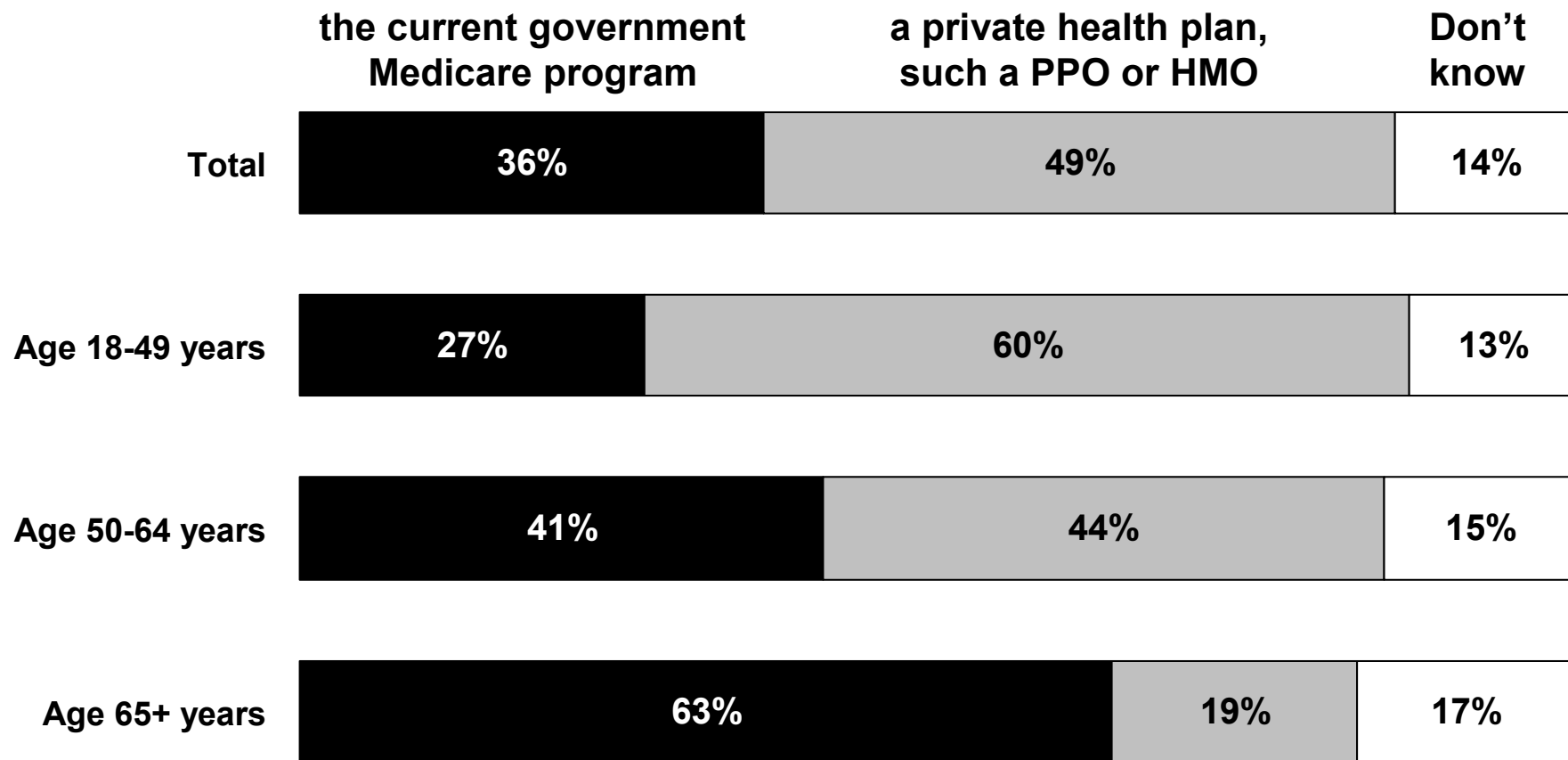
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

# **Public vs. Private**

Chart 3

# Personal Preference for Medicare vs. Private Plans

(When you retire,) If you had a choice, would you prefer to get your Medicare health insurance benefits from...?

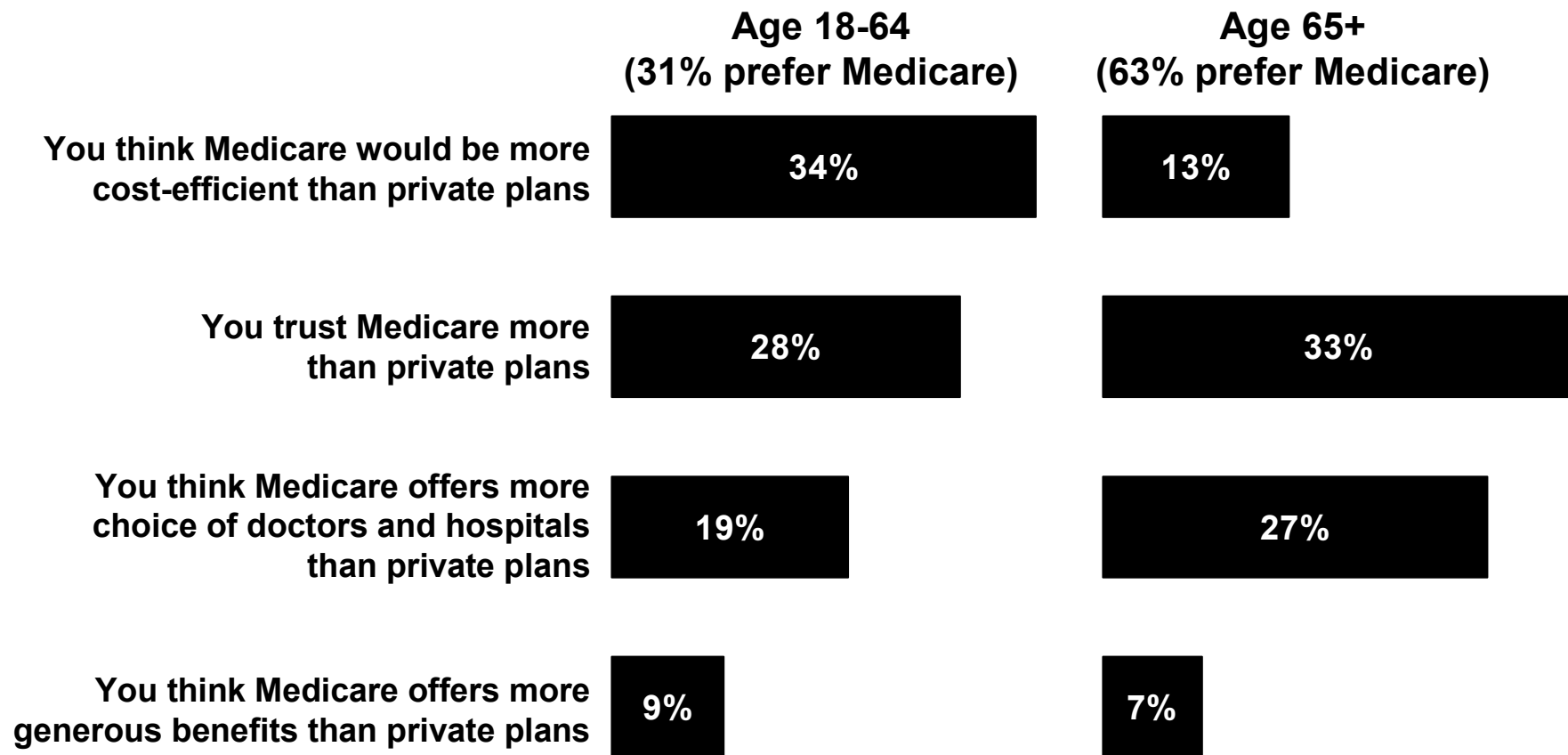


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

Chart 4

# Reasons People Prefer Medicare to Private Plans

Percent saying each is the main reason they would prefer to get Medicare health insurance benefits from the current government Medicare program, rather than from a private plan... (asked of those who prefer Medicare)

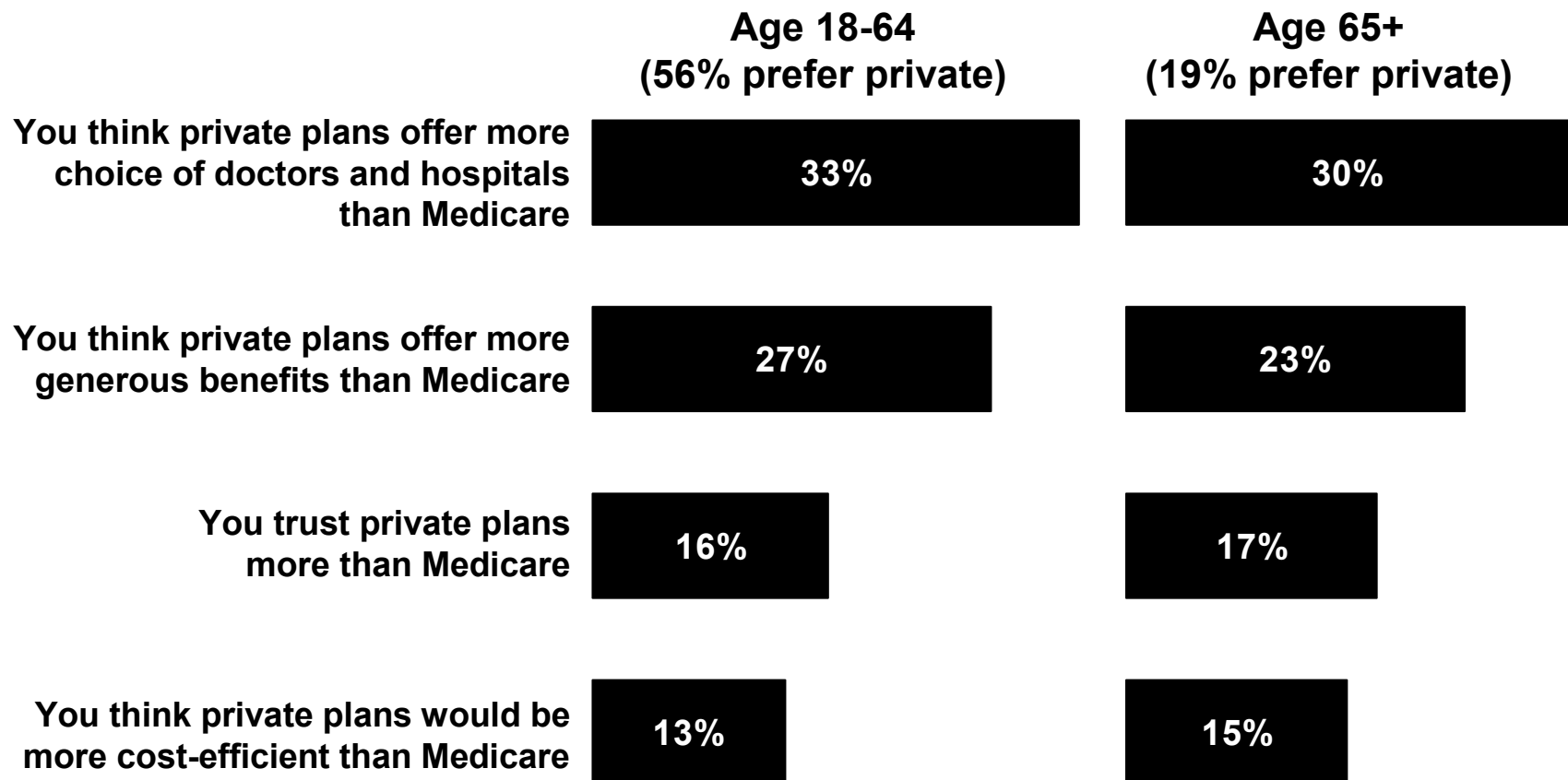


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

Chart 5

# Reasons People Prefer Private Plans to Medicare

Percent saying each is the main reason they would prefer to get Medicare health insurance benefits from a private plan, rather than from the current government Medicare program... (asked of those who prefer private plans)



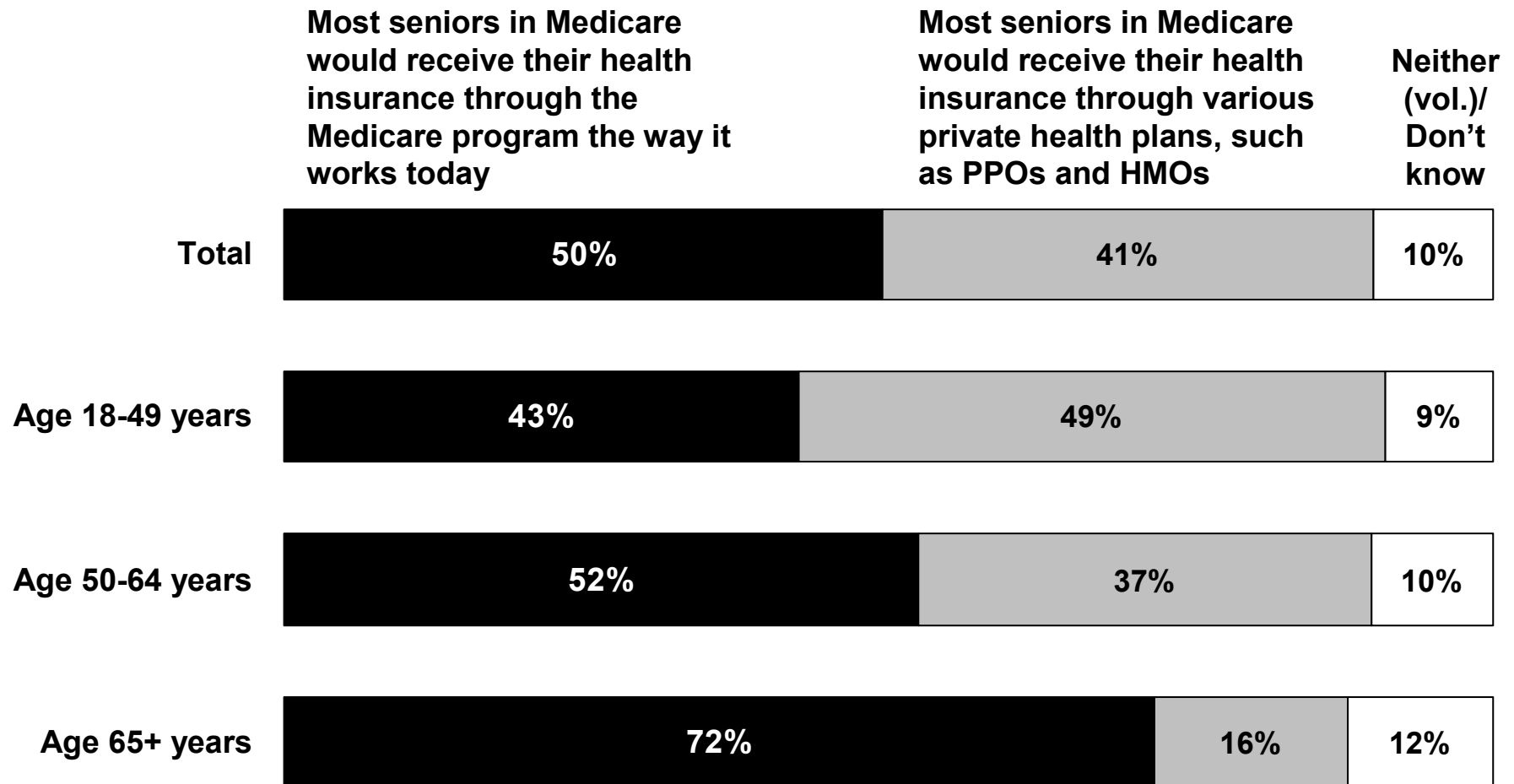
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)



Chart 6

# Vision for the Future of Medicare

Which of these two statements comes closer to your view of what health insurance for seniors should look like in the future?



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

# Vision for the Future of Medicare – Arguments

---

*People who initially prefer Medicare were read the following arguments:*

- **Seniors should have a choice among health plans that offer benefits more tailored to individuals' health-care needs, rather than the one-size-fits-all Medicare program**
- **Competition among private plans would do a better job than Medicare at keeping health care costs down**
- **Medicare is a government-run bureaucracy that needs to be modernized**

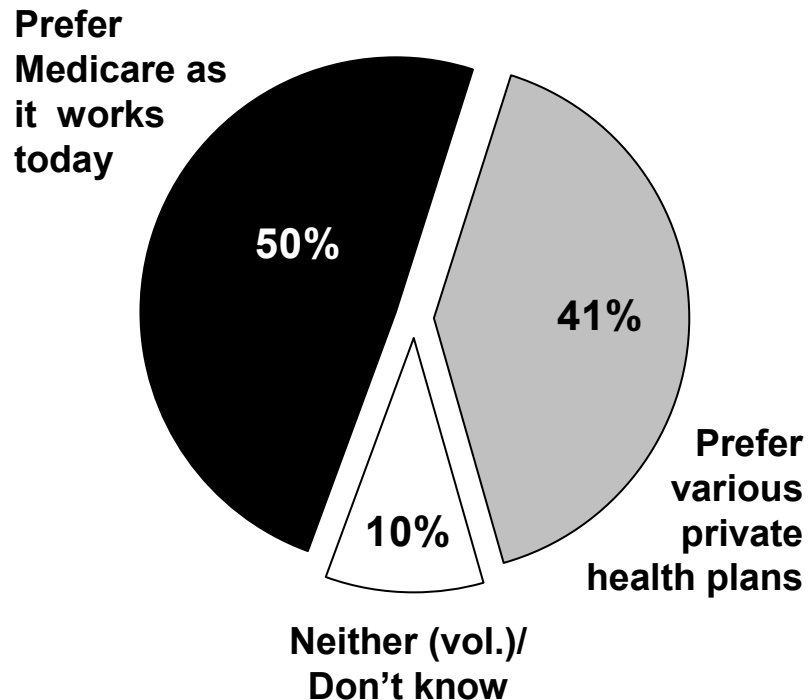
*People who initially prefer private plans were read the following arguments:*

- **Private plans would be more likely to reduce the benefits or increase costs to seniors in the plans**
- **Private plans put profits first, and could drop seniors from the plans because of concerns about losing money**
- **Seniors in private plans would no longer be able to choose their own doctors and hospitals**

Chart 7

# Vision for the Future of Medicare Summary After Arguments

Before hearing arguments:



After each side hears arguments against their initial position:

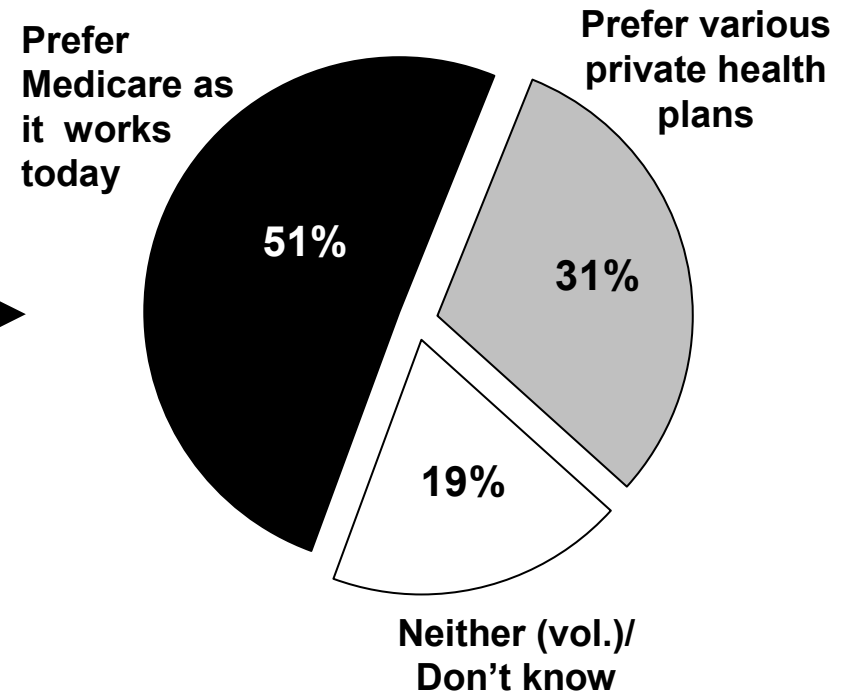
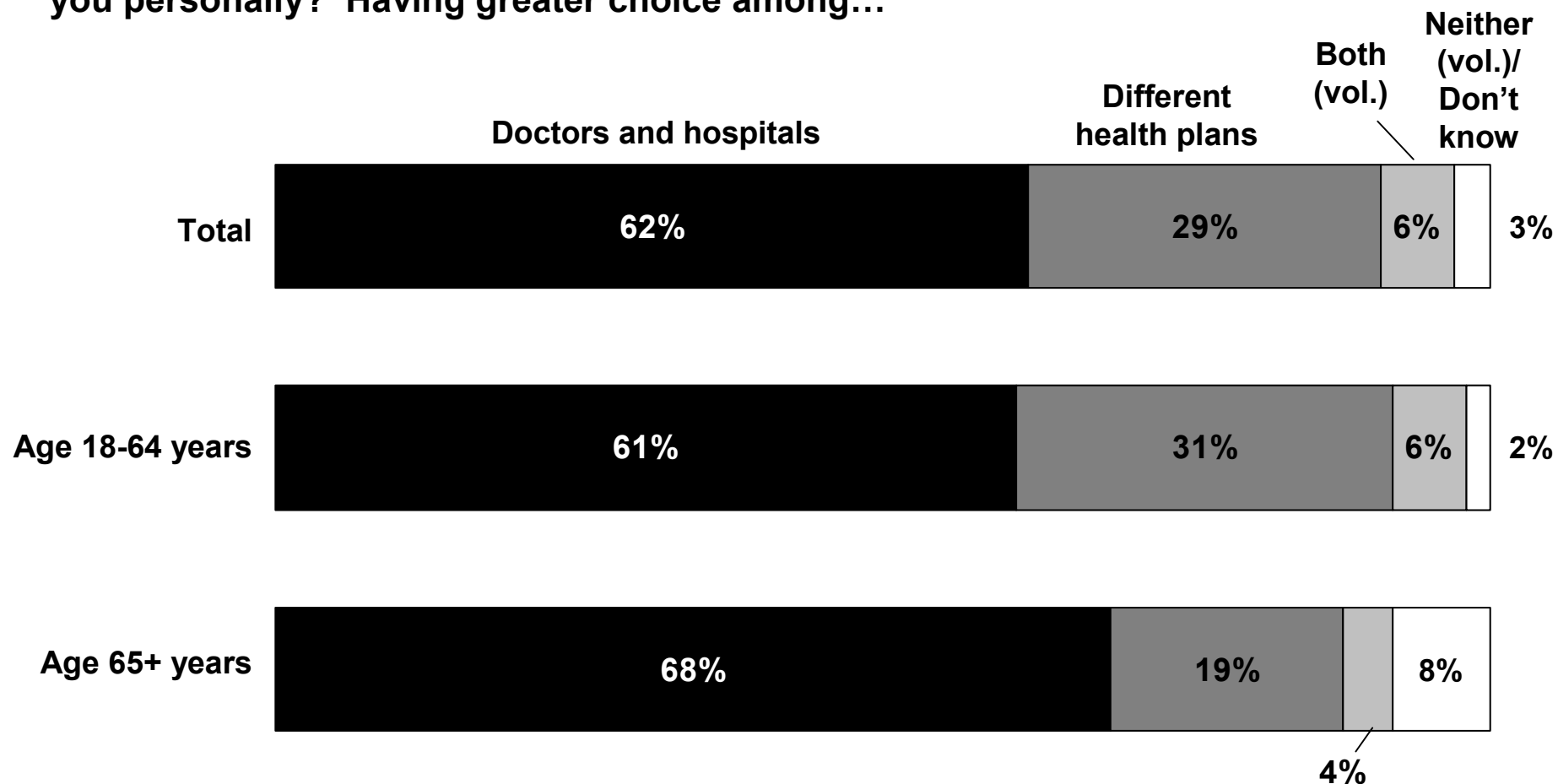


Chart 8

# What Type of Choice Is More Important to You Personally?

In thinking about your own health insurance, which of these is most important to you personally? Having greater choice among...



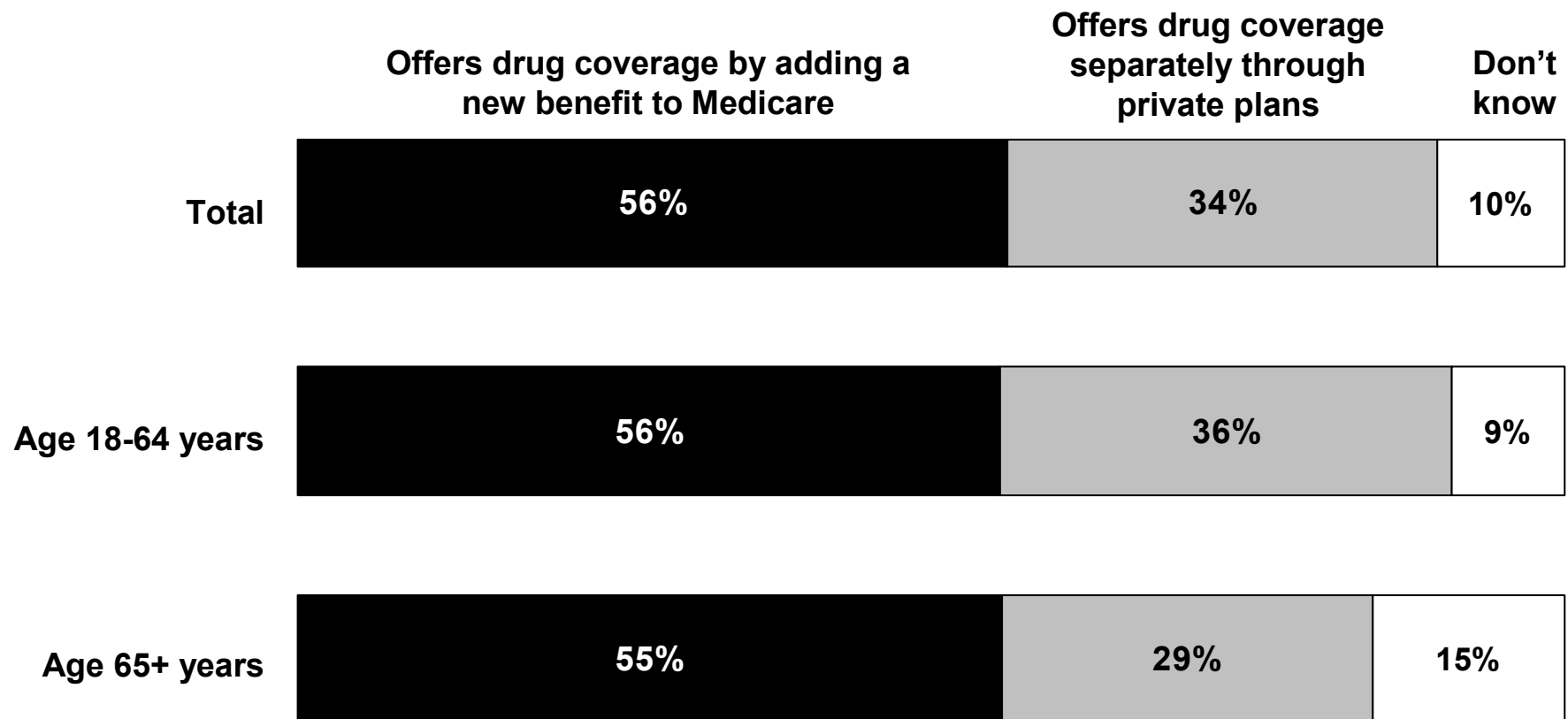
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

# **Rx Drug Debate**

Chart 9

## Offering a Drug Benefit Through Medicare or Through Private Plans?

Percent saying they would prefer a prescription drug plan for seniors which...

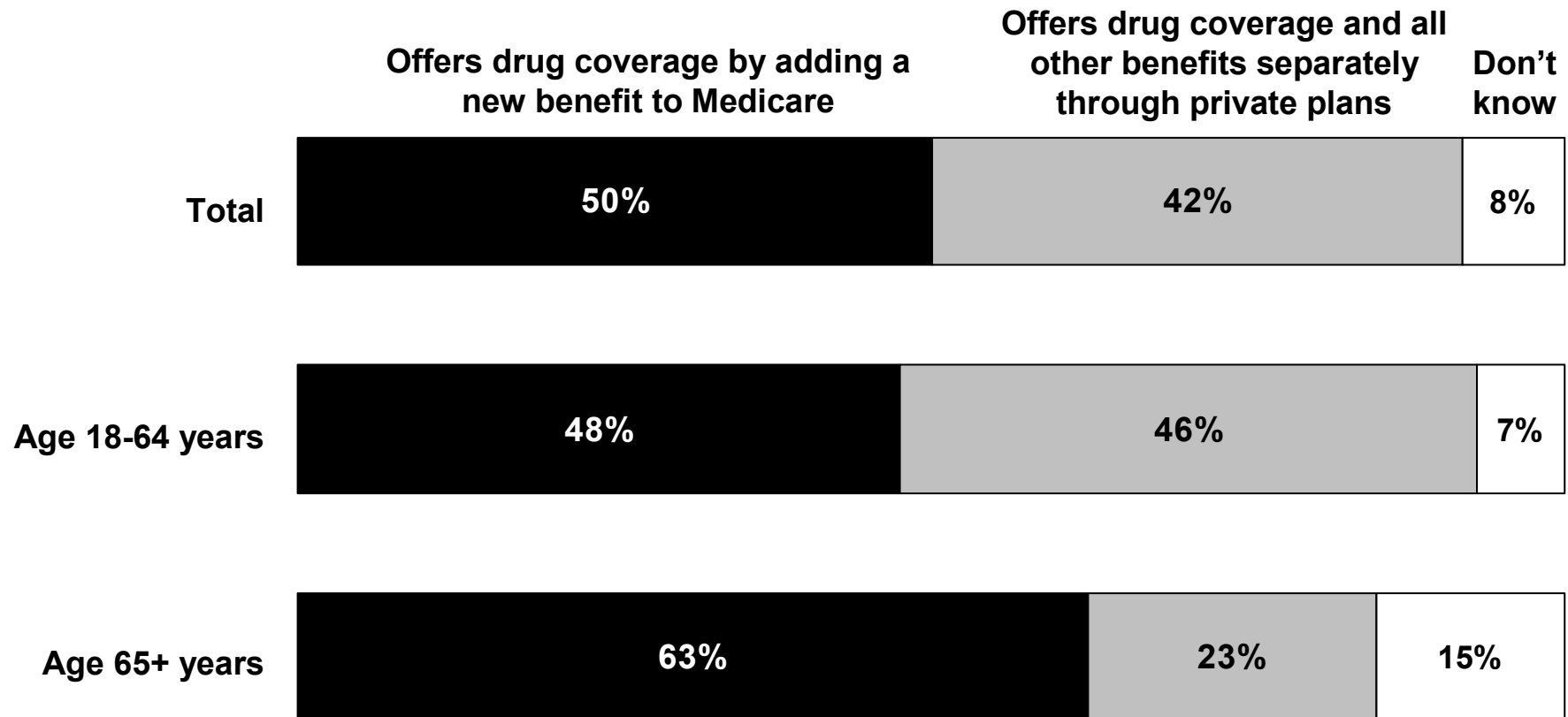


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

Chart 10

## Offering a Drug Benefit and All Other Benefits Through Medicare or Through Private Plans?

Percent saying they would prefer a prescription drug plan for seniors which...



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

Chart 11

# Support for Incentives to Join Private Plans for Better Prescription Drug Benefits

Percent saying they would favor or oppose a plan that would pay a smaller share of drug costs for seniors who stay in the current Medicare program, but a larger share for those who join private health plans...

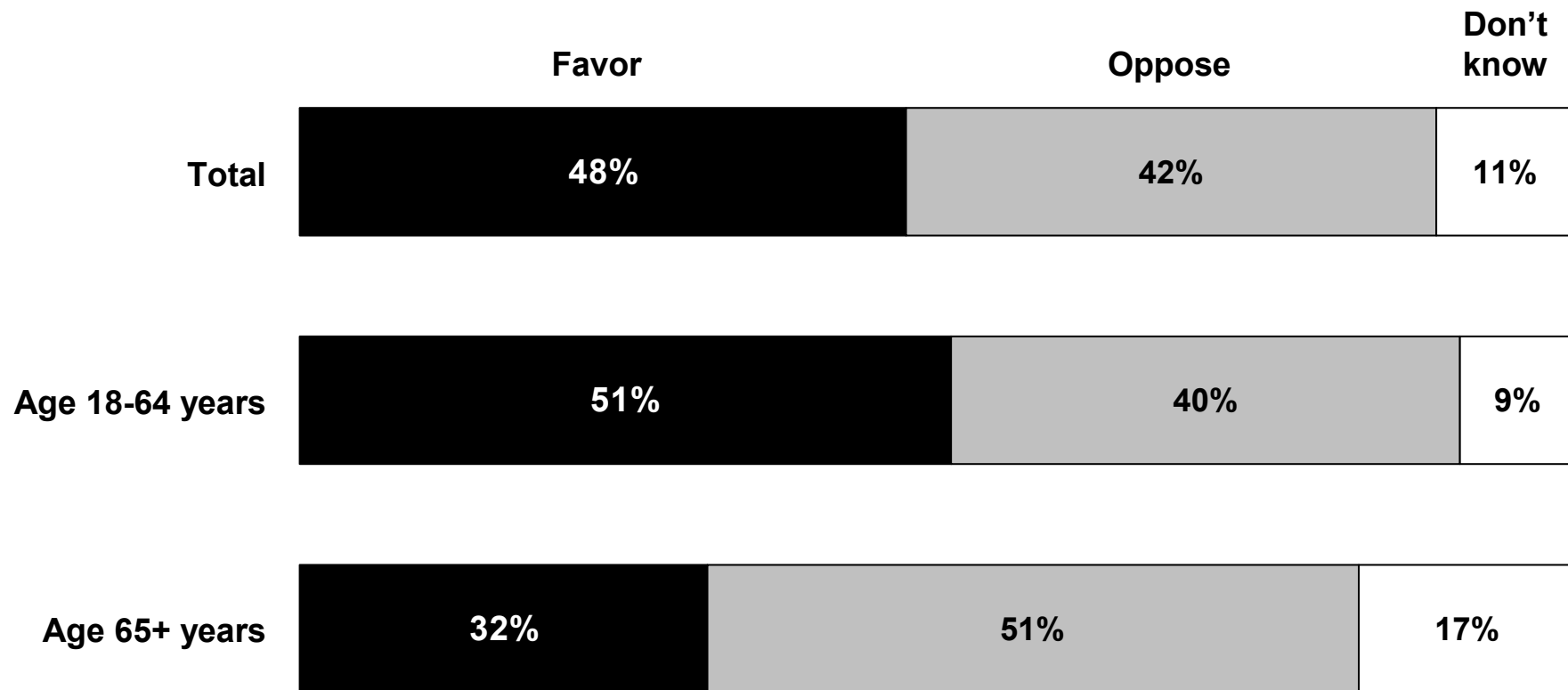
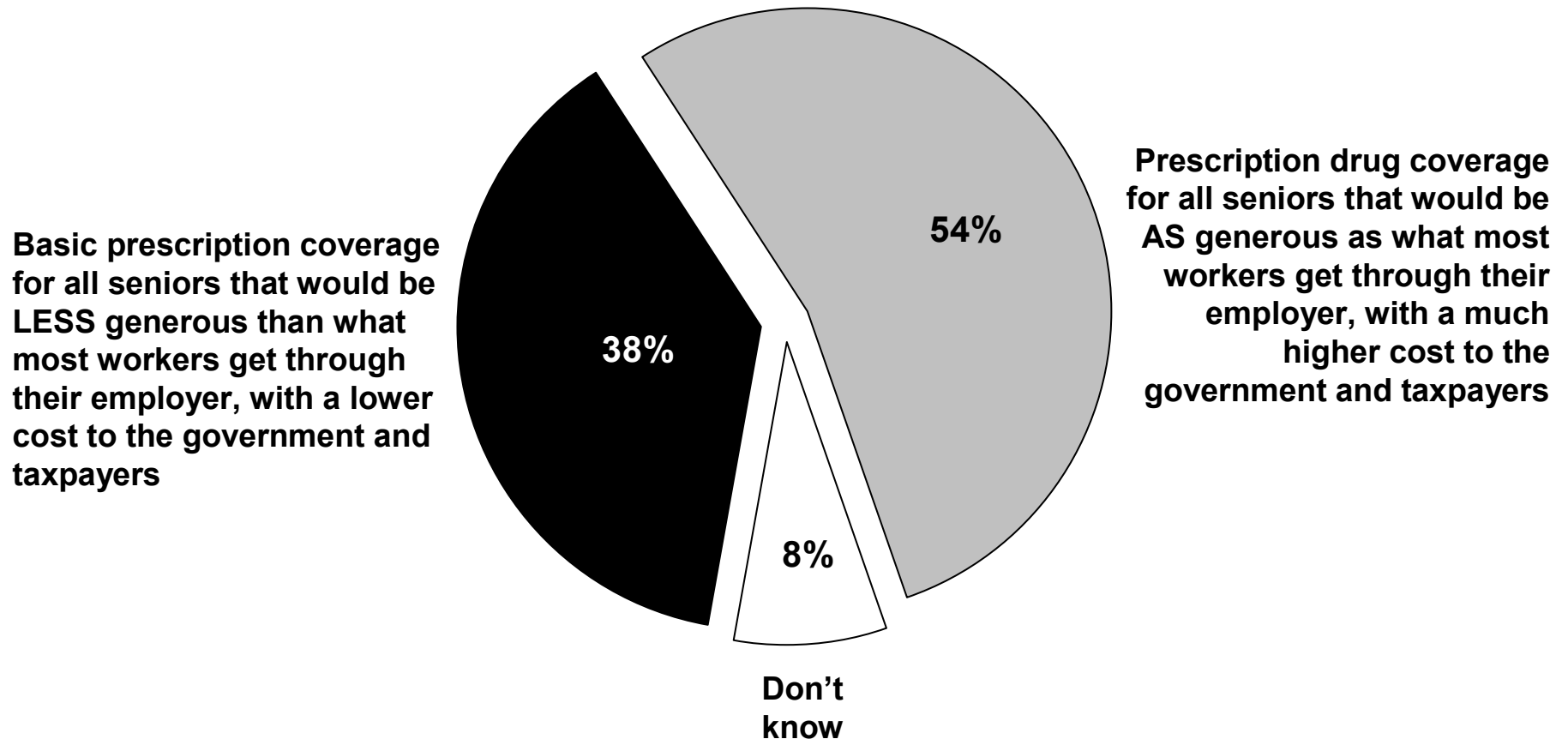




Chart 12

# Generosity of Prescription Drug Benefit

Percent saying they would prefer...



# Generosity of Drug Benefit – Arguments

---

*People who initially prefer less generous, less costly plan were read the following argument:*

**Would you still prefer plan A if it meant that some seniors would not fill their prescriptions because of the cost, or would you now prefer plan B?**

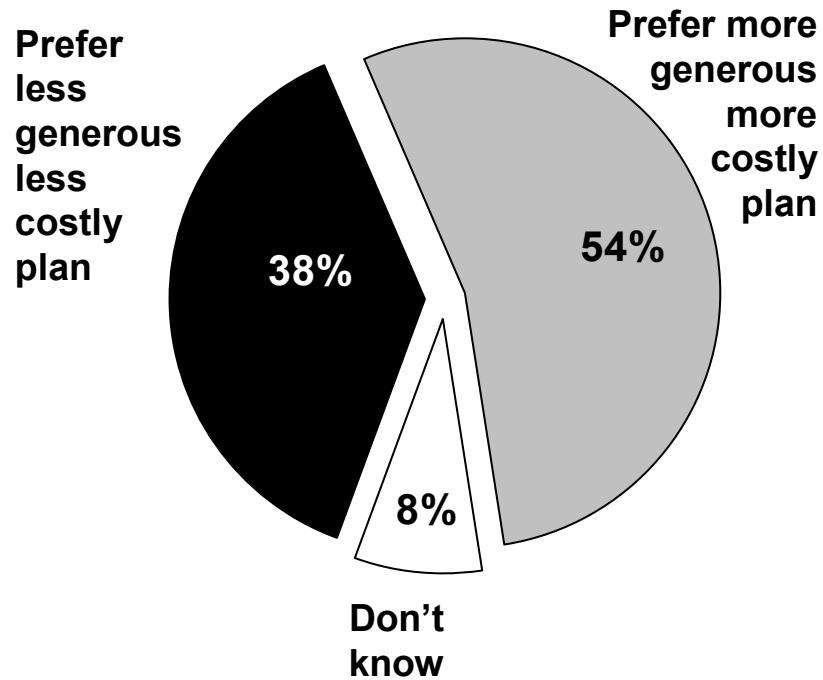
*People who initially prefer more generous, more costly plan were read the following argument:*

**Would you still prefer plan B if it meant giving up further tax cuts, or would you now prefer plan A?**

Chart 13

# Generosity of Drug Benefit Summary After Arguments

Before hearing arguments:



After each side hears arguments against their initial position:

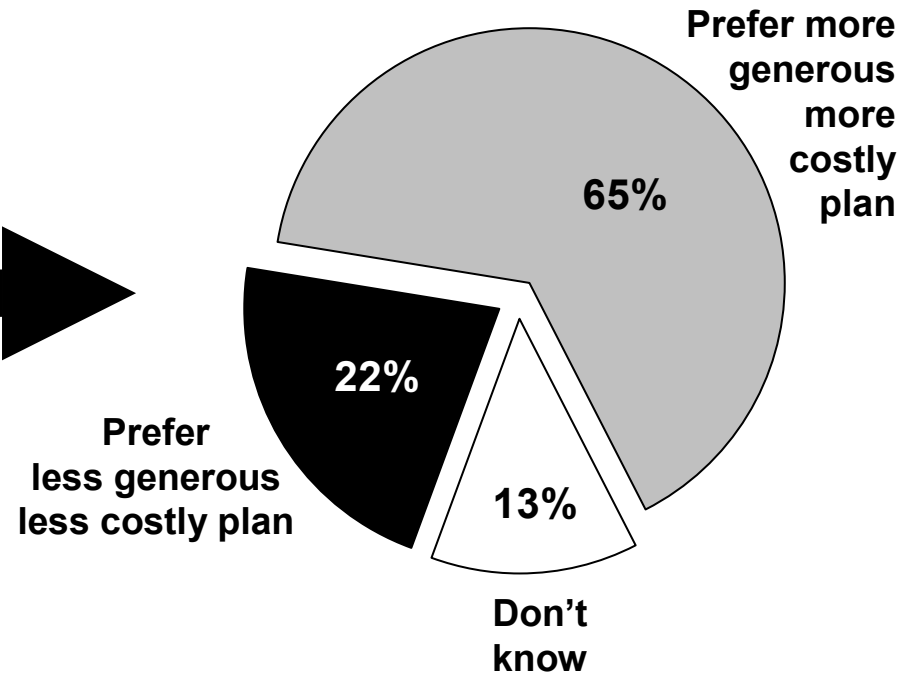
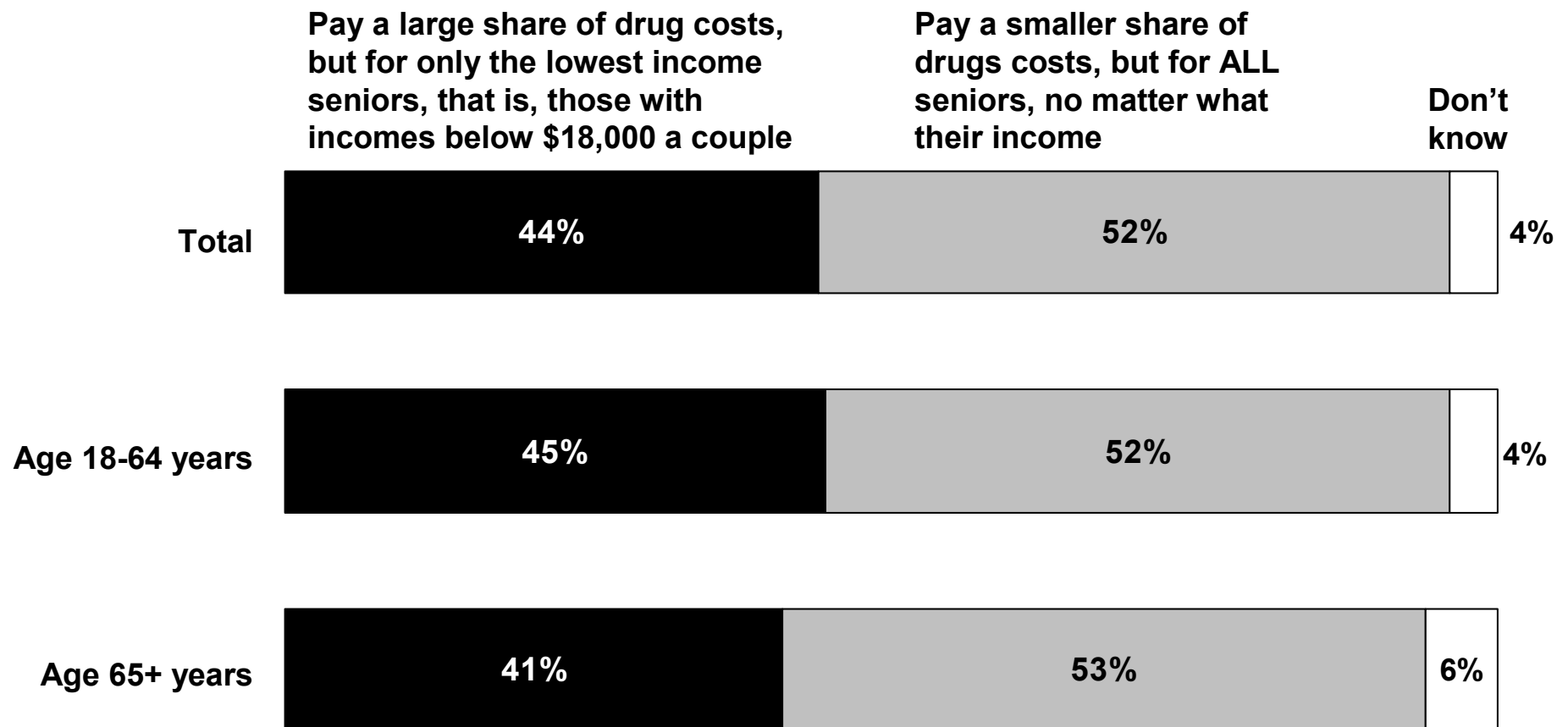


Chart 14

# Helping All or Only Low-Income Seniors?

Percent saying they would prefer a plan to help seniors pay for prescription drugs which would...

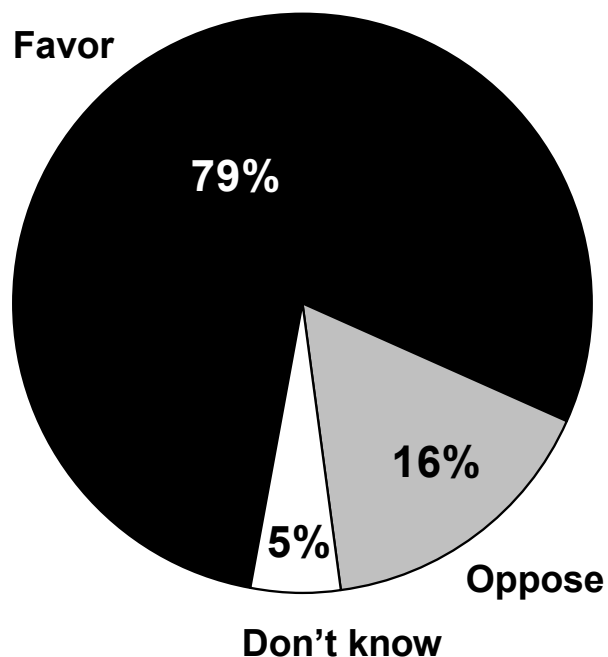


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

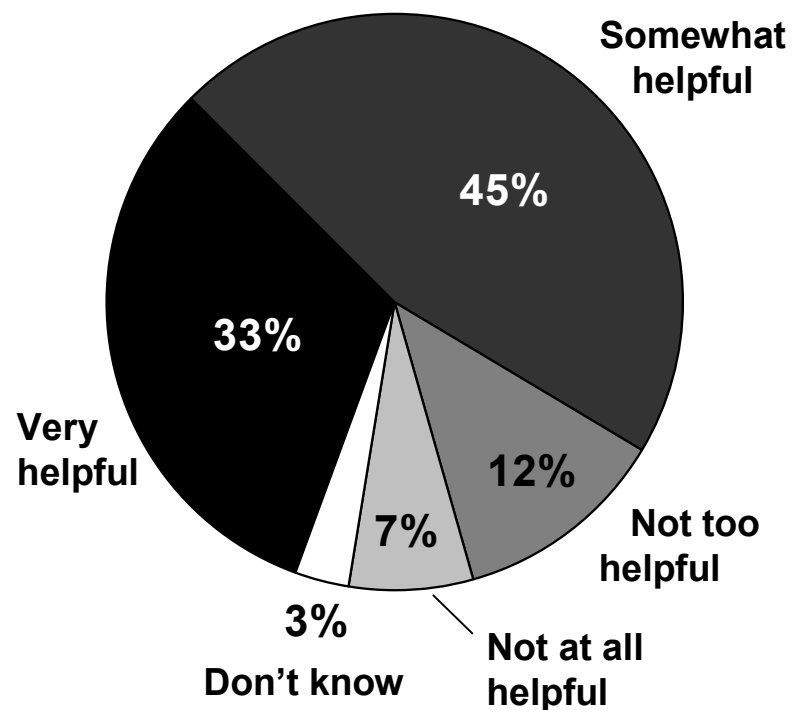
Chart 15

## Support for Discount Drug Cards

Recently the Bush Administration proposed to provide discount drug cards to seniors that may save them about ten to twenty-five percent on their prescriptions. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?



If this drug discount card proposal becomes law, do you think it will be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not at all helpful to seniors who don't have any prescription drug coverage?



# **Lowering Drug Prices**

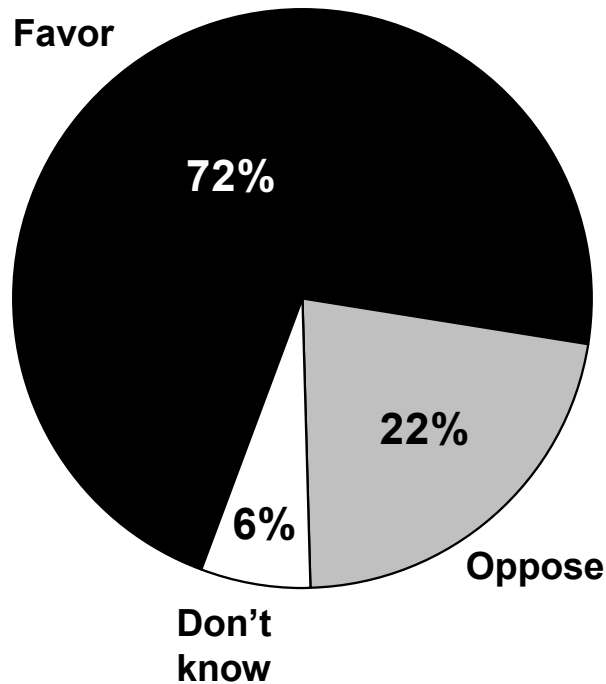
Chart 16

## Support for Lowering Drug Prices

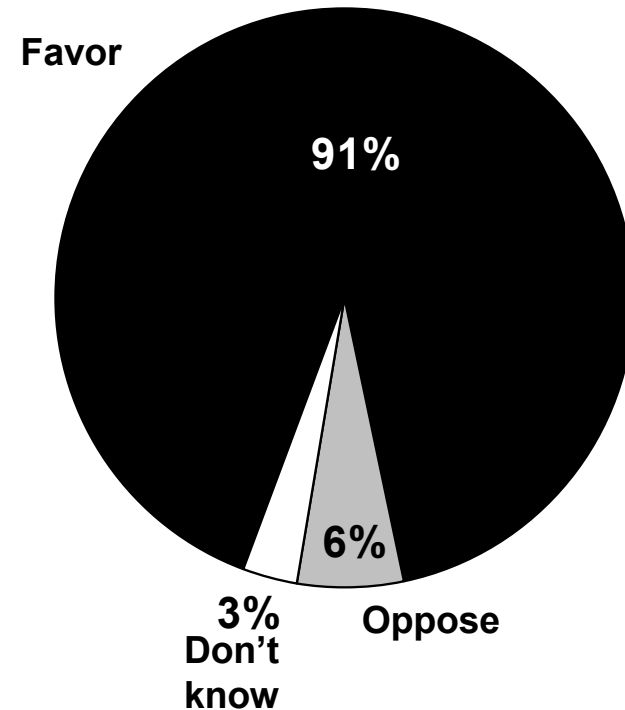
---

If a Medicare drug benefit were passed, would you favor or oppose ...

...having the federal government set limits on the prices of prescription drugs under Medicare?  
(Half Sample A)



...the federal government negotiating with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for seniors?  
(Half Sample B)



# Support for Setting Limits on Drug Prices – Arguments

---

*People who initially favor government setting limits on prices were read the following argument:*

**What if you heard that setting limits on the prices of prescription drugs might lead drug companies to do LESS research and development of new drugs? Would you still favor having the federal government set limits on prescription drugs prices, or would you now oppose it?**

*People who initially oppose government setting limits on prices were read the following argument:*

**What if you heard that some other countries have been able to lower the cost of prescription drugs by setting limits on prices? Would you still oppose having the federal government set limits on prescription drugs prices, or would you now favor it?**



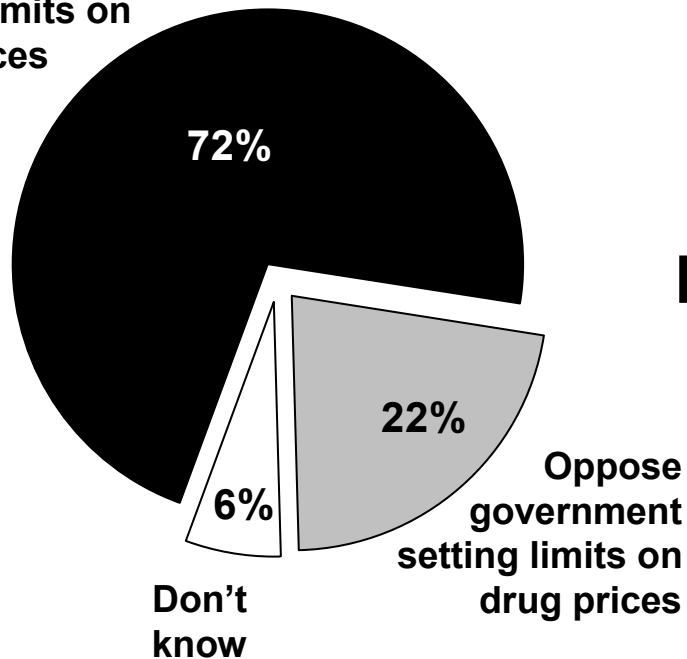
Chart 17

# Support for Setting Limits on Drug Prices Summary After Arguments

---

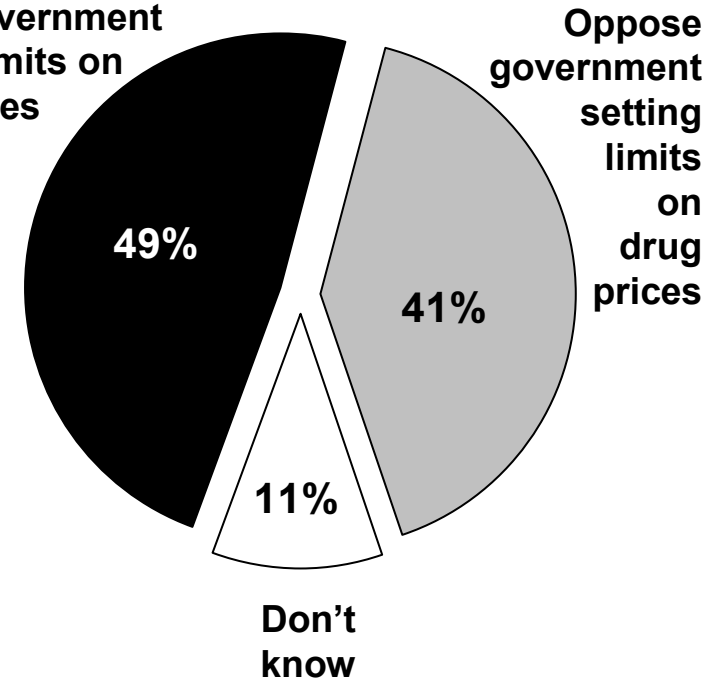
Before hearing arguments:

Favor government  
setting limits on  
drug prices



After each side hears arguments  
against their initial position:

Favor government  
setting limits on  
drug prices



# Support for Negotiating with Drug Companies for Lower Prices – Arguments

---

*People who initially favor government negotiating with drug companies to get a lower price were read the following argument:*

**What if you heard that this might lead drug companies to do LESS research and development of new drugs? Would you still favor having the federal government negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for seniors, or would you now oppose it?**

*People who initially oppose government negotiating with drug companies to get a lower price were read the following argument:*

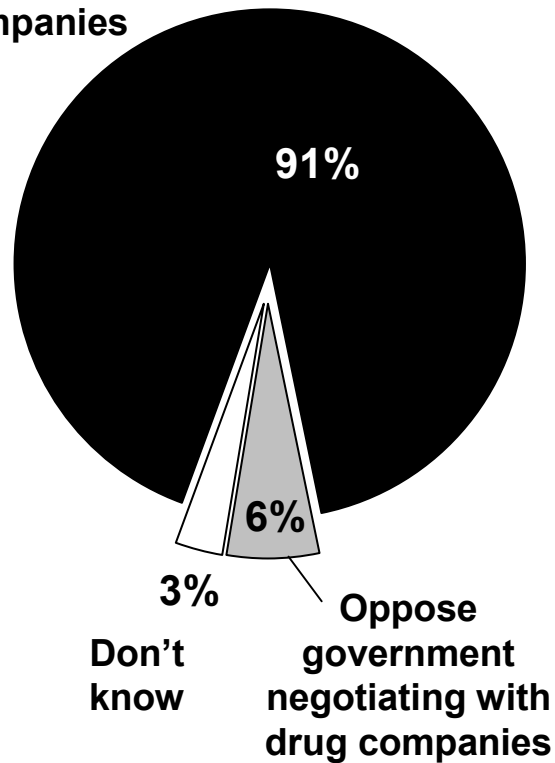
**What if you heard that some other countries have been able to lower the cost of prescription drugs by negotiating with drug companies? Would you still oppose having the federal government negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for seniors, or would you now favor it?**

Chart 18

# Support for Negotiating with Drug Companies for Lower Prices – Summary After Arguments

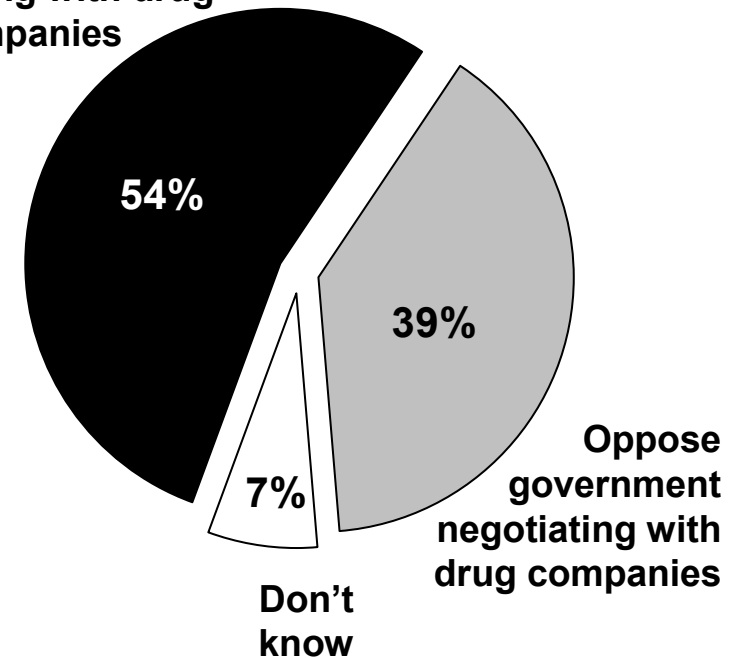
Before hearing arguments:

Favor government negotiating with drug companies



After each side hears arguments against their initial position:

Favor government negotiating with drug companies

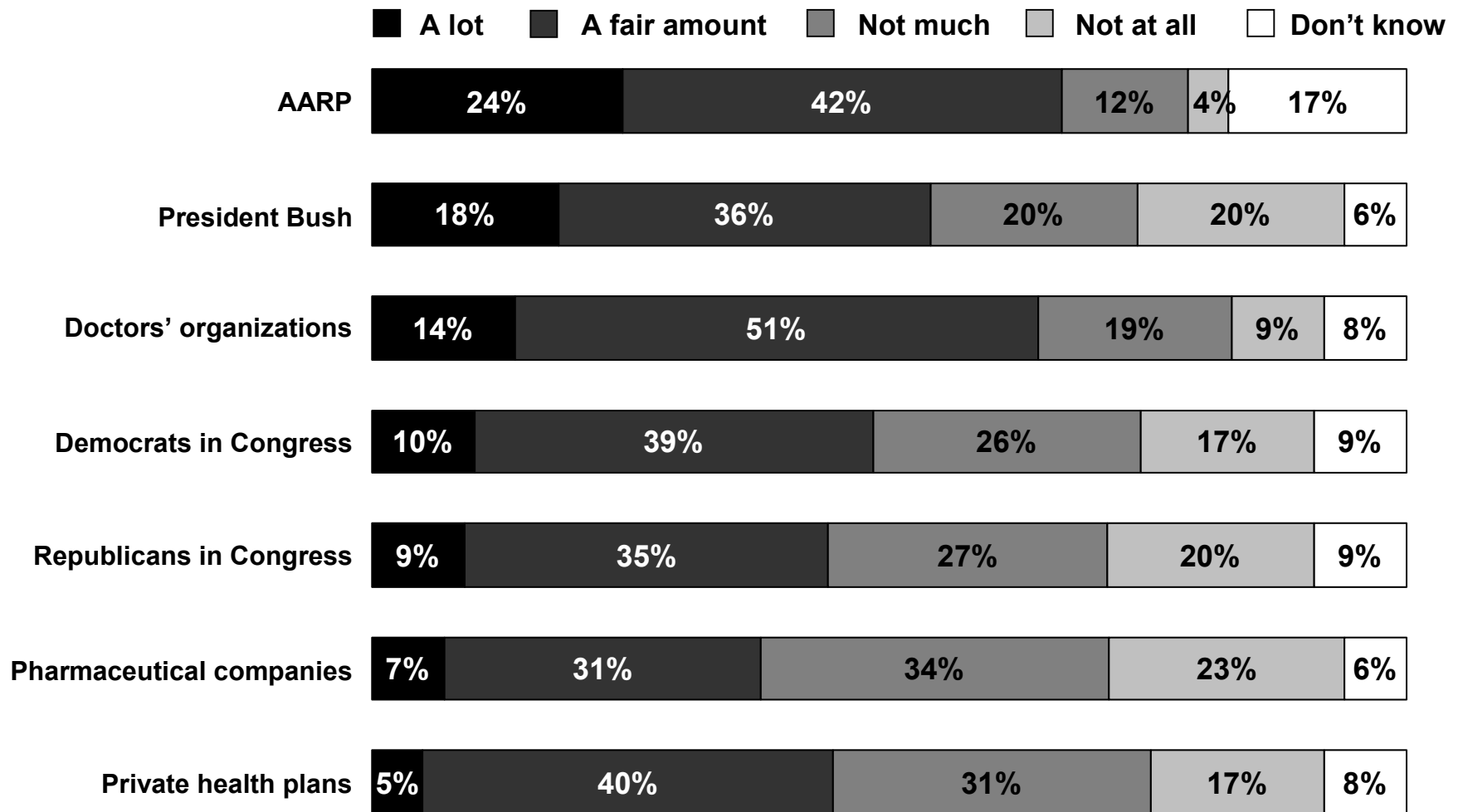


# Politics

Chart 19

# Trust to Do the Right Thing for Medicare

Percent saying they trust each of the following to do or recommend the right thing for the Medicare program...

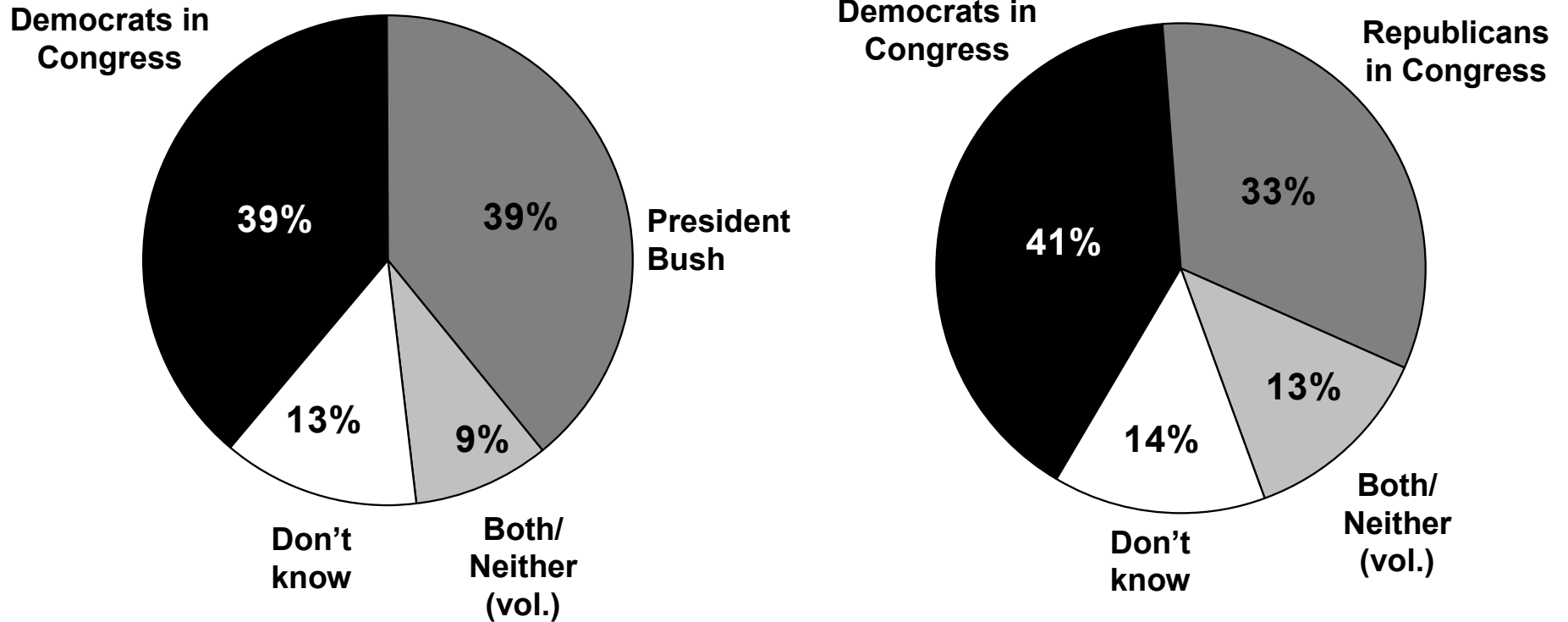


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

Chart 20

# Trust on the Medicare Prescription Drug Issue

Who do you trust to do a better job of handling the Medicare prescription drug issue?



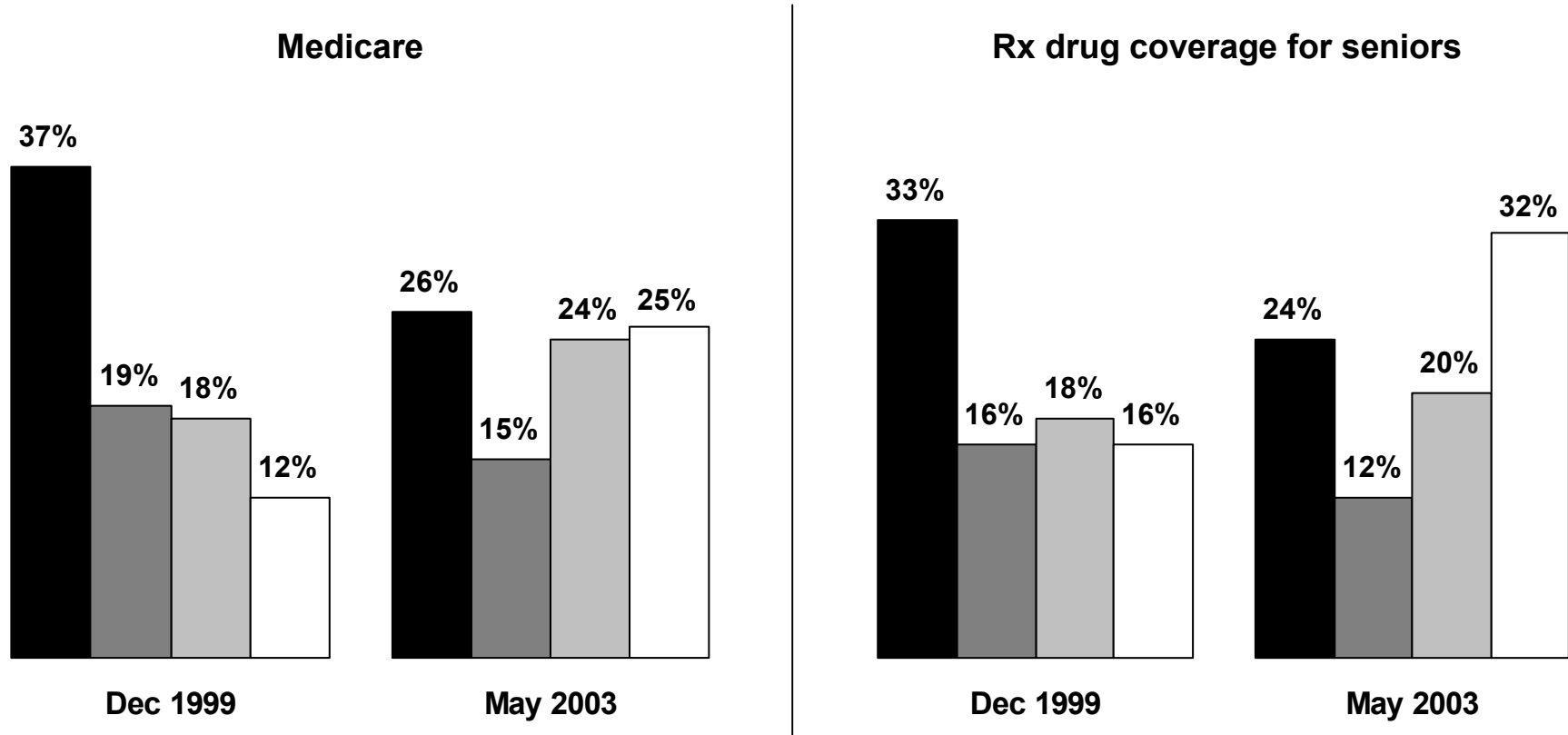
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)

Chart 21

# Trends in Party Divide On Health Care, Medicare, and Prescription Drug Coverage for the Elderly

Percent saying each party does a better job of dealing with...

■ Democrats    ■ Republicans    ■ Both the same    □ Neither does a good job



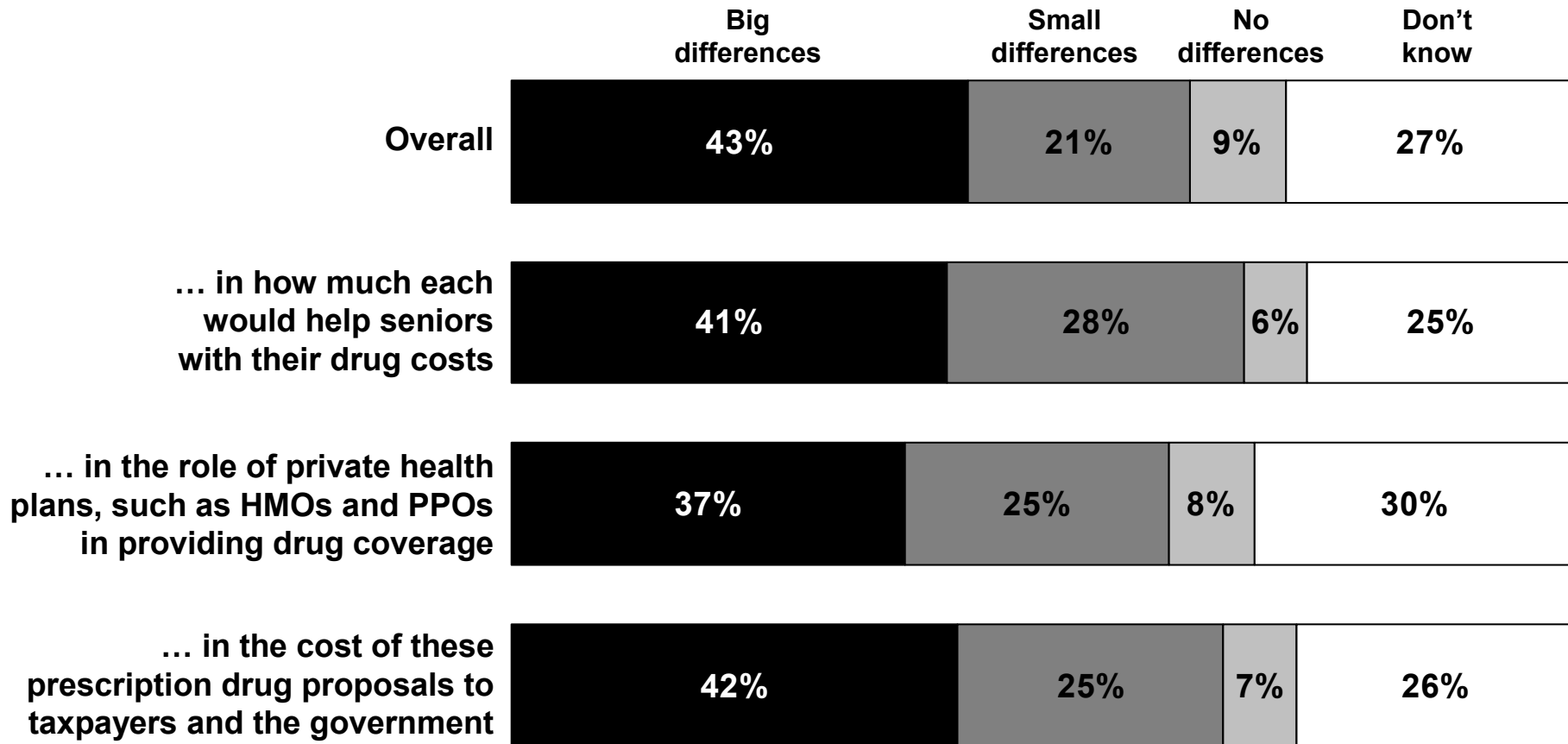
Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Sources: Dec-99: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Survey on Health Care and the 2000 Elections* (conducted Dec 3-13, 1999)  
May-2003: ICR/International Communications Research *EXCEL* National Telephone Omnibus Study (conducted May 23-27, 2003).

Chart 22

# Perceptions of Differences Between Democratic and Republican Proposals to Help Seniors Pay for Rx Drugs

Based on your general impressions of the various proposals to help seniors pay for prescription drugs, do you think there are big differences, small differences, or no differences between the Democratic and Republican proposals...



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of Public Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25 – June 1, 2003)



### Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of the Public's Views on Medicare* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health. The Kaiser/Harvard survey research team included Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., Tricia Neuman, Ph.D., Kristina Hanson, Ph.D., and Liz Hamel from the Kaiser Family Foundation; and Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., and John Benson, M.A. of the Harvard School of Public Health. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates between April 25 and June 1, 2003, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,424 respondents 18 years of age and older. The survey included an oversample of respondents ages 65 and older (a total of 411 respondents ages 65 and older were interviewed). Results for all age groups have been weighted to reflect the actual distribution in the nation.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents; for respondents ages 18-64 it is plus or minus 3 percentage points; and for respondents ages 65 and older it is plus or minus 5 percentage points. For results based on subsets of respondents the margin of error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

In order to get trend data, three questions were added to an omnibus survey between May 23 and May 27, 2003 among a nationally representative sample of 1,010 adults 18 years of age and older. Fieldwork was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research.

Full question wording and all results are available separately at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

“Vol.” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice.



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