

**Topline** 

Kaiser Family Foundation

Medicare and Medicaid at 50

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The Medicare and Medicaid at 50 survey was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). The survey was conducted by telephone from April 23 through May 31, 2015 among a nationally representative random digit dial sample of 1,849 adults ages 18 or older living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (748) and cell phone (1101, including 646 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by SSRS. SSRS collaborated with KFF researchers on sample design, weighting, pretesting, and supervised the fieldwork. KFF paid for all costs associated with the survey.

To capture the views and experiences of those most impacted by Medicare and Medicaid, the survey included oversamples of people ages 65 and older, people between the ages of 55 and 64, and those who are either personally covered by Medicaid or whose children are covered by Medicaid. To oversample these populations, the sample plan consisted of three elements: (1) general population respondents reached by RDD landline (n=617) or cell phone (n=989); (2) respondents reached by RDD landline, but interviewed only if they were 65 or older (n=27); (3) respondents reached by calling back phone numbers where respondents previously interviewed indicated that they or their child were covered by Medicaid (n=216). Both the random digit dial landline and cell phone samples were provided by Marketing Systems Group (MSG).

A multi-stage weighting process was applied to ensure an accurate representation of the national adult population. The first stage of weighting involved corrections for sample design, including accounting for the likelihood of non-resonse for the re-contact sample, number of eligible household numbers for those reached via landline, and a correction to account for the fact that respondents with both a landline and cell phone have a higher probability of selection. In the second weighting stage, the sample was weighted to match estimates for the national population using data from the Census Bureau's 2014 March supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS), and the distribution of phone use was estimated based on the CDC's National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The weighting parameters used were age and gender, race/ethnicity, education, marital status, census region, population density of the respondent's county, and telephone use. Through the weighting process, each oversample is adjusted so that the group is represented in proportion to their actual share of the population.

The margin of sampling error including the design effect for the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Numbers of respondents and margins of sampling error for key subgroups are shown in the table below. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margins of sampling error for other subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll. Kaiser Family Foundation public opinion and survey research is a charter member of the <a href="Transparency Initiative">Transparency Initiative</a> of the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

Group	Unweighted N	Margin of sampling error
Total	1849	±3 percentage points
Coverage Type		
Covered by Medicare	624	±5 percentage points
Covered by Medicaid	391	±6 percentage points
Covered by employer-sponsored insurance,	658	±4 percentage points
under 65 years old		
Uninsured, under 65 years old	167	±9 percentage points
Age		
Age 18-54	931	±4 percentage points
Age 55-64	395	±6 percentage points
Age 65+	512	±5 percentage points
Half Samples		
Sample A	927	±4 percentage points
Sample B	922	±4 percentage points
Political Party		
Democrat	628	±5 percentage points
Independent	588	±5 percentage points
Republican	422	±6 percentage points

#### NOTES FOR READING THE TOPLINE:

- Percentages may not always add up to 100 percent due to rounding
- Values less than 0.5 percent are indicated by an asterisk (\*)
- "Vol." indicates a response was volunteered by the respondent, not offered as an explicit choice
- Questions are presented in the order asked; question numbers may not be sequential
- Don't know and Refused responses are often combined in trend data.

#### TREND INFORMATION:

- 11/14: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted November 5-13, 2014)
- 01/13: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/ Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)
- 09/12: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 13-19, 2012)
- 07/12: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted July 17-23, 2012)
- 06/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll: Early Reaction to Supreme Court Decision on the ACA* (conducted June 28-30, 2012)
- 02/12: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 13-19, 2012)
- 06/11: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 9-14, 2011)
- 05/11: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted May 12-17, 2011)
- 04/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted April 7-12, 2011)
- 02/11: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 8-13, 2011)
- 01/11: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 112th Congress* (conducted January 4-14, 2011)
- 10/10: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted October 5-10, 2010)
- 09/10: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted September 14-19, 2010)
- 04/09: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted Apr 2-8, 2009)
- 12/08: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Post-Election Survey (conducted Dec 4-14, 2008)
- 06/05: Kaiser Family Foundation, National Survey of the Public's Views About Medicaid (conducted April 1-May 1, 2005)
- 05/05: Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey on the Public's Views About Medicaid, June 2005 (conducted April 1 May 1, 2005)
- 04/03: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *National Survey of the Public's Views on Medicare* (conducted April 25-June 1, 2003)
- 03/99: National Public Radio/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard Kennedy School of Government, *Social Security Survey* conducted March 4-24, 1999
- 09/98: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Medicare Policy Options Survey (conducted Aug 14-Sept 20, 1998).

#### KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION MEDICARE AND MEDICAID AT 50 SURVEY

- G24. What state do you live in?
- Z-7. And just to confirm: What is your age?
- Z-7a. Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of...

	06/15
18 - 25	14
26 - 29	7
30 - 49	32
50 - 54	11
55 - 64	16
65 +	19
Don't Know/Refused	1

IN-1. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time?

	06/15
Covered by health insurance	87
Not covered by health insurance	13
Don't Know	*
Refused	*

IN-2. I am going to read a few common types of health insurance. For each one, please tell me "yes" if you currently have it and "no" if you don't. How about [INSERT]?

Based on total who are insured, don't know, or refused to say (n=1677)

	Yes, currently have it	No, do not have it	Don't know	Refused
a. A health plan you get through an employer or union, or through a family member's employer or union	59	40	1	*
<ul><li>b. (State Medicaid Plan Name), also called</li><li>Medicaid</li></ul>	16	83	1	*
c. Medicare	26	72	1	*
d. A military health care plan, such as TRI-CARE, CHAMPUS, or CHAMP-VA	6	93	1	*
e. A plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace like healthcare.gov or (IF STATE MARKETPLACE: INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC NAME)	14	85	1	*
f. A plan through one of your parents (Based on total who are between the ages of 18 to 25 and who are insured, don't know if they are insured, or refused to say if they are insured (n=175))	52	46	2	
g. Some other kind of insurance I haven't already mentioned	7	91	1	1

IN-2a. And just to confirm, you said you have health insurance through (list sources named). Is that correct?

Based on total who have more than one type of insurance (n=684)

	06/15
Yes	98
No	1
Not sure	*
Refused	*

IN-2b. Just to confirm, you are not covered by any form of health insurance right now. Is that correct?

Based on total who said no to all insurance types (sample size insufficient to report)

IN-2c. Which of the following is your source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your or, your spouse's employer, (a plan through a parent), a plan you purchased yourself, either from an insurance company or through [Healthcare.gov/INSERT STATE NAME], are you covered by Medicaid or (INSERT STATE NAME), by Medicare, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

Based on total who gave the incorrect insurance information (sample size insufficient to report)

Insurance combo table (IN-1/IN-2/IN-2a/IN-2b/IN-2c)

	06/15	
Insured	87	
Employer or union	51	
Medicaid	14	
Medicare	23	
A military health care plan	6	
A plan you purchased yourself	12	
A plan through one of your parents	6	
Some other kind of insurance	7	
Uninsured	13	
Don't know/Refused	*	

Percentages will add to more than than 100 due to multiple responses

IN-3. How many children, under age 19, are living in your household?

	06/15	
None	64	
1	14	
2	13	
3	5	
4	2	
5 or more	1	
Don't know	*	
Refused	*	

# IN-3a. Does any child under the age of 19 in your household currently have health insurance through Medicaid, also known in your state as [INSERT STATE NAME], or not?

Based on total who have one child or more who are under the age of 19 living in household (n=523)

	06/15
Yes	36
No	63
Don't know	1
Refused	

## IN-3/IN-3a Combo table based on total

	06/15	
No child under 19 living in household	64	
Child under 19 living in household	35	
Child on Medicaid	13	
Child not on Medicaid	22	
Don't know/Refused if child on Medicaid	*	
Don't know	*	
Refused	*	

#### E. RECORD GENDER

	06/15
Male	49
Female	51

## **MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE**

(SCRAMBLE ITEMS)

ME-2. Now I'm going to read you a list of government programs and for each one, please tell me how important you think this program is. Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important? What about (INSERT)?

Items a-b based on total Items c-d based on Half Sample A (N=927) Items f-h based on Half Sample B (N=922)

		Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Not at all Important	Don't know	Refused	N=
a.	Medicaid							
	06/15	63	27	4	3	3	*	1,849
	06/12	69	23	4	2	2		1,239
	06/05	74	20	2	2	2		1,201
	03/99	67	26	4	2	1		1,203
b.	Medicare							
	06/15	77	19	1	1	1	*	1,849
	06/12	80	15	2	1	1		1,239
	06/05	83	14	1	1	2		589
	03/99	80	17	2	1	*		1,203
c.	Defense and military spen	ding						
	06/15	73	20	4	3	1		927
	06/12	60	28	6	5	1		1,239
	06/05	57	31	6	4	2		589
	03/99	48	39	8	3	2		1,203
d.	Loans for college students							
	06/15	64	24	6	6	1	*	927
	06/05	65	28	4	2	1		589
	03/99 <sup>1</sup>	55	32	7	5	*		1,203
f.	Social Security							
	06/15	83	14	1	2	*	*	922
	06/12	81	14	2	2	1		1,239
	06/05	88	9	2	1	1		612
	03/99	85	12	2	1	*		1,203
g.	Foreign aid							
	06/15	18	43	17	14	8	1	922
	06/12	23	42	17	15	2		1,239
	06/05	20	47	15	12	5		612
	03/99	14	46	25	13	2		1,203

h. Federal aid to public schools

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> April 1999 trend wording for item d read "federally subsidized loans for college students".

06/15	75	15	4	4	2	*	922
06/05	74	19	3	3	2		612
03/99	71	20	5	4	1		1,203

NEW1. When it comes to making the health care system in America work well, do you think the Federal government should play a major role, a minor role or no role?

	06/15	01/13
Major role	47	42
Minor role	31	32
No role	20	21
Don't know	2	4
Refused	*	*

NEW2. What about state governments? When it comes to making the health care system work well, do you think state governments should play a major role, a minor role or no role?

	06/15	01/13
Major role	47	43
Minor role	39	39
No role	12	14
Don't know	1	3
Refused	*	*

To the best of your knowledge...

## (ROTATE Q.ME-3 AND Q.ME-4)

ME-3. Which of the following government programs is the primary source of health insurance for people over age 65 regardless of their income? (response options rotated 1-2/2-1)

	06/15	05/11	06/05	
Medicare	72	65	59	
Medicaid	17	21	21	
Some other program	5	8	8	
Don't know	6	6	11	
Refused	*			

ME-4. Which of the following government programs is the primary source of health insurance for low-income people? (response options rotated 1-2/2-1)

	06/15	05/11 <sup>2</sup>	06/05
Medicare	18	20	20
Medicaid	65	56	47
Some other program	9	17	20
Don't Know	8	7	13
Refused	*		

ME-4a. Which of the following government programs pays for nursing home care and other extended long-term care services for low-income, elderly and disabled people? (response options rotated 1-2/2-1)

	06/15
Medicare	37
Medicaid	36
Some other program	14
Don't Know	13
Refused	*

(Rotate Medicaid (Q.ME-5-Q.ME-18) & Medicare (Q.ME-19-Q.ME-28) Sections)

#### MEDICAID QUESTIONS

Next, I'd like to ask you some questions about Medicaid, which is the government program that provides health insurance and long term care to low-income adults and children...

ME-5. Would you say the current Medicaid program is working well for most low-income people covered by the program, or not?

	06/15
Yes, working well	50
No, not working well	33
Don't know	16
Refused	*

<sup>2</sup> Trend wording for May 2011 and June 2005 was, "Which of the following government programs is the primary source of health insurance for many low-income families regardless of their age...Medicare, Medicaid, or some other program?"

ME-6. How important is Medicaid for you and your family? Is it very important for you and your family, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

	06/15	01/13 <sup>3</sup>	07/124	06/12	05/11	01/11 <sup>5</sup>
Very important	35	38	35	38	27	39
Somewhat important	16	23	17	18	22	20
Not too important	15	16	13	13	18	16
Not at all important	32	22	33	30	31	23
Don't know	2	1	2	1	2	2
Refused	*	*				

#### (SCRAMBLE a-d)

ME-7. Please tell me if each of the following IS or IS NOT a reason why you feel the Medicaid program is important for you and your family. First/Next, (INSERT).

Based on total who said Medicaid was very or somewhat important for their family (N=974)

	Yes, a reason	No, not a reason	Don't know	Refused
a. You or someone you know has received health care paid for by Medicaid	74	24	2	
<ul> <li>You or someone you know has received long-term care services in a nursing home or at home that was paid for by Medicaid</li> </ul>	52	45	2	
c. You or someone in your family may need Medicaid benefits in the future	89	11	1	
d. You like knowing that the Medicaid program protects low-income people who cannot afford needed care	93	6	1	

ME-8. To the best of your knowledge, is Medicaid primarily a (federal) government program, a (state) government program, or is it both a (state) and (federal) government program? (rotate items in parentheses)

	06/15	
Federal government	21	
State government	15	
Both a state and federal government program	57	
Don't know	7	
Refused		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Trend wording for January 2013 was "How important for you and your family is Medicaid, the government health insurance and long term care program for certain low-income adults and children?"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Trend wording for July 2012, June 2012, and May 2011 was "How important for you and your family is the Medicaid program, which may also be known in your state as [INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC NAME]?"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Trend wording for January 2011 was "How important for you and your family is Medicaid, the government program that provides health insurance and long term care to certain low-income adults and children?"

ME-11. If you were uninsured, needed health care, and qualified for Medicaid, would you enroll in the Medicaid program, or not?

Based on total who are not covered by Medicaid (N=1458)

	06/15
Yes	85
No	12
Don't know	3
Refused	

ME-12. (Insert if not a parent: If you had an uninsured child/Insert if a parent: If your child was uninsured) and you were told he or she was eligible for Medicaid, would you enroll your child in the Medicaid program, or not?

Based on total who are not covered by Medicaid (N=1458)

	06/15
Yes	88
No	9
Don't know	3
Refused	*

ME-14. As you may know, under the health care law, states now have the option of expanding their Medicaid program to cover more low-income uninsured adults. As far as you know, have all states expanded their Medicaid programs or have some states decided not to expand their Medicaid program?

	06/15
All states have expanded	9
Some states have not expanded	62
Don't know	29
Refused	*

ME-15. And, as far as you know, has your state expanded its Medicaid program, or not?

Based on total who say that some states have not expanded their Medicaid program to include more low income uninsured adults, don't know, or refused to say (N=1710)

	06/15	
Yes, state has expanded	34	
No, state has not expanded	31	
State is pursuing or using federal money for alternative to Medicaid expansion, or "private option" (Vol.)	*	
Don't know	34	
Refused	*	

	06/15	
All state have expanded	9	
Some states have not expanded/Don't know/Refused	91	
Yes, state has expanded	31	
No, state has not expanded	29	
State is pursuing or using federal money for alternative to	*	
Medicaid expansion, or "private option" (Vol.)		
Don't know if state has expanded	31	
Refused to say if state has expanded	*	

ME-16. As far as you know, under the health care law, who pays for nearly all the costs of expanding the Medicaid program to cover more low income, uninsured adults? (State governments), (the federal government) or do both share the costs equally? (rotate items in parentheses)

	06/15
State governments	20
Federal governments	26
Both share costs equally	42
Don't know	11
Refused	1

ME-17. For states that expand their Medicaid program to cover more low-income uninsured adults, the federal government initially pays the entire cost of this expansion, and after several years, states will pay 10 percent and the federal government will pay 90 percent. Do you think your state should (keep Medicaid as it is today) or (expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people)? (rotate items in parentheses)

Based on total in states that have not expanded their Medicaid program to include more low income uninsured adults (N=747)

	06/15
Keep Medicaid as it is today	32
Expand Medicaid to cover more low-income people	61
Other/neither (Vol.)	3
Don't know	4
Refused	*

ME-18. Which of these two descriptions comes closer to your view of what Medicaid should look like in the future? (response options rotated 1-2/2-1)

	06/15	
Option A: Medicaid should continue as it is today, with the		_
federal government guaranteeing coverage for low-income		
people, setting standards for who states cover and what benefits	62	
people get, and matching states Medicaid spending as the		
number of people on the program goes up or down		
Option B: Medicaid should be changed so that instead of		
matching state Medicaid spending, the federal government limits		
how much it gives states to help pay for Medicaid coverage but	32	
lets states decide which groups of people and what health care		
services they want to cover		
Other (Vol.)	1	
Don't know	4	
Refused	1	

#### **MEDICARE QUESTIONS:**

Next, I'd like to ask you some questions about Medicare, the government health insurance program for seniors and for younger adults with long-term disabilities.

ME-19. Would you say the current Medicare program is working well for most seniors, or not?

	06/15	11/14	01/13	09/12
Yes, working well	60	54	60	61
No, not working well	30	30	28	26
Don't know	10	15	12	13
Refused	*			

ME-20. How important is Medicare for you and your family? Is it very important for you and your family, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

	06/15	11/14	01/13 <sup>6</sup>	04/117	01/11	04/09
Very important	56	58	54	61	55	53
Somewhat important	20	19	23	21	22	23
Not too important	10	10	12	9	11	11
Not at all important	13	11	10	8	11	12
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1
Refused	*					

#### (SCRAMBLE a-c)

ME-21. Please tell me if each of the following IS or IS NOT a reason why you feel the Medicare program is important for you and your family.

Based on total who said Medicare is very or somewhat important for their family (N=1447)

	Yes, a	No, not	Don't	Refused
	reason	a reason	know	Refused
a. You or someone you know has received health care paid for by Medicare	80	18	1	*
b. You or someone in your family may need Medicare benefits in the future	93	6	1	*
c. You like knowing that the Medicare program exists for seniors and younger adults with long-term disablilities	94	5	*	

ME-22. To the best of your knowledge, is Medicare primarily a (federal) government program, a (state) government program, or a private insurance program? (rotate items in parentheses)

	06/15	04/03
Federal government program	74	74
State government program	17	16
Private insurance program	3	2
Don't know	6	7
Refused	*	*

<sup>6</sup> Trend wording for January 2013 was "How important for you and your family is Medicare, the government health insurance program for seniors and for younger adults with long-term disabilities?"

<sup>7</sup> Trend wording for April 2011 was "Thinking about Medicare, the government health program for people 65 and older and certain people with long-term disabilities, how important is the Medicare program for you and your family?"

ME-24. As far as you know, do higher-income people on Medicare pay higher premiums than others for their Medicare coverage, or not?

	06/15	01/138	02/12
Yes, higher-income people pay higher premiums for Medicare	30	20	14
No, higher-income people do NOT pay higher premiums	46	36	54
Don't know	24	43	32
Refused			

ME-26. How confident are you that Medicare will continue to provide at least the same level of benefits in the future that it provides to seniors today? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

	06/15
Very confident	12
Somewhat confident	32
Not too confident	34
Not at all confident	20
Don't know	2
Refused	*

ME-28. Which of these two descriptions comes closer to your view of what Medicare should look like in the future? (response options rotated 1-2/2-1)

	06/15	11/149
a. Option A: Medicare should continue as it is today, with the		
government guaranteeing seniors health insurance and making sure	70	66
that everyone can get the same defined set of benefits		
b. Option B: Medicare should be changed to a system in which the		
government would guarantee each senior a fixed contribution		
toward the cost of their health insurance. Seniors would apply that	26	26
contribution toward the purchase of coverage from traditional		
Medicare or from a list of private health plans		
Neither of these/some other option (Vol.)	2	3
Don't know	2	5
Refused	*	

<sup>9</sup> Trend wording for Option B was "OPTION B: Medicare should be changed to a system in which the government would guarantee each senior a fixed amount of money to put toward health insurance. Seniors would purchase that coverage either from traditional Medicare or from a list of private health plans."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Trend wording for January 2013 and February 2012 was "As far as you know, do wealthier seniors currently pay higher premiums than other seniors for their Medicare coverage, or not?"

On a different topic ...

ME-29. Overall, which party, the (Democrats) or the (Republicans), do you trust to do a better job (INSERT ITEM)? How about (NEXT ITEM)? (rotate items in parenthese)

				Both	Neither	Don't	
		Democrats	Republicans	(Vol.)	(Vol.)	know	Refused
a. With							_
Medicaid							
	06/15	46	30	1	17	5	1
	02/12 <sup>10</sup>	47	32	2	13	6	
	06/11 <sup>11</sup>	48	33	2	12	5	
b. With							
Medicare							
	06/15	44	32	1	18	5	*
	02/12 <sup>12</sup>	47	33	2	14	5	
	06/11 <sup>13</sup>	46	35	2	13	4	
	02/11	44	30	5	16	5	
	10/10	44	31	2	14	9	
	09/10	48	32	2	13	5	
	09/98 <sup>14</sup>	43	27	2	19	9	

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 $<sup>^{10}</sup>$  Trend wording for February 2012 was "Handling the Medicaid program."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Trend wording for June 2011 was "Handling Medicaid."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Trend wording for February 2012 was "Handling the Medicare program."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Trend wording for September 2010 through June 2011 was "Handling Medicare."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Trend wording for September 1998 was "Which political party – the Republicans or the Democrats – do you trust more to deal with the problems facing Medicare."

Now, on a different topic ...

#### (SCRAMBLE a-f)

ME-32. As you know, there are many competing spending priorities facing the President and Congress. Thinking about the federal budget, do you want to see the President and Congress increase spending on (INSERT ITEM) decrease spending, or keep it about the same? How about (NEXT ITEM)?

Items a-b based on total Items c-d based on total Half Sample A Items e-f based on total Half Sample B

			Increase	Decrease	About the same	Don't know	Refused	N
a.	Medicare							
		06/15	41	8	48	3	*	1,849
		12/08 <sup>15</sup>	43	6	51	1		814
b.	Medicaid							
		06/15	37	13	47	3	*	1,849
		12/08 <sup>15</sup>	34	11	54	1	*	814
c.	National defense							
		06/15	36	19	41	4	*	927
d.	Education							
		06/15	61	10	28	1		927
e.	Foreign Aid							
		06/15	10	50	35	4	*	922
f.	Social Security							
		06/15	50	6	43	2	*	922

ME-33. What do you think is the best approach to managing the federal budget deficit: (mostly by cutting federal spending), (mostly by increasing taxes on the wealthy and corporations), or by a fairly even combination of both (spending cuts) and (tax increases)? (rotate items in parentheses)

Based on total Half Sample A (N=927)

Mostly by cutting federal spending21Mostly by increasing taxes on the wealthy and corporations23Fairly even combination of both52Not take any action to manage deficit now (Vol.)1Don't know3Refused\*

1 -

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Trend wording for December 2008 was "As you know, the federal government has a substantial budget deficit and there are many competing spending priorities facing the next president and Congress. Thinking about the federal budget, do you want to see the next president and Congress increase spending on (INSERT), decrease spending, or keep it about the same?"

ME-34. What do you think is the best approach to managing the federal budget deficit: (mostly by cutting federal spending), (mostly by increasing taxes), or by a fairly even combination of both (spending cuts) and (tax increases)? (rotate items in parentheses)

Based on total Half Sample B (N=922)

	6/15	01/13 <sup>16</sup>
Mostly by cutting federal spending	39	38
Mostly by increasing taxes	6	5
Fairly even combination of both	51	52
Not take any action to manage deficit now (Vol.)	1	1
Don't know	3	4
Refused	*	*

ME-35. Do you think (changes need to be made to the Medicare program to keep it sustainable for the future), or do you think (the Medicare program will basically be fine if we leave it as is)? (rotate items in parentheses)

	6/15	09/12
Changes need to be made to the		
Medicare program to keep it	68	72
sustainable for the future		
The Medicare program will basically be	27	21
fine if we leave it as is	27	21
Something else/other (Vol.)	1	
Don't know	4	6
Refused	*	

ME-36. Do you think we need to make (major) changes or (minor) changes to Medicare to keep it sustainable for the future? (rotate items in parentheses)

Based on total who think Medicare needs to change

	6/15	09/12
Major changes	52	50
Minor changes	44	44
Don't know	4	5
Refused		
N	1,249	1,138

<sup>16</sup> Trend wording for January 2013 was "What do you think is the best approach to reducing the federal budget deficit: (mostly by cutting federal spending), (mostly by increasing taxes), or by a fairly even combination of both spending cuts and tax increases?"

	6/15	09/12
Changes need to be made to the Medicare program to keep it sustainable for the future	68	72
Major changes	35	36
Minor changes	30	32
Don't know what kind of changes	3	4
Refused to say what kind of changes		
The Medicare program will basically be fine if	27	21
we leave it as is		
Something else/other (Vol.)	1	
Don't know if changes need to be made	4	6
Refused to say if changes need to be made	*	

## (SCRAMBLE a-h)

ME-37. I'm going to read you some proposals to keep Medicare financially sound in the future. Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose each one. (First/Next), would you favor or oppose (INSERT) to keep Medicare financially sound in the future? Is that strongly or just somewhat?

Items b-d based on Half Sample A (N=927) Items f-h based on Half Sample B (N=922)

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Refused
b. Requiring people who go on Medicare in the future to pay a larger share of their health care costs than seniors now pay c. Reduce the amount Medicare pays private	7	17	29	42	4	1
insurance companies to provide Medicare benefits	16	35	26	16	7	*
d. Increasing Medicare premiums for wealthier seniors	30	28	22	17	2	*
f. Increasing Medicare premiums for all seniors	14	17	25	41	2	*
g. Gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67	18	21	19	40	1	*
h. Allowing the federal government to negotiate with drug companies to get a lower price on medications for people on Medicare	65	22	5	6	1	*

Now, thinking about health insurance coverage...

ME-41. Some people on Medicare get their health coverage through what is called traditional Medicare. Others are enrolled in a Medicare HMO, PPO, or other Medicare health plan that is run by private health insurance, sometimes called a "Medicare Advantage" plan? Which do you have?

Based on total who are covered by Medicare (N=624)

	06/15
Traditional Medicare	50
Medicare Advantage plan	38
Don't know	12
Refused	*

ME-42. I'm going to ask you about three different types of health coverage you may have in addition to Medicare. Please tell me whether you have coverage from any of these three sources. (First/Next), in addition to Medicare, [READ ITEM]?

Based on total who are covered by Medicare (N=624)

			Don't	
	Yes	No	know	Refused
a. Do you have an insurance policy, sometimes called "Medigap" or a Medicare supplement, that helps pay for your Medicare deductibles and coinsurance amounts	35	61	5	*
b. Are you currently enrolled in your state's Medicaid, or Medical Assistance program for people with low incomes or high medical or long-term care expenses? [In your state, Medicaid might also sometimes be called (Insert Medicaid program name) (Based on total who are NOT enrolled in Medicaid (N=454))	6	93	2	
c. Do you have supplemental health insurance or health benefits from a current or previous employer or union	27	72	1	*

ME-43. Do you have a separate plan for your Medicare prescription drug coverage, also known as a Part D plan, or not?

Based on total who have Traditional Medicare, don't know, or refused to say what type of Medicare they have (N=398)

	06/15
Yes	55
No	39
Don't know	6
Refused	*

ME-45. Have you ever had a child get health insurance through Medicaid, also known in your state as [INSERT STATE NAME], or not?

Based on total who do not have a child in the household who currently has Medicaid (N=288)

	06/15
Yes	20
No	79
No Don't know	1
Refused	

ME-46. Does any child under the age of 19 in your household currently have private health insurance, such as a plan through a parents' employer or a plan purchased either from an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace like healthcare.gov?

Based on total who do not have a child in the household who currently has Medicaid (N=288)

	06/15
Yes	75
No	24
Don't know	1
Refused	1

## (SCRAMBLE a-c)

ME-47. Have you personally EVER (INSERT ITEMS), or not?

Based on total who are NOT currently covered by Medicaid (N=1458)

		Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
a. Received health insurance through the Medicaid program [which may also be known in your state as (INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC NAME HERE)]					
	06/15	12	87	1	
<ul> <li>b. Received (pregnancy-related care), home health care, or nursing home care that was paid for in part by Medicaid</li> </ul>					
	06/15	7	92	*	*
c. Gotten help from Medicaid to pay your Medicare premiums (Based on total who are covered by Medicare only (N=454))					
	06/15	6	93	1	

## Insurance Type/ME-47a. Combo Table based on total

	06/15	
Medicaid	14	
Not Currently Covered By Medicaid	86	
Yes, received health insurance through the Medicaid program	10	
No, has NOT received health insurance through the Medicaid program	75	
Don't know if has received health insurance through the Medicaid program	1	
Refused to say if received insurance through through the Medicaid program		

## Insurance Type/ME-47b. Combo Table based on total

·	06/15	
Medicaid	14	
Not Currently Covered By Medicaid	86	
Yes, received pregnancy-related care, home care, or nursing home care that was paid for in part by Medicaid	6	
No, has NOT received pregnancy-related care, home health care, or nursing home care that was paid for in part by Medicaid	80	
Don't know if has received pregnancy-related care, home health care, or nursing home care that was paid for in part by Medicaid	*	
Refused to say if received pregnancy-related care, home health care, or nursing home care that was paid for in part by Medicaid	*	
urance Type/ME-47c. Combo Table based on total		
urance Type/ME-47c. Combo Table based on total	06/15	
urance Type/ME-47c. Combo Table based on total  Medicaid	06/15 14	
Medicaid	14	
Medicaid Medicare Yes, has received help from Medicaid to pay your Medicare	14 18	
Medicaid Medicare Yes, has received help from Medicaid to pay your Medicare premiums No, has NOT received help from Medicaid to pay your	14 18 1	
Medicaid Medicare  Yes, has received help from Medicaid to pay your Medicare premiums  No, has NOT received help from Medicaid to pay your Medicare premiums  Don't know if has received help from Medicaid to pay your Medicare premiums  Refused to say if received help from Medicaid to pay your	14 18 1 17	
Medicaid Medicare Yes, has received help from Medicaid to pay your Medicare premiums No, has NOT received help from Medicaid to pay your Medicare premiums Don't know if has received help from Medicaid to pay your Medicare premiums	14 18 1 17	

(SCRAMBLE a-c) ME-48. To the best of your knowledge, have any of your close friends or family members ever (INSERT), or not? 17

		Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
a. Received health insurance					_
through the Medicaid program					
[which may also be known in your					
state as (INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC					
NAME HERE)]					
	06/15	46	49	5	*
	05/11	40	55	5	
	05/05 <sup>18</sup>	44	51	5	
<ul> <li>Received pregnancy-related care, home health care, or nursing home care that was paid for in part by Medicaid</li> </ul>					
	06/15	36	59	5	*
	05/11 <sup>19</sup>	33	66	1	
	05/05	49	50	*	
c. Gotten help from Medicaid to pay Medicare premiums					
	06/15	25	65	10	
	05/11	20	70	10	

ME-49. Overall, would you say your experiences with your health insurance have been very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?

Based on total who are insured (N=1671)

	06/15
Very positive	44
Somewhat positive	42
Somewhat negative	9
Very negative	4
Don't know	1
Refused	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Trend wording for May 2011 was "To the best of your knowledge, have any of your friends or family members, including a child or a parent, ever (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS), or not? Trend wording for May 2005 was "To the best of your knowledge, have any of your family members or friends ever (INSERT ITEM), or not?"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> May 2005 trend wording was "Received health insurance through the Medicaid program"; Result for 05/05 item based on those who have never received health insurance through Medicaid themselves (n=1029).

 $<sup>^{19}</sup>$  Trend wording for May 2011 and May 2005 was: "Been a resident in a nursing home."

ME-50. In general, how well-protected financially, if at all, does your health insurance plan make you feel? Does it make you feel very well-protected, somewhat well-protected, not too protected, or not at all protected financially?

Based on total who are insured (N=1671)

	06/15	
Very well-protected	36	
Somewhat well-protected	50	
Not too protected	8	
Not at all protected	5	
Don't know	1	
Refused	*	

ME-51. In the past 12 months, have you had any problems paying your health insurance premiums, or not? (IF YES: Was that a major problem or a minor problem?)

Based on total insured but not with Medicaid (N=1280)

	06/15	
Major problem	4	
Minor problem	4	
No problems	91	
Did not have any premium payments in the past 12 months (Vol.)	1	
Don't know	*	
Refused	*	

ME-52. In the past 12 months, have you had any problems paying for (other) health care costs, (not including health insurance premiums), or not? (IF YES: was that a major problem or a minor problem?)

	06/15	
Major problem	11	
Minor problem	10	
No problems	79	
Did not have any premium payments in the past 12 months (Vol.)	*	
Don't know	*	
Refused		

ME-53. At any time in the past 12 months, have you or a family member spent less on food, heat, or other basic needs so that you would have enough money to pay for health care, or has this not happened?

	06/15
Yes	16
No	84
Don't know	*
Refused	

## (SCRAMBLE a-g)

ME-54. How difficult, if at all, do you think it would it be to pay for each of the following if you didn't have your current health insurance coverage? First/Next, (INSERT)? Would it be very difficult, somewhat difficult, not too difficult, or not at all difficult to pay for (INSERT) if you didn't have your current health insurance coverage?

Based on total who are insured (N=1671)

	Very difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not too difficult	Not at all difficult	Don't know	Refused
a. Your medications	49	26	12	12	1	*
b. A hospitalization	79	15	2	2	1	*
c. Care from a specialist like a cardiologist or oncologist	75	17	3	4	1	
g. Visits with your doctor	43	33	15	8	1	*

#### (SCRAMBLE a-e)

ME-55. Please tell me if you have had any of the following problems in the past twelve months, or not. How about (INSERT)?

Based on total who are insured (N=1671)

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
a. Problems getting your health insurance to pay for health care coverage	14	86	*	*
c. Problems finding a doctor or health care provider willing to accept your health insurance	12	88	*	*
<ul> <li>e. Problems getting a referral or an appointment to see a specialist, such as a cardiologist or orthopedist</li> </ul>	7	92	1	*

ME-56. What type of specialist did you have trouble seeing?

Based on total insured who had problems getting a referral or appointment (N=123)

	06/15
Orthopedist	15
Dermatologist	10
Neurologist	9
Cardiologist	8
Ophthalmologist	7
Gastroenterologist/proctologist	6
OB/GYN	5
Physical therapist	5
Oral Surgeon	5
Rheumatologist	5
Surgeon	4
Urologist	4
Endocrinologist	4
Oncologist	3
Podiatrist	3
Chiropractor	3
Pain management	2
Psychiatrist	2
Internist	2
ENT/ear nose throat specialist	1
Family doctor/primary care doctor	1
Mental health specialists	1
Radiologist	*
Other	9
Don't know	4
Refused	2

#### (SCRAMBLE a-f)

ME-57. In the past 12 months, did you delay or go without any the following medical services because of the COST? First/Next, (INSERT)?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
a. Visits to doctors	15	84	*	*
b. Hospital services	11	88	*	*
c. Prescription drugs	14	86	*	*
d. Dental services	27	73	*	*
e. Vision services, eyeglasses, or hearing aids	21	79	*	*
f. Mental health care	9	90	1	*

READ IF CHILD CURRENTLY COVERED BY MEDICAID OR PRIVATE INSURANCE: For this next set of questions, I'd like you to think about your experiences as a parent of a child (on Medicaid/with private insurance).

ME-58. Overall, would you say your experiences with your child's health insurance have been very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?

Based on total whose child is currently covered by Medicaid or private insurance (N=451)

	06/15
Very positive	61
Somewhat positive	30
Somewhat negative	5
Very negative	*
Don't know	4
Refused	*

ME-59. In the past 12 months, have you had any problems paying for health care costs for your child, or not? (IF YES: was that a major problem or a minor problem?)

Based on total whose child is currently covered by Medicaid or private insurance (N=451)

	06/15
Major problem	6
Minor problem	7
No problems	86
Don't know	1
Refused	1

#### (SCRAMBLE a-g)

ME-60. How difficult, if at all, would it be to pay for each of the following for your child if your child didn't have their current health insurance coverage? First/Next, (INSERT)? Would it be very difficult, somewhat difficult, not too difficult, or not at all difficult to pay for (INSERT) for your child if they didn't have their current health insurance coverage?

Based on total whose child is currently covered by Medicaid or private insurance (N=451)

	Very difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not too difficult	Not at all difficult	Don't know	Refused
a. Their medications	50	22	11	15	1	*
b. A hospitalization	83	10	2	3	1	1
c. Care from a specialist like a pulmonologist or dermatologist	70	19	4	5	1	*
g. Visits with your child's pediatrician	48	28	14	8	1	*

#### (SCRAMBLE a-e)

ME-61. Please tell me if you have had any of the following problems in the past twelve months, or not. How about (INSERT)?

Based on total whose child is currently covered by Medicaid or private insurance (N=451)

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
a. Problems getting health insurance to pay for				
healthcare services for your child who is willing to	10	88	1	*
accept their health insurance				
c. Problems finding a doctor or health care provider				
for your child who is willing to accept their health	11	87	1	*
insurance				
e. Problems getting a referral or an appointment for				
your child to see a specialist, such as a cardiologist or	6	93	1	*
orthopedist				

ME-62. What type of specialist did your child have trouble seeing?

Based on total whose child is currently covered by Medicaid or private insurance and whose child had problems getting a referral or an appointment (sample size insufficient to report)

ME-61e/ME-62. Combo Table based on whose child is currently covered by Medicaid or private insurance (n=451)

	06/15	
Yes, had problems getting a referral or an appointment for your child to see a specialist	6	
Dermatologist	1	
Orthopedist	1	
Oral Surgeon	*	
Psychiatrist	*	
Neurologist	*	
Don't know which specialist	1	
Refused to say which specialist		
No, did NOT have problems getting a referral or an appointment for your child to see a specialist	93	
Don't know if had problems getting a referral or an appointment for your child to see a specialist	1	
Refused to say if had problems getting a referral or an appointment for your child to see a specialist	*	

## (SCRAMBLE a-f)

ME-63. In the past 12 months, did you delay or go without any the following medical services for your child because of the COST? (First/Next), (INSERT)?

Based on total whose child is currently covered by Medicaid or private insurance (N=451)

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
a. Visits to doctors	7	93		*
b. Hospital services	6	94	*	*
c. Prescription drugs	7	93		*
d. Dental services	10	90	*	*
e. Vision services, eyeglasses, or hearing aids	8	92	*	*
f. Mental health care	4	95	*	*

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

## ME-64. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	06/15
Excellent	18
Very good	31
Good	27
Fair	17
Poor	6
Don't know	*
Refused	*

# ME-65. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

	06/15
Yes	22
No	77
Don't know	*
Refused	*

## Z-2. Are you:

	06/15
Single, that is never married	21
Single, living with a partner	7
Married	54
Separated	3
Widowed	6
Divorced	9
Refused	1

## Z-4. Currently, are you yourself employed full-time, part-time, or not at all?

	06/15
Full-time	46
Part-time	14
Not employed	40
Refused	*

Z-5. Are you: retired, a homemaker, a student, or temporarily unemployed?

Based on total who are not employed (sample size insufficient to report)

## Z-4./Z-5. Combo Table based on total

	06/15
Employed full-time	46
Employed part-time	14
Not employed (NET)	40
Retired	19
A homemaker	6
A student	4
Temporarily unemployed	5
Disabled/handicapped (Vol.)	6
Other (Vol.)	1
Don't know	*
Refused	*

L-1. Now thinking about your telephone use. . . Does anyone in your household including yourself, have a working cell phone?

Based on total landline (N=748)

	06/15	
Yes respondent or someone else has cell phone in household	82	
No	18	
Don't know	*	
Refused		

C1. Now thinking about your telephone use, is there at least one telephone INSIDE your home that is currently working and is not a cell phone?

Based on total cell phone (N=1101)

	06/15
Yes , has a home telephone	35
No, no home telephone	63
Don't know	*
Refused	1

Z-12. How many telephone numbers, if any, does your household have that I could have reached you on? Not extensions, but different telephone numbers, excluding wireless or cellular phones?

Based on total who have a landline or don't know, or refused to say if have a landline (N=1203)

	06/15
One	90
Two	6
Three	1
Four or more	1
Refused	2

## C1a How many different cell phone numbers do you personally answer calls on?

Based on total who have a cell phone (N-=1710)

	06/15
One	88
Two	9
Three	1
Four or more	*
Don't know	1
Refused	1

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

	06/15
Republican	23
Democrat	32
Independent	33
Other	7
Don't know/Refused	5

# D8a. Do you LEAN more towards the [ROTATE: Republican Party or the Democratic Party/Democratic Party or the Republican Party]? (items rotated in same order as D8)

Based on total who do not consider themselves Repbulicans or Democrats (N=799)

	06/15
Republican	28
Democrat	37
Independent/don't lean to either party	25
Other party	2
Don't know/Refused	8

## D-8/D-8a. Combo Table based on total

	06/15	
Republican	23	
Democrat	32	
Independent/Other/Don't know/Refused	45	
Lean Republican	13	
Lean Democrat	17	
Independent/don't lean to either party	11	
Other Party	1	
Don't know/Refused	4	

## D-8/D-8a. Combo Table II based on total

	06/15	
Republican/Republican leaners	36	
Democrat/Democrat leaners	49	
Independent/Don't lean	11	
Other Party	1	
Don't know/Refused	4	
What is the last grade of school you completed?		
	06/15	
Less than high school graduate	11	
High school graduate	32	
Some college (including Associate's degree)	25	
Graduated college (4 year/Bachelor's degree)	19	
Graduate school or more	11	
Technical school/Other	2	
Refused	*	
Are you of Hispanic origin or background?		
	06/15	
Yes	14	
No	86	
Don't know	*	
Refused	*	
Were you born in the United States, the island of Puerto Ri	co, or in another country?	
Based on total who are of Hispanic origin or background (N	l=190)	
	06/15	
United States	42	
Puerto Rico	5	
Another Country	53	
Another country		
Don't know		

## Z-11 Do you consider yourself white, black or African American, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, mixed race or some other race?

	06/15	
White	73	_
Black or African American	12	
Asian/Chinese/Japanese	3	
Native American/American Indian/Alaska Native	2	
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	*	
Mixed	4	
Other	4	
Don't know		
Refused	3	

#### Race Summary Table based on Total

	06/15	
White Non-Hispanic	65	
Black Non-Hispanic	11	
Asian/Chinese/Japanese	3	
Native American/American Indian/Alaska Native	2	
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	*	
Mixed	2	
Other	1	
Hispanic	14	
White Hispanic	8	
Black Hispanic	1	
Hispanic Unspecified	5	
Don't know		
Refused	2	

Z-9 Is your total annual household income from all sources, and before taxes:

## (IF Z-9 = DD OR RR 'REFUSED INCOME')

Z-9a Is your total annual household income from all sources and before taxes is less than \$50,000, \$50,000 but less than \$100,000, or over \$100,000?

## (IF Z-9 = 08 OR Z-9a = 3 'OVER \$100,000)

Z-9b Is that 100 to under 150,000, \$150,000 under \$200,000, \$200,000 to under \$250,000, or \$250,000 or more?

	06/15	
Less than \$50,000 (Net)	52	
Less than \$15,000	14	
\$15,000 but less than \$25,000	12	
\$25,000 but less than \$30,000	7	
\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	8	
\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	9	
Less than \$50,000 (unspecified)	1	
\$50,000 but less than \$100,000 (NET)	23	
\$50,000 but less than \$100,000 (unspecified)	1	
\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	11	
\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	11	
\$100,000 and over (NET)	18	
\$100,000 and over (unspecified)	1	
\$100,000 but less than \$150,000	10	
\$150,000 but less than \$200,000	4	
\$200,000 but less than \$250,000	2	
\$250,000 and over	2	
Don't know/Refused	7	



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This publication (#8755-T) is available on the Kaiser Family Foundation website at www.kff.org.

Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Menlo Park, California.