

**THE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION/HARVARD UNIVERSITY**  
**NATIONAL SURVEY ON MEDICARE POLICY OPTIONS**  
National Topline

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey on Medicare* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health. The survey was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates with 1,909 adults, 18 years and older, nationwide between August 14-September 20, 1998. The margin of error for the total is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Other age and margin of error for subgroups reported are as follows: 1,248 respondents under 65,  $\pm 3$  percentage points; 636 respondents 65 and older,  $\pm 4$  percentage points; 615 respondents under 65, Form 1,  $\pm 4$  percentage points; 314 respondents 65 and older, Form 1,  $\pm 6$  percentage points; 633 respondents under 65, Form 2,  $\pm 4$  percentage points; 322 respondents 65 and older, Form 2,  $\pm 6$  percentage points.

Note: VOL means response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice. Select questions were asked of a random half of the respondents. These questions are identified by "Form 1" and "Form 2", indicating which half answered that particular question.

This survey is a product of the Kaiser-Harvard Program on the Public and Health /Social Policy.

**INTRODUCTION:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm calling for Princeton Survey Research. I'd like to ask a few questions of the YOUNGEST MALE age 18 or older, who is now at home. **(IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW:** Then, may I speak with the OLDEST FEMALE age 18 or older who is now at home) **(REPEAT INTRODUCTION IF RESPONDENT DID NOT ANSWER THE TELEPHONE).** We're conducting an important national opinion survey and would very much like to include your views...

**D1. RECORD SEX**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
47	48	42	Male
<u>53</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>58</u>	Female
100	100	100	

1. To begin, I=d like you to think ahead to the November election for the U.S. Congress in your district. As I read you some different issues, tell me how important each will be to you in deciding your vote for Congress. (First,) what about this issue... **(INSERT--READ AND ROTATE)**? Will this be very important TO YOUR VOTE, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important? **RECORD RESPONSE THEN CONTINUE WITH NEXT ITEM:** How important to your vote will this issue be...

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

		<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Too</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Don=t Plan/ Never Vote (Vol.)</u>	<u>Don=t Know Refused</u>	
a.	Improving education and the public schools							
	Total:	76	15	3	3	2	1	=100
	Under 65:	78	14	2	3	2	1	=100
	65 +:	70	19	4	3	3	1	=100
b.	Dealing with crime							
	Total:	74	18	3	2	2	1	=100
	Under 65:	74	18	4	2	2	* <sup>1</sup>	=100
	65 +:	76	17	3	1	2	1	=100
c.	Keeping taxes down							
	Total:	67	24	5	1	2	1	=100
	Under 65:	66	25	5	1	2	1	=100
	65 +	70	21	4	3	2	*	=100
d.	Dealing with the economy and jobs							
	Total:	67	24	4	2	2	1	=100
	Under 65:	69	23	3	2	2	1	=100
	65 +:	61	26	7	3	2	1	=100

***Continued...***

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<sup>1</sup> An asterisk indicates a value of less than .5 percent.

1. Continued...

		<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not Too</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Don=t Plan/ Never Vote (Vol.)</u>	<u>Don=t Know Refused</u>	
e.	Keeping Social Security financially sound							
	Total:	74	18	3	2	2	1	=100
	Under 65:	71	21	4	1	2	1	=100
	65 +:	91	5	1	1	2	0	=100
f.	Keeping Medicare financially sound							
	Total:	67	24	4	2	2	1	=100
	Under 65:	61	29	5	2	2	1	=100
	65 +:	93	3	1	1	2	0	=100
g.	Protecting patient=s rights in HMOs and managed care plans							
	Total:	61	26	5	3	2	3	=100
	Under 65:	58	28	6	4	2	2	=100
	65 +:	71	14	3	4	2	6	=100

2. You rated the following issue(s) as Avery important≡... **(READ A SHORT VERSION OF RELEVANT ITEMS SHOWN BELOW)** (Will this issue/Will any of these issues) be the DECIDING FACTOR in your vote for Congress?

**Based on Form 1 respondents:**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
19	21	7	a. Improving education
8	8	4	b. Dealing with crime
8	8	5	c. Keeping taxes down
8	9	3	d. Dealing with the economy and jobs
13	11	26	e. Keeping Social Security financially sound
6	4	14	f. Keeping Medicare financially sound
2	2	2	g. Protecting patient=s rights in managed care
2	3	1	Other issue (VOL.)
24	23	27	None will be deciding factor
6	6	8	No item rated very important
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

3. Here=s my first question... As you may know, the federal government has a budget SURPLUS this year. Please tell me which ONE of the following four things YOU would like to see done with the available money. Do you think this surplus money should be used...

4. Suppose this surplus money had to be used for ONLY ONE of these two programs. Would you MOST like to see it used for Social Security OR Medicare?

***Based on Form 2 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
18	19	9	To cut taxes
14	15	12	To pay off the national debt more quickly
23	26	8	To increase spending on domestic programs, such as health, education, and the environment
42	37	65	To help make the Social Security and Medicare programs financially sound
24	23	30	Social Security
15	13	25	Medicare
2	1	7	Use for both equally (VOL.)
1	*	3	Don=t know/Refused
2	2	2	None of these/Other (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

5. On another subject... I=d like your opinion of the job some different groups are doing in serving the needs of health care consumers. In answering, please consider everything that might be important to consumers, including quality, cost and convenience.

First, in general, do you think (**INSERT ITEM. ROTATE LIST**) are doing a good job or a bad job in serving health care consumers? Next, do you think... are doing a good job or a bad job ?

		<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Mixed/Neither</u>	<u>Don=t Know/</u>
		<u>Job</u>	<u>Job</u>	<u>Good or Bad (Vol.)</u>	<u>Refused</u>
a.	Doctors				
	Total:	70	15	12	3 =100
	Under 65:	69	16	12	3 =100
	65 +:	71	13	14	2 =100

***Continued...***

5. Continued...

		<u>Good Job</u>	<u>Bad Job</u>	<u>Mixed/Neither Good or Bad (Vol.)</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>	
b.	Pharmaceutical or drug companies					
	Total:	59	26	9	6	=100
	Under 65:	60	26	8	6	=100
	65 +:	50	30	12	8	=100
c.	HMOs, or Health Maintenance Organizations, and other managed care plans					
	Total:	30	44	10	16	=100
	Under 65:	31	46	10	13	=100
	65 +:	23	37	10	30	=100
d.	Hospitals					
	Total:	64	19	12	5	=100
	Under 65:	64	20	12	4	=100
	65 +:	65	16	10	9	=100
e.	Health insurance companies					
	Total:	36	43	14	7	=100
	Under 65:	34	46	14	6	=100
	65 +:	46	26	17	11	=100
f.	Nurses					
	Total:	83	5	6	6	=100
	Under 65:	84	5	6	5	=100
	65 +:	80	5	7	8	=100
g.	Medicare					
	Total:	49	20	10	21	=100
	Under 65:	44	22	10	24	=100
	65 +:	74	9	11	6	=100
h.	Medicaid					
	Total:	40	19	8	33	=100
	Under 65:	40	21	8	31	=100
	65 +:	39	9	7	45	=100

6. Now I=d like to ask you about some government programs that provide health insurance to certain groups of Americans... As far as you know, which government program provides health insurance for... **(INSERT ITEM--READ AND ROTATE)**: Medicare, Medicaid, or some other government program?

- a. People aged 65 and older, regardless of their income level

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
62	61	66	Medicare
18	20	12	Medicaid
4	4	4	Other program
1	1	*	Neither/No program (VOL.)
3	2	5	Both Medicare and Medicaid/Combination (VOL.)
<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

- b. Many low-income families, regardless of their age

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
18	18	16	Medicare
48	48	48	Medicaid
14	15	5	Other program
*	*	1	Neither/No program (VOL.)
2	2	4	Both Medicare and Medicaid/Combination (VOL.)
<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>26</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

- c. Low-income people who need nursing home care or home care over a long period of time

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
23	25	16	Medicare
32	32	35	Medicaid
18	20	9	Other program
2	1	3	Neither/No program (VOL.)
3	3	5	Both Medicare and Medicaid/Combination (VOL.)
<u>22</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>32</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

Now 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...

7. 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. (First,) does traditional Medicare now pay for...(INSERT--READ AND ROTATE) , or not?

		<u>Yes, Pays</u>	<u>No, Does Not Pay</u>	<u>Don't Know/Refused</u>	
a.	Long-term nursing home care				
	Total:	29	36	35	=100
	Under 65:	31	34	35	=100
	65 +:	22	44	34	=100
b.	Prescription drugs				
	Total:	50	29	21	=100
	Under 65:	56	22	22	=100
	65 +:	23	63	14	=100
c.	Doctor bills				
	Total:	75	8	17	=100
	Under 65:	73	9	18	=100
	65 +:	84	7	9	=100
d.	Hospital bills				
	Total:	76	7	17	=100
	Under 65:	74	7	19	=100
	65 +:	86	6	8	=100

8. How much do you know about the Medicare program and the options being considered to change it? Would you say you know...

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
4	3	6	A lot
20	18	27	Some
50	52	43	Only a little, OR
25	27	20	Nothing?
<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

9. How important is it to you that Medicare is preserved as a health care program for all people when they retire? Is it...

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
77	75	88	Very important
18	20	9	Somewhat important
3	3	1	Not too important, OR
1	1	1	Not at all important?
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

10. We=re interested in people's PERSONAL connections to the Medicare program...

- a. Are you, yourself, now receiving Medicare benefits?
- b. Is there anyone else in your household who is now receiving Medicare benefits?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
26	13	89	Medicare Household
19	5	86	Respondent gets Medicare
7	8	3	Someone else, not respondent
73	86	10	Non-Medicare household
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Unclassified
100	100	100	

11. Do you think the health benefits Medicare offers are more generous, less generous or about as generous as those offered by most private health insurance plans sold to people under age 65?

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
16	15	19	More generous
32	35	21	Less generous
27	27	28	About as generous
<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>32</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	



12. Which do you trust more to provide health insurance to seniors...

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
36	32	57	The current government-run Medicare program
			OR...
40	45	19	Plans offered through the private health care industry?
4	5	3	Neither (VOL.)
4	3	6	Both equally (VOL.)
<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

13. Which do you trust more to provide health insurance to seniors...

***Based of Form 2 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
42	38	60	The current Medicare program
			OR...
40	46	14	Private health insurance plans?
2	3	*	Neither (VOL.)
5	3	11	Both equally (VOL.)
<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

14. Have you seen, heard, or read anything about a new provision under Medicare called AMedicare Plus Choice?≡

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
20	19	24	Yes, aware
78	80	72	No, not aware
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

15. From what you know, which ONE of the following two statements BEST describes what Medicare Plus Choice does? Does it...

- a. Ensure that Medicare beneficiaries can always choose their own doctors and hospitals  
OR...
- b. Give Medicare beneficiaries a variety of choices of private health insurance plans, including HMOs, PPOs, medical savings accounts and the option of staying with traditional Medicare coverage?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
4	3	9	a. Ensures they can always choose doctors/hospitals
11	12	9	b. Gives a variety of choices
80	81	76	Not aware of Medicare Plus Choice
<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

16. Now I=am going to read you four statements that describe different views of the Medicare program today. After I read all four, tell me which ONE comes CLOSEST to your own view. Would you say...

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
22	24	17	The program is headed for a crisis, OR
40	41	39	The program has major problems, but is not facing a crisis, OR
26	24	33	The program has minor problems, OR
3	3	3	The program has no problems?
<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

17. Please tell me which ONE of the following two statements about Medicare comes CLOSER to your own view. Would you say...

***Based on Form 2 respondents:***

- a. Medicare is basically working well as is, and Congress should continue to make only gradual adjustments to preserve the program for future generations. (OR)
- b. We need to make major changes to Medicare soon, to keep costs from rising too quickly when the baby boom generation retires. (OR)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
36	32	56	a. Make only gradual adjustments
57	63	34	b. Make major changes soon
<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

18. Which political party -- the Republicans or the Democrats -- do you trust more to deal with the problems facing Medicare?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
27	28	22	Republicans
43	42	46	Democrats
19	20	15	Neither (VOL.)
2	2	4	Both equally (VOL.)
<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

19. National bipartisan commissions are sometimes created to study national problems and make recommendations to the President and Congress. As far as you know, is there such commission now studying the future of Medicare, or not?

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
39	39	39	Yes, there is a commission studying Medicare
16	17	12	No, is not a commission studying Medicare
39	38	44	Don't know if there is a commission
<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	Refused
100	100	100	

20. How closely, if at all, have you been following news stories about the work of a national bipartisan commission studying the future of Medicare? Have you been following news about the commission=s work ...

***Based on Form 2 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
3	3	5	Very closely
10	8	16	Fairly closely
31	30	37	Not too closely, OR
55	58	41	Not at all closely?
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

21. As you may know, the Medicare program is likely to face financial difficulties in the future if no changes are made. Please tell me if you think each of the following is a major reason, a minor reason, or is NOT a reason why Medicare faces financial difficulties. (First,) what about this possible reason...

Is this a major reason, a minor reason, or is it NOT a reason (why Medicare faces financial difficulties)?

		<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not A Reason</u>	<u>Don=t Know/Refused</u>	
a.	People on Medicare are living longer					
	Total:	50	31	15	4	=100
	Under 65:	48	33	15	4	=100
	65 +:	58	25	11	6	=100
b.	Fraud and abuse by people, doctors, and hospitals					
	Total:	68	24	4	4	=100
	Under 65:	68	25	4	3	=100
	65 +:	67	22	3	8	=100

***Continued...***

**21. Continued...**

		<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not A Reason</u>	<u>Don't Know/Refused</u>	
c.	Poor management by the government					
	Total:	70	21	4	5	=100
	Under 65:	71	21	4	4	=100
	65 +:	62	22	6	10	=100
d.	Excessive charges by doctors and hospitals					
	Total:	73	20	4	3	=100
	Under 65:	73	21	3	3	=100
	65 +:	71	18	4	7	=100
e.	Malpractice lawsuits and settlements					
	Total:	49	33	10	8	=100
	Under 65:	50	35	10	5	=100
	65 +:	46	27	8	19	=100
f.	New drugs, treatments, and tests being offered to the elderly					
	Total:	30	43	19	8	=100
	Under 65:	29	45	20	6	=100
	65 +:	32	36	16	16	=100
g.	The growing number of people who will start receiving Medicare benefits in the future					
	Total:	65	23	8	4	=100
	Under 65:	66	23	8	3	=100
	65 +:	63	22	6	9	=100
h.	Medical costs in general are going up					
	Total:	76	18	3	3	=100
	Under 65:	76	18	4	2	=100
	65 +:	75	15	4	6	=100

22. Compared to most private health insurance plans, do you think there is more fraud and abuse in the Medicare program, less fraud and abuse, or about the same amount?

***Based on Form2 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
37	37	33	More fraud and abuse
6	6	6	Less fraud and abuse
51	52	49	About the same amount
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

23. Suppose we could find a way to eliminate almost ALL fraud and abuse in the Medicare program. Do you think eliminating fraud and abuse would be enough to fix the program=s financial problems, OR do you think these financial problems would continue unless other changes in the program are also made to save money?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
20	17	29	Yes, would be enough
75	79	63	No, other changes also necessary
<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

24. I=am going to read you some proposals to keep the Medicare program financially sound in the future. Please tell me whether you would generally favor or oppose each one. (First,) would you favor or oppose... Do you (favor/oppose) this proposal STRONGLY, or not strongly?

- a. Requiring seniors to pay a larger share of Medicare costs out of their own pockets

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
17	16	18	Total favor
8	7	8	Favor strongly
9	9	10	Favor not strongly
80	82	76	Total Oppose
61	61	64	Oppose strongly
19	21	12	Oppose not strongly
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

***Continued...***

**24. Continued...**

- b. Creating a sliding scale for Medicare, so that the more income seniors have, the more they pay in Medicare premiums

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
64	66	56	Total favor
44	45	41	Favor strongly
20	21	15	Favor not strongly
32	31	36	Total Oppose
22	21	26	Oppose strongly
10	10	10	Oppose not strongly
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

- c. Reducing payments to doctors and hospitals for treating people covered by Medicare

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
59	61	51	Total favor
42	44	36	Favor strongly
17	17	15	Favor not strongly
35	34	39	Total Oppose
21	20	25	Oppose strongly
14	14	14	Oppose not strongly
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

- d. Charging seniors who want to stay in the traditional Medicare program higher co-payments to encourage them to switch to Medicare HMOs

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
27	28	21	Total favor
13	13	11	Favor strongly
14	15	10	Favor not strongly
65	66	63	Total Oppose
45	44	51	Oppose strongly
20	22	12	Oppose not strongly
<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

*Continued...*

**24. Continued...**

- e. Increasing the payroll taxes workers now pay to fund the Medicare program

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
31	31	33	Total favor
15	14	18	Favor strongly
16	17	15	Favor not strongly
65	67	55	Total Oppose
48	50	39	Oppose strongly
17	17	16	Oppose not strongly
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>12</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

- f. Gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67 for future retirees

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
37	34	51	Total favor
20	18	34	Favor strongly
17	16	17	Favor not strongly
61	64	45	Total Oppose
47	49	35	Oppose strongly
14	15	10	Oppose not strongly
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

- g. Limiting the amount Medicare contributes toward health insurance for each person enrolled in the program to a fixed amount per year that could be applied toward the cost of a health plan.

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
42	45	30	Total favor
23	25	16	Favor strongly
19	20	14	Favor not strongly
47	46	51	Total Oppose
30	29	37	Oppose strongly
17	17	14	Oppose not strongly
<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>19</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	



Now I'm going to read you some arguments for and against different proposals to change Medicare. After you've had a chance to hear arguments on both sides, tell me which point of view comes closer to your own...

25. One proposal to deal with Medicare's financial problems would save money by reducing payments to doctors and hospitals for treating Medicare patients. Those who favor this change say doctors and hospitals are being paid too much and that payments have been reduced before without affecting the quality of care. Those who oppose this change say it will cause the overall quality of care to go down, and many doctors might stop accepting Medicare patients. Which comes closer to your view, do you...

***Based on Form 2 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
47	48	40	Favor, OR
48	48	50	Oppose reducing payments to doctors and hospitals?
<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

26. One proposal to deal with Medicare's financial problems would require seniors to pay more for their health care through higher premiums, co-pays, or deductibles. Those who favor this change say it will make seniors more cost-conscious so they will make wiser choices about their use of health services. Those who oppose this change say most seniors can't afford to pay any more than they do now, and that many seniors would have to go without needed care. Which comes closer to your view, do you...

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
13	13	15	Favor, OR
84	84	80	Oppose requiring seniors to pay more?
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

27. Another proposal would require seniors with higher incomes -- over \$75,000 per year -- to pay more for their health care through higher premiums, co-pays, or deductibles. Those who favor this change say it will bring more money into the Medicare system by asking the people who directly benefit from Medicare -- and who can afford it -- to pay more. Those who oppose this change say it is just a new tax for some seniors who shouldn't have to pay more than others for the same health services. Which comes closer to your view, do you...

***Based on Form 2 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
65	66	60	Favor, OR
32	32	33	Oppose requiring higher income seniors to pay more?
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

28. Another proposal would limit future Medicare spending by setting a fixed amount that Medicare will pay for each person in the program. This could be applied toward the cost of a health plan. Those who favor this change say it will control the growth of Medicare spending by capping Medicare's budget and giving Medicare enrollees an incentive to choose the most cost-effective plan. Those who oppose this change say it might cause seniors to pay more for their health care -- or have their benefits cut -- if health insurance prices go up faster than the fixed amount Medicare will pay. Which comes closer to your view, do you...

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
26	27	20	Favor, OR
69	69	70	Oppose setting a fixed amount Medicare will pay?
<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

29. Another proposal would increase the existing Medicare payroll taxes that fund the program today. Under this proposal, Medicare payroll taxes for a typical worker earning close to \$23,000 per year would increase from about \$330 to \$390 per year. Those who favor this change say it is a way for workers to preserve benefits for themselves when they retire. Those who oppose this change say payroll taxes are already too high and an average worker can't afford to pay any more. Which comes closer to your view, do you...

***Based on Form 2 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
31	31	33	Favor, OR
64	65	58	Oppose an increase in Medicare payroll taxes?
<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

30. Another proposal would gradually increase the age of eligibility for Medicare benefits from 65 to 67 years. Those who favor this change say that people on Medicare are living longer than they did when the program was started, and it will save the program money while still providing coverage for older seniors who need Medicare most. Those who oppose this change say it will cause many retirees aged 65 and 66 to go without health coverage because they are unlikely to find affordable private health insurance. Which comes closer to your view, do you...

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
34	34	38	Favor, OR
63	64	57	Oppose gradually increasing the age of eligibility for Medicare to 67?
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

31. Another proposal would encourage more seniors receiving Medicare to enroll in privately-run HMOs or other managed care plans. Those who favor this change say it would be a good thing for seniors, because many HMOs provide more generous benefits at a lower cost to people who enroll. Those who oppose this change say it would be a bad thing for seniors because they might not be able to continue using their regular doctors, and would need permission to see specialists and get certain medical procedures. Which comes closer to your view, do you...

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
38	41	25	Favor, OR
56	54	63	Oppose encouraging HMO enrollment?
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

32. In the future, if most seniors in Medicare are covered through HMOs or other managed care plans...  
**(INSERT--READ AND ROTATE; RECORD ANSWER THEN READ THE FOLLOWING BEFORE ASKING NEXT ITEM:** If most seniors in Medicare are covered through managed care plans...

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

- a. Do you think it would be easier or harder for Medicare patients who are sick to see medical specialists -- or wouldn=t it make much difference?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
9	9	10	Easier
50	50	50	Harder
34	35	28	Wouldn=t make much difference
<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

- b. Do you think the quality of health care for Medicare patients who are sick would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
14	15	9	Increase
31	31	33	Decrease
47	47	48	Stay about the same
<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

*Continued...*

**32. Continued...**

***Based on Form2 respondents:***

- c. Do you think the quality of health care for Medicare patients would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
16	17	13	Increase
27	27	25	Decrease
52	52	49	Stay about the same
<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

***Based on Form 2 respondents:***

- f. Do you think the people enrolled in Medicare would get more benefits for their money, fewer benefits, or about the same benefits?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
16	16	13	More
27	27	26	Fewer
51	52	49	About the same
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

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...

33. There is a proposal to EXPAND Medicare so that people aged 62 to 64 are able to buy into the program before they turn 65, the current age of eligibility. Those who favor this change say it will give uninsured early retirees access to health insurance before they qualify for Medicare without adding substantial costs to Medicare, since those who buy in would pay the full premium. Those who oppose this change say it could add to costs at a time when we need to reduce costs and limit benefits, and that it is unlikely to help many people. Which comes closer to your view, do you...

***Based on Form 2 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
60	63	46	Favor, OR
37	35	45	Oppose letting people aged 62 to 64 buy into Medicare?
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

34. 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...

***Based on Form 1 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
68	71	58	Favor , OR
26	24	34	Oppose expanding Medicare to include prescription drugs?
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

35. There is also a proposal to improve Medicare by covering LONG-TERM NURSING HOME CARE, 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 many older people need it and cannot afford it. Others oppose this change, saying it would require too big an increase in premiums or taxes and that the country can=t afford it. Which comes closer to your view, do you...

***Based on Form 2 respondents:***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
69	70	64	Favor , OR
26	25	27	Oppose expanding Medicare to include long-term care?
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

36. Thinking now about your own health ...In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
62	66	42	Total excellent/very good
30	34	12	Excellent
32	32	30	Very good
24	23	31	Good
13	11	26	Total only fair/poor
9	7	19	Only fair
4	4	7	Poor
<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

37. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private health insurance plan and government programs like Medicare or (Medicaid).

**VARIANT WORDING FOR CA. RESPONDENTS:** (Medicaid or Medi-Cal)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>Over 65</u>	
85	82	97	Total Insured
19	5	86	Medicare
66	77	11	Non-Medicare
15	17	3	Uninsured
<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	Unclassified
100	100	100	

38. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage...

***Based on all who are insured; n=1680***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
76	90	20	Total private insurance
66	79	12	Private insurance through an employer
10	11	8	Private insurance from some other source
16	3	70	Medicare
3	3	4	Medicaid (Medi-Cal) , the government program that provides health insurance for low-income families, OR
3	3	4	Some other government program?
1	*	1	Other source of health insurance (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

39. Do you have traditional fee-for-service, Medicare coverage OR are you covered through a Medicare HMO?

***Based on all who say Medicare is main source of health coverage: n= 460***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65*</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
77	72	78	Traditional Medicare
17	28	16	Medicare HMO
5	0	5	Don=t know which type of coverage
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	Refused
100	100	100	

*\*Based on n= 24*

40. Based on all your experience with your current MAIN health insurance plan, I=d like you to grade the plan=s performance. If A means excellent, B good, C average, D poor and F failing, what letter grade would you give to your health plan?

***Based on all who are insured; n=1680***

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
32	29	41	A--excellent
42	43	40	B--good
18	20	13	C--average
4	4	2	D--poor
1	1	1	F--failing
2	2	1	Not with plan long enough to rate (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	



41. Please tell me whether you or someone else in your household is MOST responsible for making decisions about your health insurance or health plan. **(IF SOMEONE ELSE IS MOST RESPONSIBLE, ASK: Is the person most responsible male or female?)**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
74	73	79	Respondent most responsible
10	11	4	Other MALE in household is most responsible
5	6	3	Other FEMALE in household is most responsible
2	2	1	Other person most responsible, sex not specified
8	7	12	Respondent shares responsibility with someone else (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
46	49	37	Male
42	40	49	Female
8	7	12	Shared responsibility
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	Not determined
100	100	100	

#### **DEMOGRAPHICS:**

- D2. Now I have just a few questions so we can describe the people who took part in our survey... In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
28	28	25	Republican
32	30	44	Democrat
34	36	23	Independent
*	1	1	Other party (VOL.)
3	3	3	None (VOL.)
1	1	2	Don't know
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Refused
100	100	100	

- D3. Are you NOW self-employed, are you employed by someone else, are you retired, or are you not employed for pay?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
12	14	2	Self-employed
53	64	8	Employed by someone else
19	5	85	Retired
12	13	3	Not employed
2	2	1	Disabled
2	2	1	Other (full-time student, homemakers, etc.)
*	*	0	Don't know
*	0	*	Refused
100	100	100	

- D4. Are you NOW working full-time or part-time hours?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
55	66	5	Full-time hours
10	11	5	Part-time hours
*	*	*	Other arrangement
35	23	90	Not employed
*	*	*	Don't know
0	0	0	Refused
100	100	100	

- D5. Are you married, LIVING AS married, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
52	53	48	Married
3	4	1	Living as married
11	12	7	Divorced
3	3	1	Separated
9	2	39	Widowed
22	26	4	Never been married
*	*	0	Don't know
*	*	*	Refused
100	100	100	

D6. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
4	2	15	None, or grade 1-8
11	9	20	High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
32	33	30	High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
5	5	5	Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
24	26	16	Some college, no 4-year degree
15	16	9	College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other 4-year degree)
8	9	5	Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g. toward a master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school)
*	*	*	Don't know
<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	Refused
100	100	100	

D7. What is your age?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
23	28	0	18 - 29
40	49	0	30 - 49
19	23	0	50 - 64
17	0	100	65 +
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Refused
100	100	100	

D8. Last year, that is in 1997, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
7	6	12	Less than \$10,000
14	12	26	\$10,000 to under \$20,000
17	16	18	\$20,000 to under \$30,000
24	26	14	\$30,000 to under \$50,000
14	17	5	\$50,000 to under \$75,000
7	8	3	\$75,000 to under \$100,000
5	6	2	\$100,000 or more
5	4	9	Don't know
<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	Refused
100	100	100	

- D9. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
5	6	2	Yes
94	94	97	No
*	*	*	Don't know
<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	Refused
100	100	100	

- D10. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race? IF R SAYS AHISPANIC≡ OR ALATINO≡ ASK: Do you consider yourself a WHITE Hispanic/Latino or a BLACK Hispanic/Latino?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Under 65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	
84	83	90	White
11	11	8	Black/African-American
1	2	*	Asian
2	2	1	Other or mixed race (SPECIFY)
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know
			Refused
100	100	100	

That completes the interview. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. Have a nice day/evening.