



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

This YG Network Medicare Poll was conducted from March 3-6, 2014, among a total sample of 601 likely voters 65 years and older in Colorado. The interviews were conducted via Interactive Voice Response (IVR) 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 four percentage points.

Bottom Line:

- ✓ Seniors don't like ObamaCare. Their approval of the law stands at 35-62, with 48% strongly disapproving. And, 60% expect the law to negatively impact Medicare.
- ✓ An overwhelming majority of seniors are happy with their current Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and Part D plans. Moreover, any hint of reductions or changes bring expectations of increased costs and reduced access.
- ✓ Seniors are ready to blame Democrats for negative changes (49% say ObamaCare/Dems in Congress will deserve most blame for increase in Medicare Advantage costs, 54% say the same for increase in Part D costs).

Key Findings:

Satisfaction of Medicare and Medicare Advantage is high among seniors — 86% of seniors say they are satisfied with their Medicare plan (with 44% indicating they are very satisfied) and 95% say they are satisfied with their Medicare Advantage plan (with 65% indicating they are very satisfied).

A majority of seniors disapprove of ObamaCare —62% of seniors disapprove of the President's signature law, with 48% strongly disapproving. Just 35% approve and only 19% strongly approve of the law. The notable two-to-one disparity in intensity is a strong indicator that ObamaCare disapproval among seniors has motivational potential.

- ✓ Men (31%-67%, 48% strongly disapprove) are less inclined to support the law than women (38%-57%, 44% strongly disapprove), it is notable that majorities of both sexes disapprove.
- ✓ Over two-thirds (68%) of independent seniors disapprove of ObamaCare (48% strongly).
- ✓ Younger seniors (65-74) are more inclined to support the law (38%-60%, 45% strongly disapprove) than older seniors (75+) (32%-63%, 51% strongly disapprove).

And, a majority of seniors believe ObamaCare will ultimately hurt Medicare – 60% believe the healthcare law will negatively impact Medicare, with 37% believing it will make Medicare “much worse.” Just 27% believe ObamaCare will have a positive impact on Medicare (just 9% 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, 48% 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 Medicare Advantage rate adjustment— 62% are very concerned seniors will bear the rise in costs, 55% are very concerned the reduction will reduce plan availability and 56% are very concerned about reduced access to providers.

% Concerned-%Not Concerned (% Very Concerned)	Rise in Costs	Reduced # of plans	Reduced provider access
Men	81%-19% (67%)	80%-21% (56%)	81%-19% (59%)
Women	81%-18% (58%)	78%-22% (54%)	78%-23% (53%)
INDs	84%-16% (67%)	80%-19% (58%)	84%-16% (61%)
Younger Seniors (65-74)	80%-20% (62%)	75%-25% (51%)	77%-24% (52%)
Older Seniors (75+)	84%-17% (63%)	77%-24% (52%)	82%-17% (59%)

Seniors are ready to blame Dems for any increased Medicare Advantage/Part D costs. — One-third of seniors say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Medicare Advantage costs and 16% say Democrats in Congress will deserve the most blame (only 15% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame). Similarly, 37% say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Part D, while 17% say Democrats in Congress (again, just 20% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame).