



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

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This YG Network Medicare Poll was conducted from March 3-6, 2014, among a total sample of 461 likely voters 65 years and older in the state of Arkansas. The interviews were conducted via live dial 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 in Arkansas detest ObamaCare. Their approval of the law stands is 24-64, with 55% strongly disapproving. And, 62% 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 (56% say ObamaCare/Dems in Congress will deserve most blame for increase in MA costs, 51% say the same for increase in Part D costs).

#### **Key Findings:**

***Satisfaction of Medicare and Medicare Advantage is high among seniors*** — 76% of seniors say they are satisfied with their Medicare plan (with 34% indicating they are very satisfied) and 71% say they are satisfied with their MA plan (with 39% indicating they are very satisfied).

***A majority of seniors disapprove of ObamaCare*** — 64% of seniors disapprove of the President's signature law, with 55% strongly disapproving. Just 24% approve and only 14% strongly approve of the law.

- ✓ Men (20%-72%, 63% strongly disapprove) are much less inclined to support the law than women (25%-58%, 49% strongly disapprove)
- ✓ Younger seniors (65-74) are less inclined to support the law (24%-67%, 57% strongly disapprove) than older seniors (75+) (22%-59%, 52% strongly disapprove).

***And, a majority of seniors believe ObamaCare will ultimately hurt Medicare*** – 62% believe the healthcare law will negatively impact Medicare, with 46% believing it will make Medicare “much worse.” Just 15% believe ObamaCare will have a positive impact on Medicare (just 7% 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, 47% of seniors say they are very satisfied with it (83% of seniors with a Part D plan indicate they are satisfied overall).

**Seniors are VERY concerned about the MA rate adjustment**— 57% are very concerned seniors will bear the rise in costs, 50% are very concerned the reduction will reduce plan availability and 51% are very concerned about reduced access to providers.

<b>% Concerned-%Not Concerned (% Very Concerned)</b>	<b>Rise in Costs</b>	<b>Reduced # of plans</b>	<b>Reduced provider access</b>
Men	71%-28% (51%)	68%-32% (47%)	69%-31% (47%)
Women	81%-19% (61%)	73%-27% (52%)	75%-25% (54%)
Younger Seniors (65-74)	82%-18% (61%)	76%-24% (54%)	77%-23% (56%)
Older Seniors (75+)	71%-29% (51%)	65%-35% (46%)	66%-34% (45%)

**Seniors are ready to blame Dems for any increased MA/Part D costs.** — 40% of seniors say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in MA costs and 16% say Democrats in Congress will deserve the most blame (Only 13% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame). Similarly, 34% say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Part D, while 17% say Democrats in Congress (again, just 15% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame).