



TO: Interested Parties
FR: John Murray, YG Network
DT: March 10, 2014
RE: Poll Results on Senior Attitudes Toward ObamaCare and Medicare in Alaska

This YG Network Medicare Poll was conducted from March 3-6, 2014, among a total sample of 455 likely voters 65 years and older in the state of Alaska. The interviews were conducted via live dial calls and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of senior likely voters based on age, race/ethnicity, gender, and educational attainment. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus five percentage points.

Bottom Line:

- ✓ Seniors don't like ObamaCare. Their approval of the law stands is 43-50, with 38% strongly disapproving. And, 51% expect the law to negatively impact Medicare.
- ✓ An overwhelming majority of seniors are happy with their current Medicare, Medicare Advantage and Part D plans and any hint of reductions or changes have expectation of increased costs and reduced access.
- ✓ Seniors are ready to blame Democrats for negative changes (52% say ObamaCare/Dems in Congress will deserve most blame for increase in MA costs, 52% say the same for increase in Part D costs).

Key Findings:

Satisfaction of Medicare and Medicare Advantage is high among seniors —82% of seniors say they are satisfied with their Medicare plan (with 32% indicating they are very satisfied) and 67% say they are satisfied with their Medicare Advantage plan (with 29% indicating they are very satisfied).

A majority of seniors disapprove of ObamaCare —50% of seniors disapprove of the President's signature law, with 38% strongly disapproving. Just 43% approve and only 23% strongly approve of the law. The notable disparity in intensity is a strong indicator that ObamaCare disapproval among seniors has motivational potential

- ✓ Men (45%-47%, 39% strongly disapprove) are more likely to support the law than women (41%-52%, 36% strongly disapprove)
- ✓ Younger seniors (65-74) are about as likely to support the law (44%-50%, 35% strongly disapprove) than older seniors (75+) (42%-50%, 42% strongly disapprove).

And, a majority of seniors believe ObamaCare will ultimately hurt Medicare – 51% believe the healthcare law will negatively impact Medicare, with 34% believing it will make Medicare “much worse.” Just 28% believe ObamaCare will have a positive impact on Medicare (just 13% believe it will make Medicare “much better”). A plurality of seniors expect ObamaCare to decrease access to providers practicing in their Medicare and Medicare Advantage networks.

Nearly one-half of seniors are VERY satisfied with Part D — Among those who have a Part D plan, 43% of seniors say they are very satisfied with it (88% of seniors with a Part D plan indicate they are satisfied overall).

Seniors are VERY concerned about the MA rate adjustment— 38% are very concerned seniors will bear the rise in costs, 34% are very concerned the reduction will reduce plan availability and 36% are very concerned about reduced access to providers.

% Concerned-%Not Concerned (% Very Concerned)	Rise in Costs	Reduced # of plans	Reduced provider access
Men	66%-33% (38%)	59%-31% (33%)	61%-38% (37%)
Women	65%-16% (35%)	64%-36% (33%)	62%-37% (34%)
Younger Seniors (65-74)	66%-34% (39%)	64%-36% (33%)	61%-38% (35%)
Older Seniors (75+)	64%-36% (36%)	59%-41% (35%)	63%-36% (37%)

Seniors are ready to blame Dems for any increased MA/Part D costs. — 35% of seniors say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in MA costs and 17% say Democrats in Congress will deserve the most blame (Only 17% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame). Similarly, 35% say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Part D, while 17% say Democrats in Congress (again, just 17% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame).