

Feature Topic:

KHPR Feature Topic

The Public on Prescription Drugs for Seniors

As debate over providing prescription drug benefits to seniors has intensified, the public has become more knowledgeable about prescription drug coverage. By July 2000, a majority of the public correctly said that the Medicare program does not currently cover the costs of outpatient prescription drugs, up from 29% in August 1998.

While people report relatively high levels of attention to news stories about prescription drug coverage for seniors, many often have trouble identifying current policy activities related to the topic.

About 9 in 10 adults support providing prescription drug coverage for seniors through Medicare (consistent since 1994). When the cost of providing prescription drug coverage to seniors is mentioned, support drops, but roughly 7 in 10 Americans still support expanding coverage.

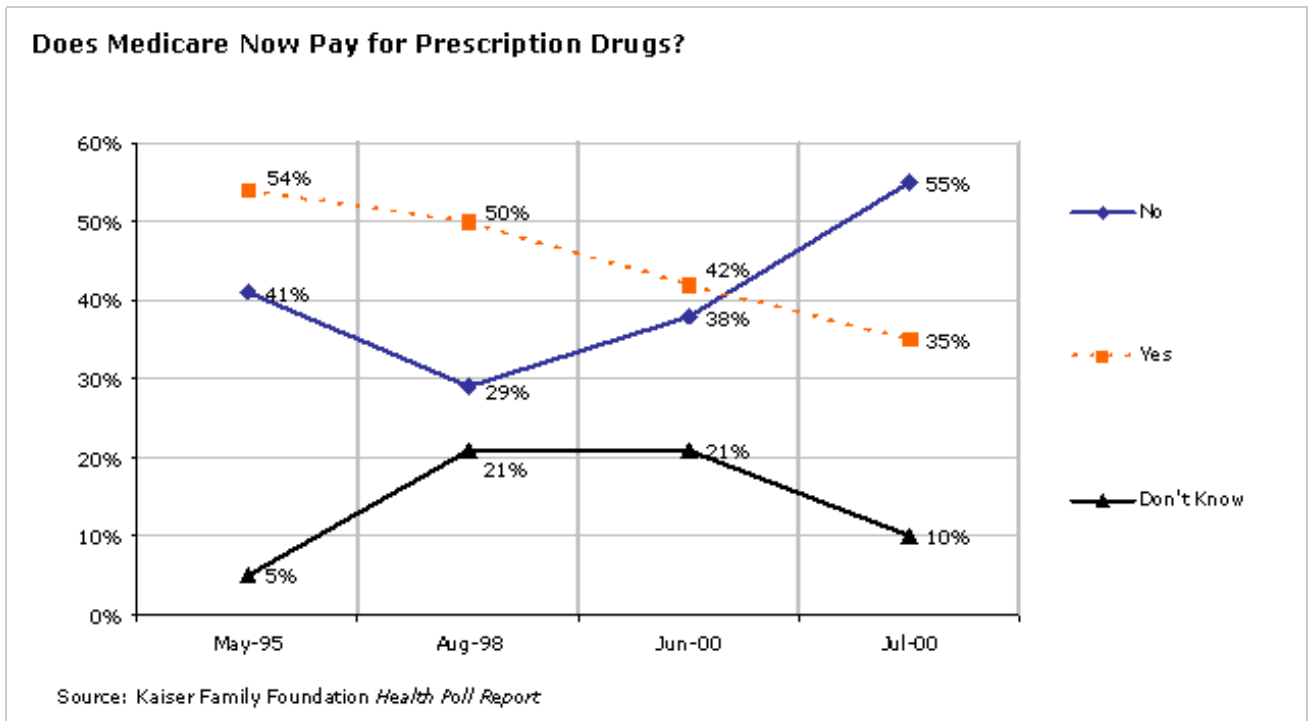
When presented the options of providing prescription drug coverage for seniors by either expanding Medicare or by having the government help seniors buy coverage through private insurance plans, the majority of the public prefers expanding coverage through Medicare.

Although most Americans agree that helping seniors with the costs of prescription drugs is important, they are divided over whether to help all seniors or the lowest-income seniors first, and over how much seniors should have to pay.

Public's Knowledge About Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

Surveys in 1995 and 1998 both found that around half the public incorrectly believed that Medicare currently paid for prescription drugs for seniors. [Note: The percentage giving the correct answer was higher in 1995 than in 1998, but the question asked in 1995 was a straight true/false question -- unlike all the other questions in this graph -- and this may have led participants to be more willing to guess an answer and less willing to say that they don't know the answer.]

As debate over providing prescription drug benefits to seniors has intensified, the public has become more knowledgeable about prescription drug coverage. By July 2000, a majority of the public correctly said that the Medicare program does not currently cover the costs of outpatient prescription drugs.



May 1995

Medicare Poll [May, 1995]

(Would you say that each of the following statements is true or false?)...The current Medicare program pays for prescription drugs for individuals 65 years of age and older.

True	54%
False	41%
Not Sure	5%

Source: Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Louis Harris & Associates, May 31-June 5, 1995 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult (see note) sample of 1,383. The survey included 1076 adults and an oversample of 307 age 65 and over. The elderly were weighted to their proper proportion in the national adult population. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

August 1998

Kaiser/Harvard Medicare Policy Options Survey [August, 1998]

(I'm going to ask you some questions specifically about Medicare. As you may know, Medicare is a federal program that provides health insurance primarily to people aged 65 and older. Some disabled people who are under 65 are also covered under Medicare. Some of the things I mention may not be familiar to you. Please answer each question as best you can, but if you're not sure about an answer, just say so. Please tell me whether--to the best of your knowledge--the traditional Medicare program now pays each of the following kinds of health care bills for people aged 65 and older.) Does traditional Medicare now pay for... prescription drugs, or not?

Yes, pays	50%
No, does not pay	29%
Don't know/Refused	21%

Source: Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, August 14-September 20, 1998 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,909. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

June 2000

Health Care and Other Elder Care Issues Survey [June, 2000]

(Please tell me, to the best of your knowledge, if the Medicare program now pays each of the following kinds of health care bills.) As far as you know, does Medicare now pay for...prescription drugs, or not?

Yes, pays 42%

No, does not pay 38%

Don't know 21%

Source: Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Family Circle. Methodology: Conducted by ICR-International Communications Research, June 12-July 12, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult who have a living parent 65 years of age or older sample of 806. Throughout the survey respondents were asked about one parent age 65 or older they felt require the most care or attention from them. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

July 2000

Kaiser/Harvard/NewsHour Prescription Drugs Survey [July, 2000]

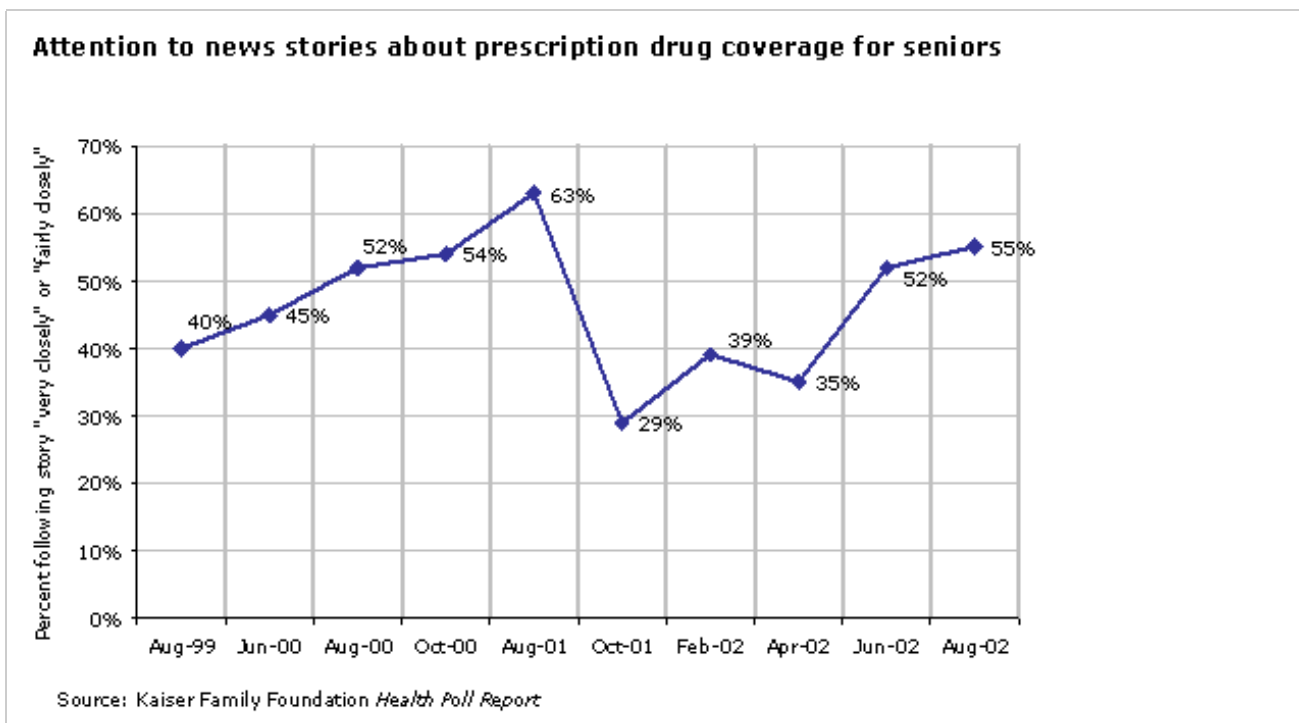
We're going to be asking you some questions about prescription drugs. As you know, prescription drugs are medicines that can only be bought if you have a prescription from a doctor. Prescription drugs do not include vitamins, herbal medicines like St. John's Wort and Ginseng, or medicines you can buy without a prescription, like aspirin. We're also going to be asking you a few questions about Medicare. As you may know, Medicare is a federal program that provides health insurance primarily to people aged 65 and older.... Do you think the traditional Medicare program pays for prescription drugs for those 65 and older, or not?

Yes	35%
No	55%
Don't know	10%

Source: Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.
Methodology: Conducted by ICR--International Communications Research, July 26-September 5, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,701. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

Attention to News Stories About Prescription Drug Coverage

Attention to news stories about prescription drug coverage for seniors has been relatively high since 1999, peaking at 63% saying that they closely followed President Bush's plans to help seniors with their prescription drug costs in August 2001. Immediately following the terrorist attacks in September 2001, attention to the debate decreased, but rose again to 55% reporting that they closely followed Congressional discussions about a Medicare prescription drug benefit in August 2002.



August 1999

Health News Index Poll [August, 1999]

(I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)... A White House proposal that would expand Medicare benefits to include coverage for prescription drugs

Very closely	15%
Fairly closely	25%
Not too closely	27%
Not at all closely	31%
Don't know/Refused	3%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, August 6-August 10, 1999 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,000. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

June 2000

Health News Index Poll [June, 2000]

(I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.) How closely did you follow this story...the debate in Congress about prescription drug benefits and the Medicare program?

Subpopulation/Note: Asked of national random sample of 580 adults

Very closely	20%
Fairly closely	25%
Not too closely	25%
Not at all closely	29%
Don't know/Refused	1%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, May 26-June 4, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,200. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

August 2000

Health News Index Poll [August, 2000]

(I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.)...How closely did you follow this story? Debate in Congress about providing prescription drug benefits to seniors

Very closely	22%
Fairly closely	29%
Not too closely	17%
Not at all closely	30%
Don't know/Refused	1%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, August 2-August 6, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,001. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

October 2000

Health News Index Poll [October, 2000]

(I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)... (2000) Presidential candidate George W. Bush's plan to help the elderly pay for prescription drugs

Very closely	22%
Fairly closely	32%
Not too closely	24%
Not at all closely	21%
Don't know/Refused	2%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, September 29-October 2, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 949. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

August 2001

Health News Index Poll [August, 2001]

(I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)... President (George W.) Bush's proposal to immediately help seniors with their prescription drug costs

Very closely	26%
Fairly closely	37%
Not too closely	19%
Not at all closely	17%
Don't know/Refused	1%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, August 2-August 5, 2001 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,005. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

October 2001

Health News Index Poll [October, 2001]

(Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)... A federal judge temporarily blocking President (George W.) Bush's plan for prescription drug discount cards

Very closely	13%
Fairly closely	17%
Not too closely	23%
Not at all closely	44%
Don't know/Refused	3%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, September 28-October 1, 2001 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,001. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

February 2002

Health News Index Poll [February, 2002]

(Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.) How closely did you follow this story?...Ongoing discussions of prescription drug discount cards

Very closely	17%
Fairly closely	22%
Not too closely	23%
Not at all closely	36%
Don't know/Refused	2%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, January 31-February 3, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,203. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

April 2002

Health News Index Poll [April, 2002]

(Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.) How closely did you follow this story?...Ongoing discussions of prescription drug discount cards

Very closely	15%
Fairly closely	20%
Not too closely	23%
Not at all closely	39%
Don't know/Refused	3%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, March 28-March 31, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,003. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

June 2002**Health News Index Poll [June, 2002]**

(Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)...Discussions in Congress about a Medicare prescription drug benefit

Very closely	23%
Fairly closely	29%
Not too closely	19%
Not at all closely	27%
Don't know/Refused	2%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, May 31-June 3, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,201. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

August 2002

Health News Index Poll [August, 2002]

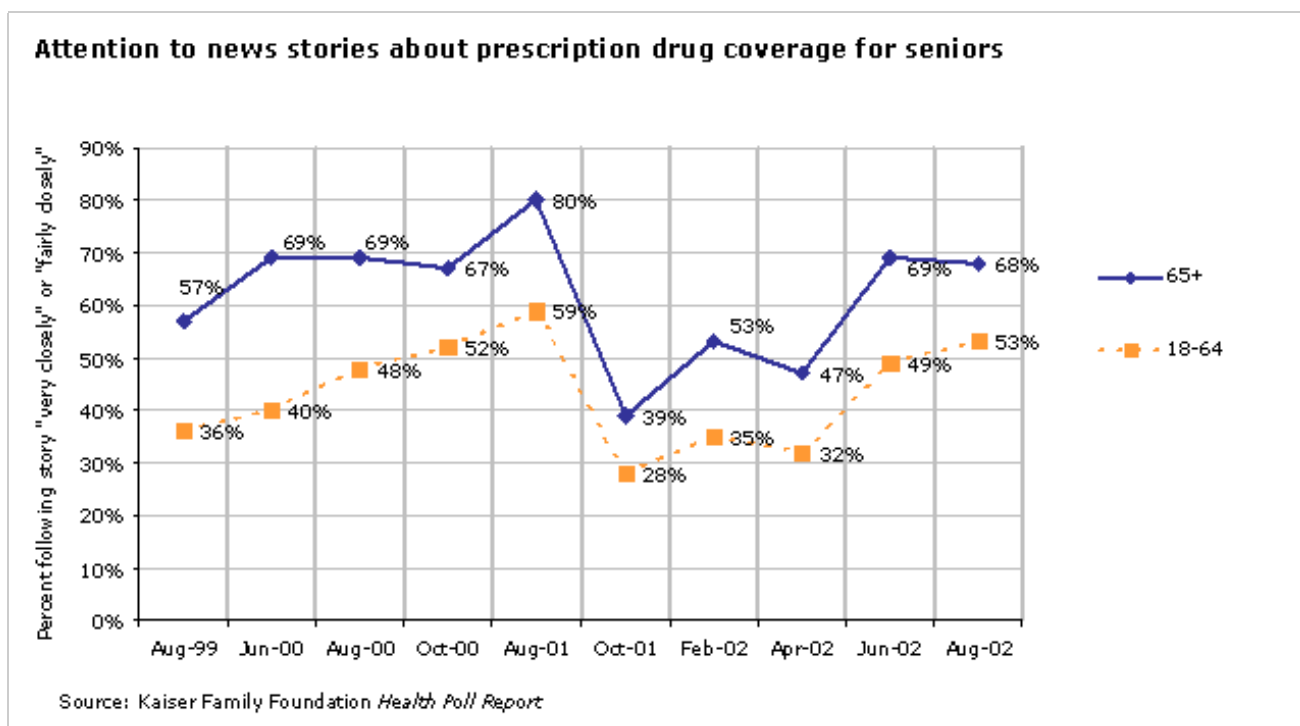
(Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)...Discussions in Congress about a Medicare prescription drug benefit

Very closely	24%
Fairly closely	31%
Not too closely	20%
Not at all closely	24%
Don't know/Refused	1%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, July 18-July 20, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,208. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

Attention to News Stories About Prescription Drug Coverage for Seniors by Age

Those ages 65 and older are much more likely than their younger counterparts to say that they are closely following news stories about prescription drug coverage for seniors.



August 1999

Health News Index Poll [August, 1999]

(I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)... A White House proposal that would expand Medicare benefits to include coverage for prescription drugs

	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Very closely	12%	28%
Fairly closely	24%	29%
Not too closely	28%	19%
Not at all closely	34%	18%
Don't know/Refused	2%	6%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, August 6-August 10, 1999 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,000.

June 2000

Health News Index Poll [June, 2000]

(I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.) How closely did you follow this story...the debate in Congress about prescription drug benefits and the Medicare program?

Subpopulation/Note: Asked of national random sample of 580 adults

	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Very closely	12%	24%
Fairly closely	21%	29%
Not too closely	29%	29%
Not at all closely	36%	14%
Don't know/Refused	2%	3%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, May 26-June 4, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,200.

August 2000

Health News Index Poll [August, 2000]

(I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.)...How closely did you follow this story? Debate in Congress about providing prescription drug benefits to seniors

	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Very closely	19%	40%
Fairly closely	29%	29%
Not too closely	19%	9%
Not at all closely	33%	18%
Don't know/Refused	1%	4%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, August 2-August 6, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,001.

October 2000

Health News Index Poll [October, 2000]

(I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)... (2000) Presidential candidate George W. Bush's plan to help the elderly pay for prescription drugs

	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Very closely	20%	32%
Fairly closely	32%	34%
Not too closely	25%	19%
Not at all closely	22%	12%
Don't know/Refused	1%	3%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, September 29-October 2, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 949.

August 2001

Health News Index Poll [August, 2001]

(I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)... President (George W.) Bush's proposal to immediately help seniors with their prescription drug costs

	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Very closely	22%	43%
Fairly closely	37%	37%
Not too closely	21%	9%
Not at all closely	19%	10%
Don't know/Refused	1%	1%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, August 2-August 5, 2001 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,005.

October 2000

Health News Index Poll [October, 2000]

(Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)... A federal judge temporarily blocking President (George W.) Bush's plan for prescription drug discount cards

	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Very closely	11%	22%
Fairly closely	17%	17%
Not too closely	24%	20%
Not at all closely	46%	36%
Don't know/Refused	3%	5%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, September 28-October 1, 2001 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,001. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

February 2002

Health News Index Poll [February, 2002]

(Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.) How closely did you follow this story?...Ongoing discussions of prescription drug discount cards

	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Very closely	14%	32%
Fairly closely	21%	22%
Not too closely	24%	14%
Not at all closely	38%	27%
Don't know/Refused	2%	6%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, January 31-February 3, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,203.

April 2002

Health News Index Poll [April, 2002]

(Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.) How closely did you follow this story?...Ongoing discussions of prescription drug discount cards

	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Very closely	13%	26%
Fairly closely	19%	20%
Not too closely	23%	23%
Not at all closely	42%	25%
Don't know/Refused	3%	5%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, March 28-March 31, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,003.

June 2002

Health News Index Poll [June, 2002]

(Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)...Discussions in Congress about a Medicare prescription drug benefit

	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Very closely	18%	45%
Fairly closely	31%	24%
Not too closely	19%	17%
Not at all closely	31%	12%
Don't know/Refused	2%	3%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, May 31-June 3, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,201.

August 2002

Health News Index Poll [August, 2002]

(Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. How closely did you follow this story?)...Discussions in Congress about a Medicare prescription drug benefit

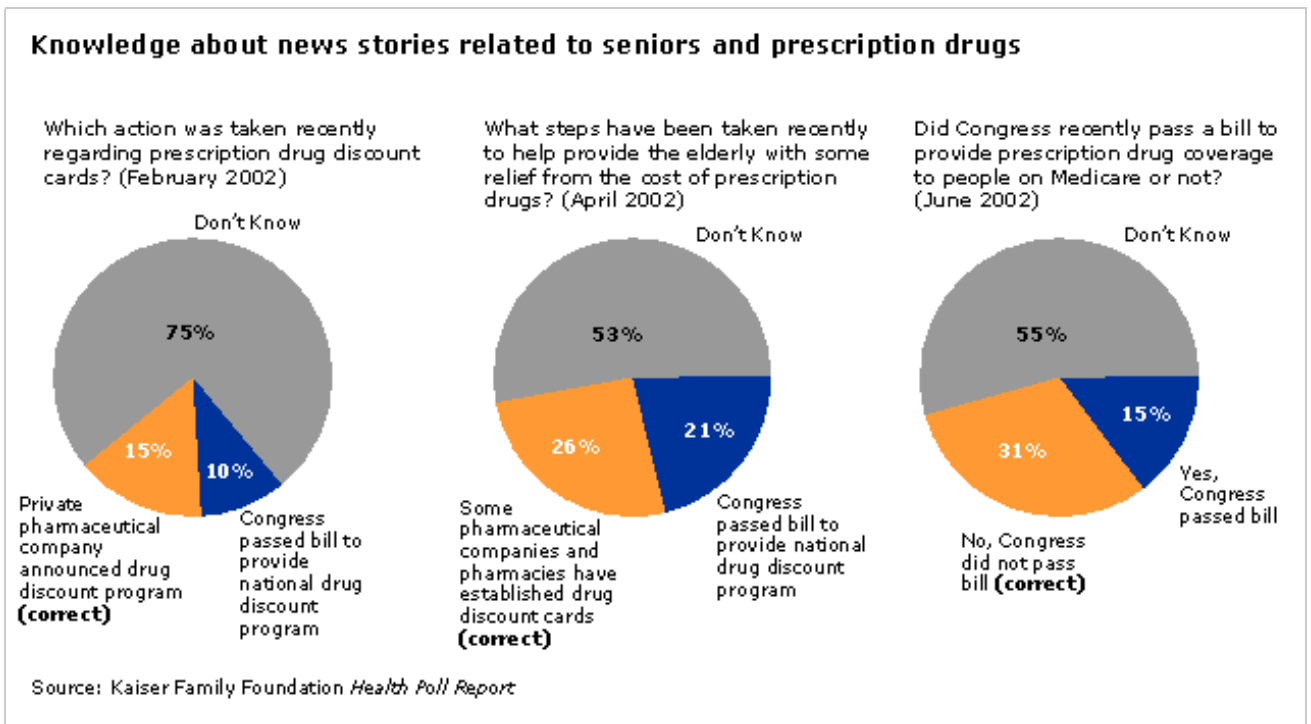
	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Very closely	21%	38%
Fairly closely	32%	30%
Not too closely	21%	15%
Not at all closely	26%	15%
Don't know/Refused	1%	2%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, July 18-July 20, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,208.

Knowledge About News Stories Related to Seniors and Prescription Drugs

Despite relatively high levels of attention, many people have difficulty identifying key pieces of information related to news stories about prescription drug coverage for seniors. In February, April, and June 2002, more than half the public said they did not know the answer when asked questions such as, "What steps have been taken recently to help provide the elderly with some relief from the cost of prescription drugs?" The largest share giving the correct answer to such a question was 31% who knew that Congress had not passed a Medicare prescription drug benefit in June 2002. Levels of knowledge are similar across the age groups, with those ages 65 and older slightly more likely to give the correct answer to these questions.

While there may appear to be a disconnect between relatively high levels of attention to news and lower knowledge levels, it's important to note that knowledge questions about health policy are often more difficult for people to answer. Policy news is often made up of specific legislative steps, and is usually far removed from individuals' daily lives, so while people may be paying attention to the news, they still may find it more difficult to sort out the specific details of a policy debate.



February 2002

Health News Index Poll [February, 2002]

Now, I have a few more questions about some of the news stories that I just mentioned. If you're not sure of an answer, that's okay. Just tell me and I'll go to the next question....Thinking about what you have heard or seen in the news, what action was taken recently regarding prescription drug discount cards?

Congress passed a bill to provide a new national drug discount program	10%
A private pharmaceutical company announced a new drug discount card program	15%
Don't know/refused	75%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, January 31-February 3, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,203. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

April 2002

Health News Index Poll [April, 2002]

Now, I have a few more questions about some of the news stories that I just mentioned. If you're not sure of an answer, that's okay. Just tell me and I'll go to the next question....Thinking about what you have heard or seen in the news, what steps have been taken recently to help provide the elderly with some relief from the cost of prescription drugs?...Congress passed a bill to provide a new national drug discount program, some private pharmaceutical companies and pharmacies are establishing their own drug discount card programs

Congress passed a bill to provide a new national drug discount program	21%
Some private pharmaceutical companies and pharmacies are establishing their own drug discount card programs	26%
Don't know/Refused	53%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, March 28-March 31, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,003. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

June 2002**Health News Index Poll [June, 2002]**

I have a few more questions about some of the news stories that I just mentioned. If you're not sure of an answer, that's okay. Just tell me and I'll go to the next question...Thinking about what you have heard or seen in the news, did Congress recently pass a bill to provide prescription drug coverage to people on Medicare, or not?

Yes, Congress recently passed a bill to provide prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries 15%

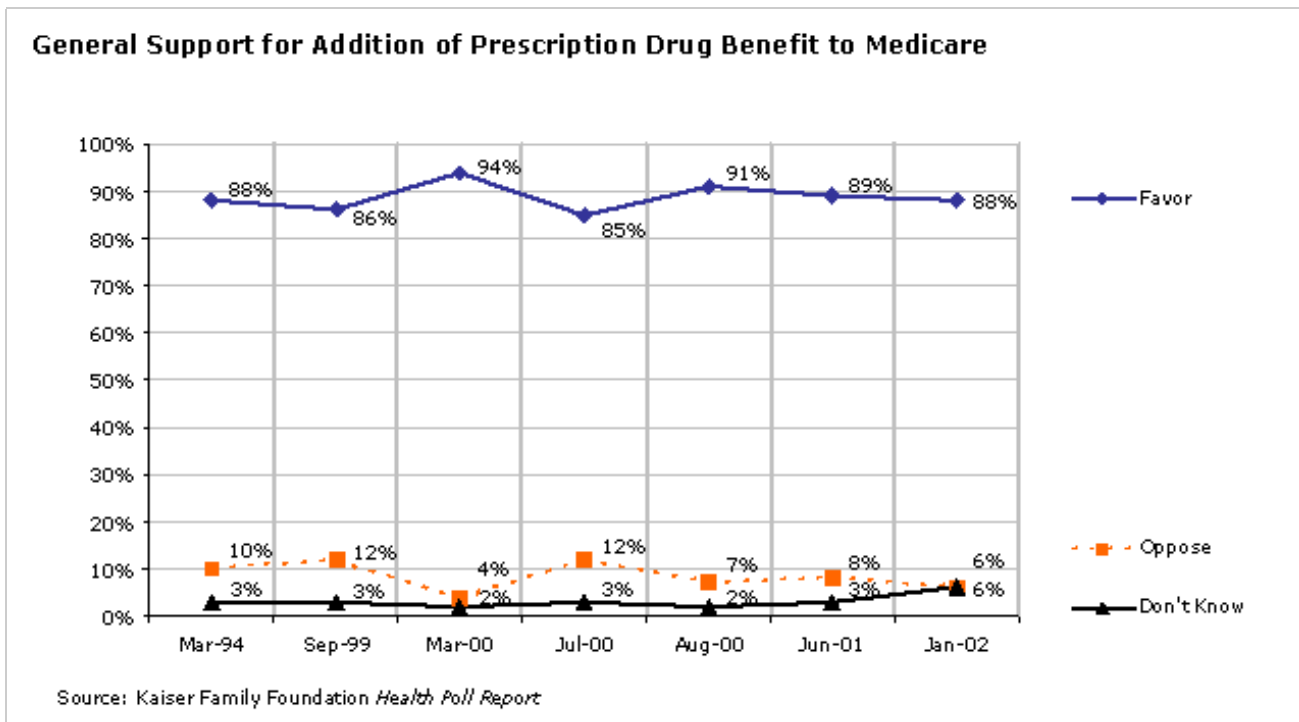
No, Congress did not pass a bill to provide prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries 31%

Don't know/Refused 55%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, May 31-June 3, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,201. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

General Support for Addition of Prescription Drug Benefit to Medicare

About 9 in 10 Americans support providing prescription drug coverage for seniors through Medicare, and this support is consistent over time.



March 1994

New York Times Poll [March, 1994]

President (Bill) Clinton's (health care reform) plan calls for a new Medicare benefit, so that the elderly will have most of the cost of their prescription drugs paid for. Do you favor or oppose this?

Favor	88%
Oppose	10%
Not Sure	3%

Source: Survey by The New York Times. Methodology: Conducted by New York Times, March 8-March 11, 1994 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,107. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

September 1999

Harris Poll [September, 1999]

The Medicare program pays for all or part of the costs of hospitals and doctors for people over 65 and people with disabilities but it does not cover prescription drug costs. Do you favor or oppose adding a new Medicare drug benefit to cover part of the cost of prescription drugs?

Favor	86%
Oppose	12%
Not Sure	3%

Methodology: Conducted by Harris Interactive, September 17-September 21, 1999 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,009. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

March 2000

Chronic Illness and Caregiving Survey [March, 2000]

(I'm going to read a list of proposed health reforms that might be passed by Congress. For each, please indicate if you would strongly support it, somewhat support it, somewhat oppose it, or strongly oppose it.)...Adding a new prescription drug benefit to Medicare, which provides health insurance to adults aged 65 and older and some disabled people

Strongly support	72%
Somewhat support it	22%
Somewhat oppose it	2%
Strongly oppose it	2%
Not sure	1%
Decline to answer	1%

Survey by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Johns Hopkins University, Partnership. Methodology: Conducted by Harris Interactive, March 17-November 22, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult with oversamples (see note) sample of 1,663. for Solutions. The survey included 1490 national adults with oversamples of persons with a chronic illness and adults who provide informal caregiving services for a total of 663 chronically ill and 320 caregivers. Results are weighted to be representative of a national adult population. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

July 2000

Kaiser/Harvard/NewsHour Prescription Drugs Survey [July, 2000]

(We're going to be asking you some questions about prescription drugs. As you know, prescription drugs are medicines that can only be bought if you have a prescription from a doctor. Prescription drugs do not include vitamins, herbal medicines like St. John's Wort and Ginseng, or medicines you can buy without a prescription, like aspirin. We're also going to be asking you a few questions about Medicare. As you may know, Medicare is a federal program that provides health insurance primarily to people aged 65 and older.)... As you may know, Medicare does not currently pay for prescription drugs. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to guarantee prescription drug coverage to everyone on Medicare?

Favor	85%
Oppose	12%
Don't know	3%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. Methodology: Conducted by ICR--International Communications Research, July 26-September 5, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,701. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

August 2000

People & The Press Campaign 2000 Typology Survey [August, 2000]

(I'd like your opinion of some programs and proposals being discussed in this country today. Please tell me if you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose each one.)... Making prescription drug benefits part of the Medicare system

Subpopulation/Note: Registered voters

Strongly favor	57%
Favor	34%
Oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	2%
Don't know/Refused	2%

Survey by Pew Research Center. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, August 24-September 10, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 2,799. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

June 2001

News Interest Index Poll [June, 2001]

I'd like your opinion of some programs and proposals being discussed in this country today. Please tell if you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose each one.... Making prescription drug benefits part of the Medicare system

Strongly favor	50%
Favor	39%
Oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	3%
Don't know/Refused	3%

Survey by Pew Research Center. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, June 13-June 17, 2001 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,200. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

January 2002

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll [January, 2002]

I'm going to read you several proposals that Congress is considering, and for each one, I'd like to know whether you favor or oppose that proposal....Providing prescription-drug benefits for senior citizens

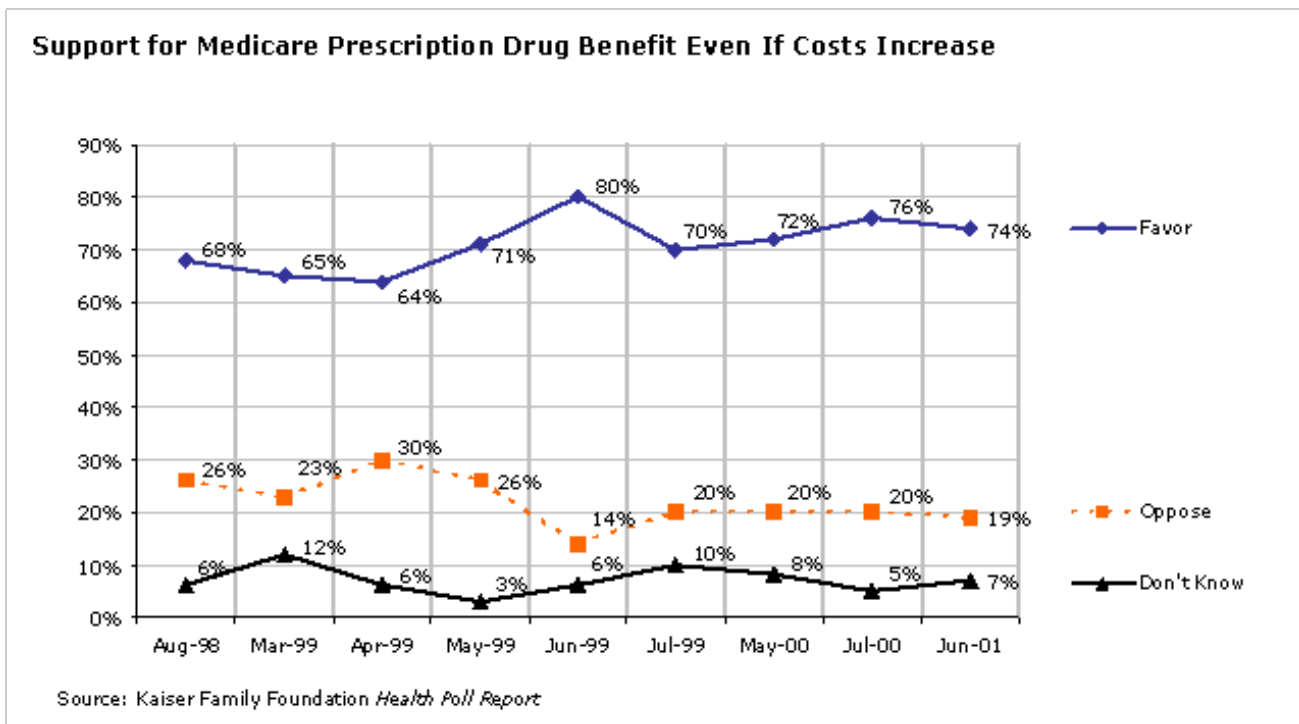
Subpopulation/Note: Asked of Form B half sample

Favor	88%
Oppose	6%
Not sure	6%

Survey by NBC News, Wall Street Journal. Methodology: Conducted by Hart and Teeter Research Companies, January 18-January 21, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,011. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

Support for Prescription Drug Benefit Even if Costs Increase

When the cost of providing prescription drug coverage to seniors is mentioned support drops, but roughly 7 in 10 Americans still support expanding coverage. In June 2001, almost three-quarters of Americans supported expanding Medicare to provide coverage for seniors, even if it meant an increase in premiums for Medicare patients and increased cost to the Medicare program.



August 1998

Kaiser/Harvard Medicare Policy Options Survey [August, 1998]

(Despite the concern over future Medicare spending, some people think the program also needs to be improved and expanded. Again, I'm going to read you some arguments for and against a proposal, and then ask which point of view comes closer to your own.)... There is a proposal to improve Medicare by covering prescription drugs, something the program does not currently pay for, but which many seniors need. Some people favor this change, even though it means higher costs for the Medicare program, saying that seniors in Medicare use prescription drugs often and pay too much out of their own pockets for medications. Others oppose this change, saying it would require too big an increase in premiums or taxes to cover prescription drugs and that many seniors already have enough coverage from other sources. Which comes closer to your view, do you...favor, or oppose expanding Medicare to include prescription drugs?

Subpopulation/Note: Asked of Form 1 half sample

Favor	68%
Oppose expanding Medicare to include prescription drugs	26%
Don't know/Refused	6%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, August 14-September 20, 1998 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,909. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

March 1999

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll [March, 1999]

Would you favor or oppose the Medicare system paying for the costs of prescription drugs for all beneficiaries, even if this meant an increase in Medicare premiums?

Subpopulation/Note: Asked of Form B half sample

Favor	65%
Oppose	23%
Not sure	12%

Survey by NBC News, Wall Street Journal. Methodology: Conducted by Hart and Teeter Research Companies, March 4-March 7, 1999 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 2,012. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

April 1999

Health News Index Poll [April, 1999]

Medicare does not currently pay for prescription drugs. Would you favor a proposal to guarantee prescription drug coverage to everyone on Medicare--even if it means an increase in premiums or taxes to cover the cost of drug coverage?

Yes, would favor	64%
No, would oppose	30%
Don't know/Refused	6%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, April 10-April 22, 1999 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,200. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

May 1999

Health Confidence Survey [May, 1999]

The Medicare program does not currently cover the cost of prescription drugs. Some people would like to add this benefit to Medicare, even though it means that Medicare will incur higher costs. Others oppose it because it may mean an increase in premiums, taxes or both. With this said, would you favor or oppose expanding Medicare to cover prescription drugs? (If favor/oppose, ask:) Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose? (First probe on don't know:) Which of those categories would you lean towards? (Second probe:) If you had to choose one category which would you choose?

Subpopulation/Note: * = less than .5 percent

Strongly favor including leaners	34%
Somewhat favor including leaners	37%
Somewhat oppose including leaners	13%
Strongly oppose including leaners	13%
Depends	1%
Don't know	2%
Refused	*

Survey by Employee Benefit Research Institute, Consumer Education Council. Methodology: Conducted by Matthew Greenwald & Associates, May 13-June 14, 1999 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,001. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

June 1999**Time/CNN/Yankelovich Partners Poll [June, 1999]**

As you may know, Medicare does not currently cover prescription medication. (Bill) Clinton has proposed offering prescription drug coverage to all Medicare beneficiaries. For an additional monthly payment, do you think that Medicare benefits should be extended to cover prescription medications, or don't you think so?

Yes, should	80%
No, should not	14%
Not sure	6%

Survey by Time, Cable News Network. Methodology: Conducted by Yankelovich Partners, June 9-June 10, 1999 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,031. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

July 1999

CBS News Poll [July, 1999]

As you may know, Medicare--government health insurance for people age 65 and over--does not currently cover prescription drugs. Would you favor or oppose the Medicare system paying for the costs of prescription drugs for all beneficiaries, even if this meant an increase in premiums for Medicare patients and increased cost to the Medicare program?

Favor	70%
Oppose	20%
Don't know/No answer	10%

Methodology: Conducted by CBS News, July 13-July 14, 1999 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 722. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

May 2000

ABC News Poll [May, 2000]

What if it meant you'd have to pay more into the Medicare system--in that case would you support or oppose having Medicare cover prescription drug expenses for senior citizens?

Subpopulation/Note: See note Asked of those who support the Medicare insurance program covering prescription drug expenses for senior citizens (89%)

Among those asked

Support	81%
Oppose	15%
No opinion	4%

Among total respondents

Support	72%
Oppose (NET)	20%
<i>Oppose before cost mentioned</i>	7%
<i>Oppose after cost mentioned</i>	13%
No opinion	8%

Methodology: Conducted by ABC News, May 7-May 9, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,013. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

July 2000

Kaiser/Harvard/NewsHour Prescription Drugs Survey [July, 2000]

(We're going to be asking you some questions about prescription drugs. As you know, prescription drugs are medicines that can only be bought if you have a prescription from a doctor. Prescription drugs do not include vitamins, herbal medicines like St. John's Wort and Ginseng, or medicines you can buy without a prescription, like aspirin. We're also going to be asking you a few questions about Medicare. As you may know, Medicare is a federal program that provides health insurance primarily to people aged 65 and older.)... As you may know, Medicare does not currently pay for prescription drugs. Would you still favor a proposal to guarantee prescription drug coverage to everyone on Medicare) if it meant more government spending to pay for it?

Subpopulation/Note: Asked of those who favored the proposal (85%)

Among those asked

Favor	88%
Oppose	9%
Don't know	2%

Among total respondents

Favor	76%
Oppose (NET)	20%
<i>Oppose before cost mentioned</i>	<i>12%</i>
<i>Oppose after cost mentioned</i>	<i>8%</i>
Don't know	5%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. Methodology: Conducted by ICR--International Communications Research, July 26-September 5, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,701. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

June 2001**CBS News/New York Times Poll [June, 2001]**

As you may know, Medicare--government health insurance for people age 65 and over--does not currently cover prescription drugs. Would you favor or oppose the Medicare system paying for the costs of prescription drugs for all recipients, even if this meant an increase in premiums for Medicare patients and increased cost to the Medicare program?

Favor	74%
Oppose	19%
Don't know/No answer	7%

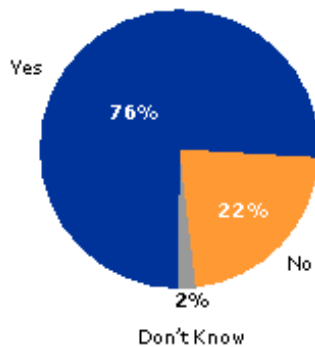
Methodology: Conducted by CBS News/New York Times, June 14-June 18, 2001 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,050. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

Support for Delaying/Rolling Back Tax Cut

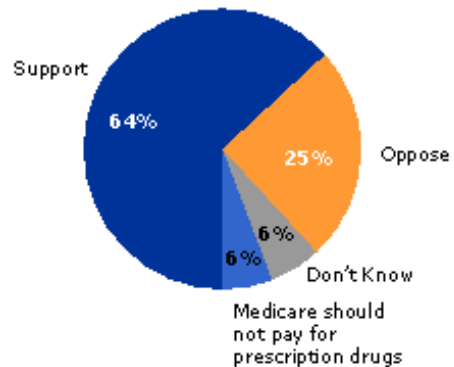
Two surveys in early 2002 also found that many Americans were willing to delay or roll back the tax cut passed in order to provide a prescription drug benefit for seniors. In February 2002, three-quarters (76%) said they would be willing to delay the tax cut, and in March 2002, nearly two-thirds (64%) said they would support rolling back the tax cut and using that money to provide a prescription drug benefit for seniors under Medicare. It is important to note, however, that the same survey (February 2002) found that large majorities of people are also willing to delay the tax cut for other purposes, including funding improved education (72%) and extending unemployment benefits for displaced workers (68%).

Support for delaying/rolling back tax cut to provide prescription drug coverage to seniors

Would you be willing to delay the tax cuts promised by President Bush in his State of the Union address if it meant providing more money for prescription drug benefits for the elderly? (February 2002)



Would you support or oppose rolling back the tax cut that Congress passed last year and using that money to provide a prescription drug benefit under Medicare for seniors? (March 2002)



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report*

February 2002

IPSOS-Reid Poll [February, 2002]

Would you be willing to delay the tax cuts promised by President Bush in his State of the Union address (January 29, 2002) if it meant providing more money for...prescription drug benefits for the elderly?

Yes	76%
No	22%
Don't know	2%

Methodology: Conducted by IPSOS-Reid, February 15-February 17, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national registered voters sample of 779. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

March 2002

Health Care Survey [March, 2002]

Would you support or oppose rolling back the tax cut that Congress passed last year and using that money to provide a prescription drug benefit under Medicare for seniors?

Subpopulation/Note: See note Asked of those who said the federal government should expand Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription drug costs for people age 65 and over/help seniors buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription drug costs (93%)

Among those asked

Support	69%
Oppose	27%
Don't know	4%

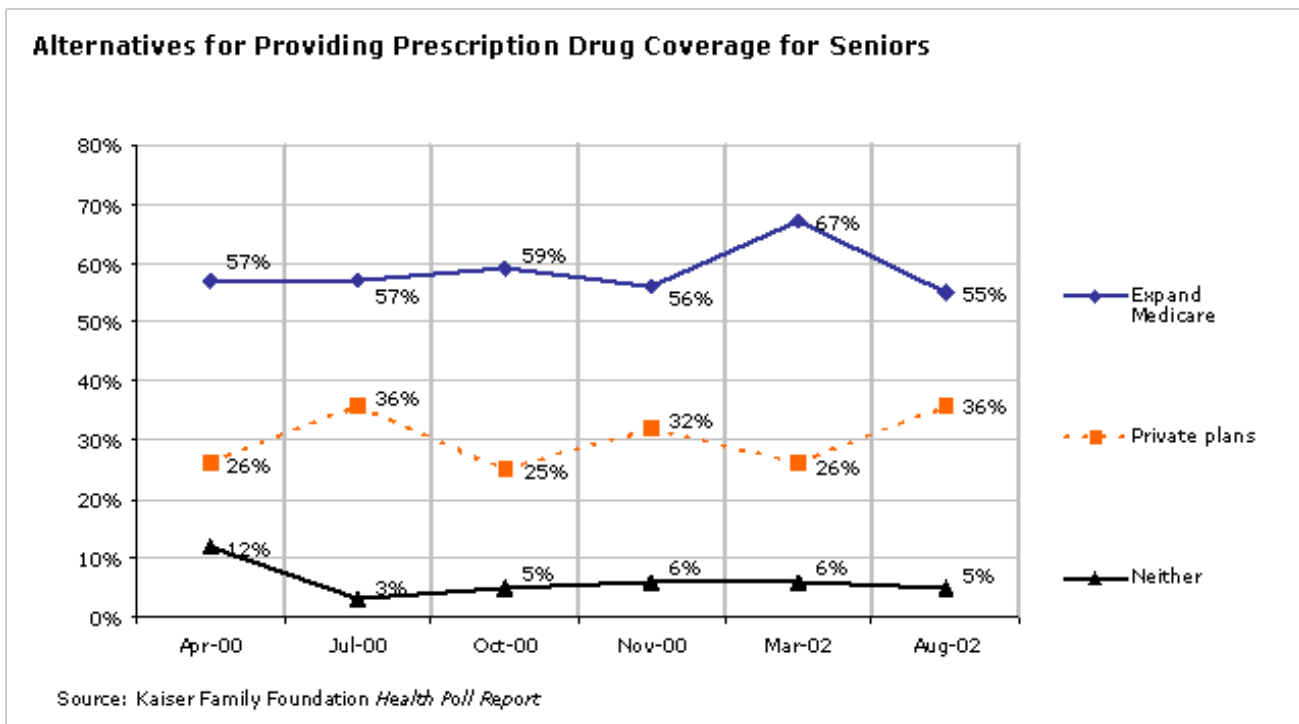
Among total respondents

Support	64%
Oppose	25%
Medicare should not pay for drugs	6%
Don't know	6%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, National Public Radio. Methodology: Conducted by ICR--International Communications Research, March 28-May 1, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,205. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

Alternatives for Providing Prescription Drug Coverage

Public vs. Private Coverage: When presented the options of providing prescription drug coverage for seniors by either expanding Medicare or by having the government help seniors buy coverage through private insurance plans, the majority of the public prefers expanding coverage through Medicare. Majority support for expanding Medicare has been consistent since 2000, despite nuances in question wording.



April 2000

Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll [April, 2000]

Here is one question about health care. As you may know, Medicare, the federal health insurance program for senior citizens, does not provide complete coverage for prescription drugs. In order to deal with this--do you think the federal government should expand Medicare to include coverage of prescription drugs as an entitlement for senior citizens, do you think the federal government should provide financial subsidies to encourage private insurance companies to offer seniors prescription drug coverage, but not make this a federal entitlement, or do you think no changes should be made to this coverage at this time?

The federal government should expand Medicare to include coverage of prescription drugs as entitlement for senior citizens 57%

The federal government should provide financial subsidies to encourage private insurance companies to offer seniors prescription drug coverage, but not make this a federal entitlement 26%

No changes should be made to this coverage at this time 12%

Other (vol.) 2%

Don't know/Refused 3%

Survey by Cable News Network, USA Today. Methodology: Conducted by Gallup Organization, April 28-April 30, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,003. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

July 2000

Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard 2000 Election Health Care Survey [July, 2000]

I'm going to read you two proposals to help people age 65 and over to pay for prescription medicines. Please tell me which of these two proposals you would prefer. Having the federal government help people age 65 and over to buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription medicine costs. Expanding Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription medicine costs for people age 65 and over. Which do you prefer, expanding Medicare or government help to buy private health insurance plans?

Having the federal government help people age 65 and over to buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription medicine costs 36%

Expanding Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription medicine costs for people age 65 and over 57%

Both equally (vol.) 1%

Neither (vol.) 3%

Don't know 3%

Survey by Washington Post, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University. Methodology: Conducted by Washington Post, July 5-July 18, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult voters sample of 1,183. The sample included an oversample of 176 registered voters who said the Medicare and/or health care other than Medicare would be one of the most important issues helping them to decide which presidential candidate to support. Results were weighted to be representative of a national registered voter sample. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

October 2000

People & The Press Late October 2000 Political Poll [October, 2000]

Still thinking about prescription drugs for seniors, which would you favor more, a prescription drug program...operated by the federal government through Medicare, or one operated by insurance companies through HMOs (Health Maintenance Organizations)?

Subpopulation/Note: Form 2 half sample of registered voters

Operated by federal government through Medicare	59%
Operated by insurance companies through HMOs	25%
Neither (vol.)	5%
Don't know/Refused	11%

Survey by Pew Research Center. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, October 25-October 29, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,963. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

November 2000

Post-Election Survey [November, 2000]

As you may know, Medicare does not currently pay for prescription drugs. Which one of the following three statements comes closest to your own opinion about what the federal government should do to help people age 65 and over pay for prescription drugs? Do you think the federal government should...keep things as they are now, expand Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription drug costs, or help them buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription drug costs?

Subpopulation/Note: * = less than .5 percent

Expand Medicare	56%
Help them buy private health insurance plans	32%
Keep things as they are now	6%
None of these (vol.)	3%
Don't know	3%
Refused	*

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard School of Public Health. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, November 13-December 13, 2000 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,415. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

March 2002

Health Care Survey [March, 2002]

As you may know, Medicare does not currently pay for prescription drugs. Which one of the following three statements comes closest to your own opinion about what the federal government should do to help people age 65 and over pay for prescription drugs? Do you think the federal government should...keep things as they are now, the Medicare program should not pay for prescription drugs, expand Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription drug costs, help seniors buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription drug costs?

Expand Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription drug costs 67%

Help seniors buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription drug costs 26%

Keep things as they are, the Medicare program should not pay for prescription drugs 6%

Don't know 2%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, National Public Radio. Methodology: Conducted by ICR--International Communications Research, March 28-May 1, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,205. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

August 2002

Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard 2002 A Generational Look at the Public: Politics and Policy Survey [August, 2002]

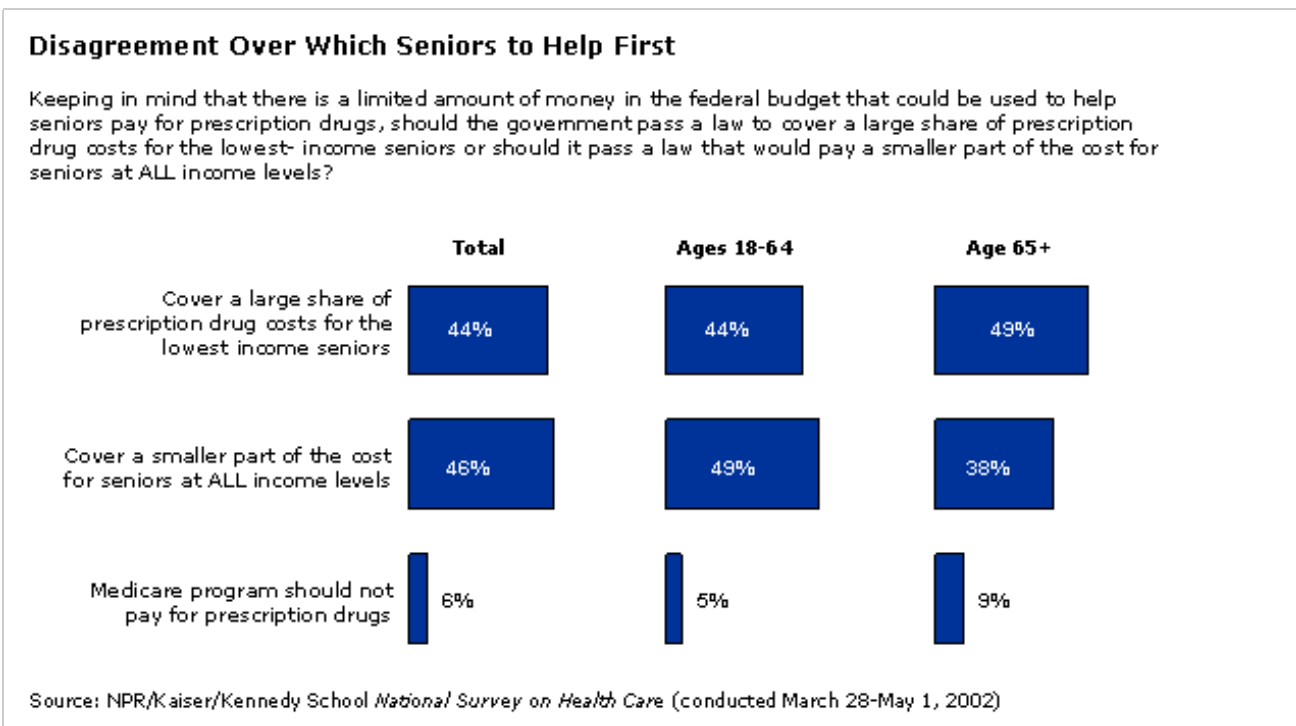
As you may know, Medicare does not currently pay for prescription drugs. Which one of the following three statements comes closest to your own opinion about what the federal government should do to help people age 65 and over pay for prescription drugs? Do you think the federal government should...keep things as they are now, the Medicare program should not pay for prescription drugs, expand Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription drug costs, help seniors buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription drug costs?

Expand Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription drug costs	55%
Help seniors buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription drug costs	36%
Keep things as they are, the Medicare program should not pay for prescription drugs	5%
Don't know	4%

Survey by Washington Post, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University. Methodology: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates of Princeton, NJ, August 2 - September 1, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of 2,886 randomly selected respondents ages 18 and older, including an oversample of respondents ages 55 and older. Results for all age groups have been weighted to reflect the actual distribution in the nation.

Disagreement Over Which Seniors to Help First

Americans disagree over whether a drug plan for seniors should cover a large share of the cost for the lowest-income seniors (44%) or cover a smaller share for seniors at all income levels (46%). Americans age 65 and over are more likely to recommend covering most costs for the lowest-income seniors versus covering fewer costs for those at all income levels. Perhaps one reason seniors are less likely to say that a benefit should provide coverage at all income levels is that many of them already have some form of prescription drug coverage from a source other than Medicare.



March 2002

Health Care Survey [March, 2002]

Keeping in mind that there is a limited amount of money in the federal budget that could be used to help seniors pay for prescription drugs, should the government pass a law to cover a large share of prescription drug costs for the lowest-income seniors or should it pass a law that would pay a smaller part of the cost for seniors at all income levels?

Subpopulation/Note: See note Asked of those who said the federal government should expand Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription drug costs for people age 65 and over/help seniors buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription drug costs (93%)

Among those asked

Cover a large share of prescription drug costs for the lowest income seniors 48%

Cover a smaller part of the cost for seniors at all income levels 50%

Don't know 2%

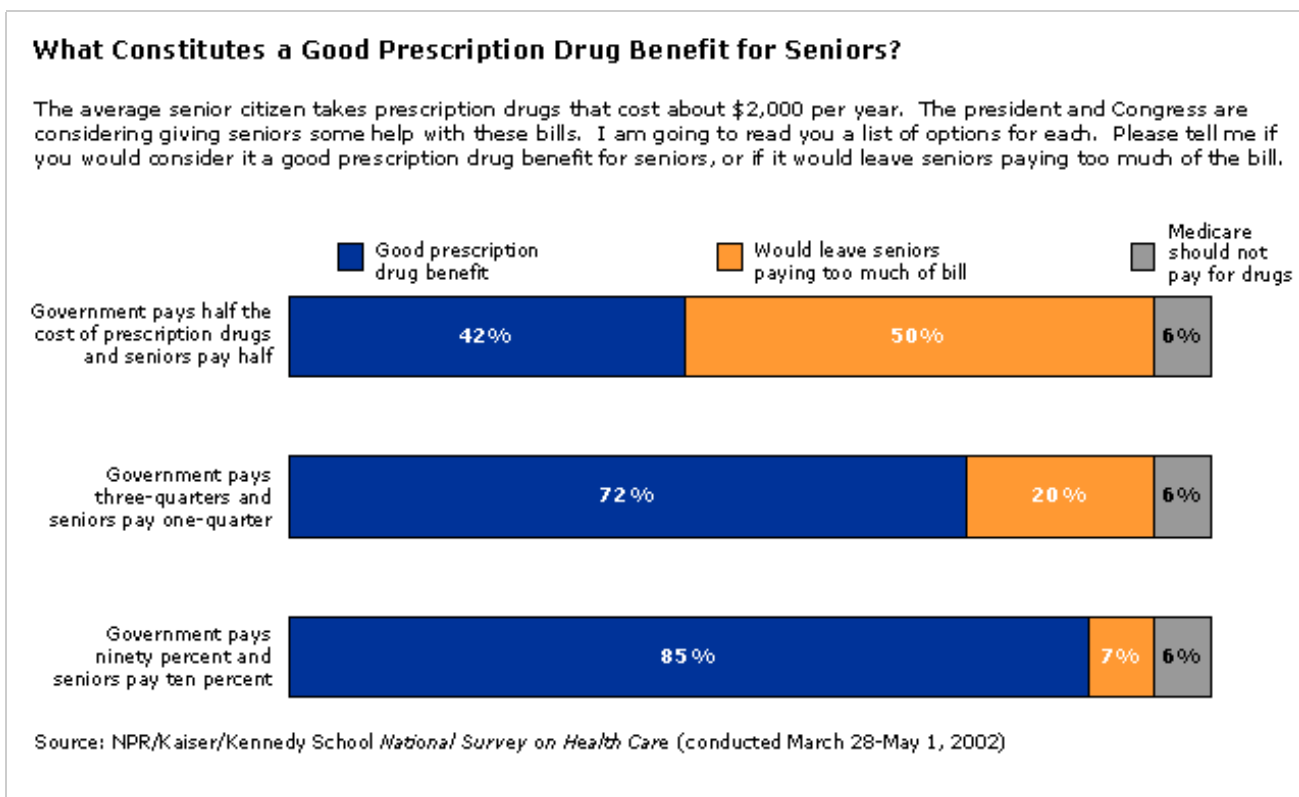
Among Total Respondents

	Total respondents	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Cover a large share of prescription drug costs for the lowest income seniors	44%	44%	49%
Cover a smaller part of the cost for seniors at all income levels	46%	49%	38%
Don't know	6%	5%	9%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, National Public Radio. Methodology: Conducted by ICR--International Communications Research, March 28-May 1, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,205. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

What Constitutes a Good Prescription Drug Benefit for Seniors

When it comes to deciding what constitutes a good benefit for seniors, half (50%) of Americans think that, a benefit that pays half the cost of prescription drugs would leave seniors paying too much of the bill. Almost nine in ten (85%) think that a benefit that pays ninety percent of the cost would be a good prescription drug benefit.



March 2002

Health Care Survey [March, 2002]

The average senior citizen takes prescription drugs that cost about \$2,000 per year. The president (George W. Bush) and Congress are considering giving seniors some help with these bills. I am going to read you a list of options for each. Please tell me if you would consider it a good prescription drug benefit for seniors, or if it would leave seniors paying too much of the bill. What about if the government pays half and seniors pay half of the cost of prescription drugs. Would this be a good benefit for seniors, or would it leave seniors paying too much of the bill? What about if the government pays three quarters and seniors pay one quarter, would this be a good prescription drug benefit or would this leave seniors paying too much of the bill? What about if the government pays 90 percent and seniors pay 10 percent, would this still be a good prescription drug benefit or would this still leave seniors paying too much of the bill?

Subpopulation/Note: See note Asked of those who said the federal government should expand Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription drug costs for people age 65 and over/help seniors buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription drug costs (93%)

Among those asked

Pays half and seniors pay half	45%
Pays three quarters and seniors pay one quarter	32%
Pays 90 percent and seniors pay 10 percent	14%
All options would leave seniors paying too much of the bill	7%
Don't know	1%

Among Total Respondents

	Total respondents	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Pays half and seniors pay half	42%	42%	45%
Pays three quarters and seniors pay one quarter	30%	32%	22%
Pays 90 percent and seniors pay 10 percent	13%	14%	10%
All options would leave seniors paying too much of the bill	7%	6%	9%
Medicare should not pay for prescription drugs	6%	5%	9%

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, National Public Radio. Methodology: Conducted by ICR--International Communications Research, March 28-May 1, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,205. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

Reasonable Cost for Prescription Drug Benefit

When asked what amount they think is reasonable for seniors to pay per month for a prescription drug benefit under Medicare, half (53%) think it is reasonable to ask seniors to pay up to \$30 a month in addition to their current Medicare premiums and half the cost of each prescription, while one-third (34%) think they could be asked to pay \$50 or more.

Reasonable cost for prescription drug benefit

Suppose Congress and the president decided on a prescription drug plan for seniors in which the government pays half of the cost of each prescription. What is the most seniors could reasonably be asked to pay per month in premiums for this new Medicare benefit? This is IN ADDITION to their current Medicare premiums and half the cost of each prescription.

	Total	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
Medicare should not pay for drugs	6%	5%	9%
\$50-\$100 (NET)	34%	35%	28%
\$100	7	7	5
\$75	6	6	3
\$50	21	22	20
\$0-\$30 (NET)	53%	54%	55%
\$30	11	12	10
\$20	13	13	15
\$10	17	18	14
None	12	12	16
Don't Know/Refused	7%	6%	8%

Source: NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School *National Survey on Health Care* (conducted March 28-May 1, 2002)

March 2002

Health Care Survey [March, 2002]

Suppose Congress and the president (George W. Bush) decided on a prescription drug plan for seniors in which the government pays half of the cost of each prescription. What is the most seniors could reasonably be asked to pay per month in premiums for this new Medicare benefit? This is in addition to their current Medicare premiums and half the cost of each prescription. Would you say \$100, \$75, \$50, \$30, \$20, or \$10 per month, or are none of these reasonable amounts?

Subpopulation/Note: See note Asked of those who said the federal government should expand Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription drug costs for people age 65 and over/help seniors buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription drug costs (93%)

Among those asked

\$100	7%
\$75	6%
\$50	23%
\$30	12%
\$20	14%
\$10	18%
None of these are reasonable amounts	14%
Don't know/Refused	7%

Among Total Respondents

	Total respondents	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
\$100	7%	7%	5%
\$75	6%	6%	3%
\$50	21%	22%	20%
\$30	11%	12%	10%
\$20	13%	13%	15%
\$10	17%	18%	14%
None of these are reasonable amounts	12%	12%	16%

Medicare should not pay for prescription drugs	6%	5%	9%
Don't know/Refused	7%	6%	8

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, National Public Radio. Methodology: Conducted by ICR--International Communications Research, March 28-May 1, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,205. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

Willingness to Pay for Prescription Drug Coverage

When asked how much they personally would be willing to pay for prescription drug coverage, between six and seven in 10 seniors pick amounts under \$30-\$35 per month, and almost one-third say they wouldn't be willing to pay anything. Those under age 65 are more likely to say they'd be willing to pay higher amounts.

Willingness to pay for prescription drug coverage

If you are now 65 years of age or older, or when you reach 65, which of the following amounts is the MOST you would be willing to pay per month in premiums for a drug plan that pays half the cost of each prescription? This would be IN ADDITION to your Medicare premiums and half the cost of each prescription. (March 2002 - NPR/Kaiser/Harvard)

	Total	18-64	65+
\$50-\$100 (NET)	42%	44%	26%
\$100	12	12	10
\$75	7	7	6
\$50	23	25	10
\$0-\$30 (NET)	52%	50%	69%
\$30	11	12	10
\$20	11	11	14
\$10	14	14	15
None	16	13	30
Don't Know/Refused	6%	6%	6%

There is a proposal to ADD a new voluntary program in Medicare that would help Medicare recipients pay for prescription drugs. Here is how it would work:

- You would pay an annual deductible of \$200
- After that \$200 deductible has been met, you would pay HALF the cost of each prescription
- The amount you would pay out of your own pocket for prescription drugs each year could never exceed \$4,000.

Which of the following best reflects the monthly premium you would be willing to pay? (March 2002 - AARP)

	Total	45-64	65+
\$35 or more	27%	29%	22%
Less than \$35	61%	61%	61%
Don't Know	12%	10%	17%

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report*

March 2002

AARP Perceptions of a Medicare Rx Plan Among the public Aged 45+, March 2002

There is a proposal to ADD a new voluntary program in Medicare that would help Medicare recipients pay for prescription drugs. Here is how it would work:

You would pay an annual deductible of \$200. After that \$200 deductible has been met, you would pay HALF the cost of each prescription. The amount you would pay out of your own pocket for prescription drugs each year could never exceed \$4,000.

Which of the following best reflects the monthly premium you would be willing to pay?

	Total	Ages 45-64	Age 65+
\$35 or more	27%	29%	22%
Less than \$35	61%	61%	61%
Don't know	12%	10%	17%

Source: AARP, Perceptions of a Medicare Rx Plan Among the public Aged 45+. Reed Haldy McIntosh collected the data contained in this survey for AARP through the Market Facts Telenation omnibus survey conducted March 1 through March 3, 2002. All questions in the survey were asked of those aged 45 and over (n=885), with the exception of questions 10 and 11 which were asked of all age groups (18+) in the omnibus (n=2,000). The margin of error for this survey is +/- 3.5 percentage points.

March 2002

Health Care Survey [March, 2002]

Suppose Congress and the president (George W. Bush) decided on a prescription drug plan for seniors in which the government pays half of the cost of each prescription. What is the most seniors could reasonably be asked to pay per month in premiums for this new Medicare benefit? This is in addition to their current Medicare premiums and half the cost of each prescription. Would you say \$100, \$75, \$50, \$30, \$20, or \$10 per month, or are none of these reasonable amounts?

Subpopulation/Note: See note Asked of those who said the federal government should expand Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription drug costs for people age 65 and over/help seniors buy private health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription drug costs (93%)

Among those asked

\$100	7%
\$75	6%
\$50	23%
\$30	12%
\$20	14%
\$10	18%
None of these are reasonable amounts	14%
Don't know/Refused	7%

Among Total Respondents

	Total respondents	Ages 18-64	Age 65+
\$100	7%	7%	5%
\$75	6%	6%	3%
\$50	21%	22%	20%
\$30	11%	12%	10%
\$20	13%	13%	15%
\$10	17%	18%	14%
None of these are reasonable amounts	12%	12%	16%

Medicare should not pay for prescription drugs	6%	5%	9%
Don't know/Refused	7%	6%	8

Survey by Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, National Public Radio. Methodology: Conducted by ICR--International Communications Research, March 28-May 1, 2002 and based on telephone interviews with a national adult sample of 1,205. Data provided by The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

Likelihood of Participating in Medicare Prescription Drug Program

People over age 65 report being less likely than their younger counterparts to participate in a Medicare prescription drug program that would require them to pay half the cost of each prescription, an annual deductible of \$200, and a monthly premium of \$35.

There are several possible reasons why seniors may be less likely to say they'd participate in the proposed program. As mentioned before, it may be because many of them already have some form of prescription drug coverage from a source other than Medicare, or, in fact, they may not feel like the described benefit is generous enough to really help them.

Likelihood of participating in Medicare prescription drug program

How likely are you to participate in the Medicare prescription drug program where you would pay:

- Half of the cost of each prescription
- An annual deductible of \$200
- A monthly premium of \$35

But where your entire prescription drug costs over \$4,000 each year would be paid for by the government.

	Total	Ages 45-54	Ages 55-64	Age 65+
Very likely	16%	18%	16%	14%
Somewhat likely	25%	29%	25%	19%
Neither likely or unlikely	4%	4%	2%	4%
Somewhat unlikely	11%	12%	14%	7%
Very unlikely	38%	31%	38%	48%
Don't know	6%	6%	4%	8%
Refused	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%

Source: AARP, *Perceptions of a Medicare Rx Plan Among the Public Aged 45+* (conducted March 1-3, 2002)

March 2002

AARP Perceptions of a Medicare Rx Plan Among the public Aged 45+, March 2002

How likely are you to participate in the Medicare prescription drug program where you would pay half of the cost of each prescription, an annual deductible of \$200, and a monthly premium of \$35, but where your entire prescription drug costs over \$4,000 each year would be paid for by the government?

	Total respondents	Ages 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
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Source: AARP, Perceptions of a Medicare Rx Plan Among the public Aged 45+. Reed Haldy McIntosh collected the data contained in this survey for AARP through the Market Facts Telenation omnibus survey conducted March 1 through March 3, 2002. All questions in the survey were asked of those aged 45 and over (n=885), with the exception of questions 10 and 11 which were asked of all age groups (18+) in the omnibus (n=2,000). The margin of error for this survey is +/- 3.5 percentage points.