



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

This YG Network Medicare Poll was conducted from March 3-6, 2014, among a total sample of 681 likely voters 65 years and older in Iowa. 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 approval of the law stands at 46-49 – the intensity is on the side of those who disapprove though, as 36% strongly disapprove of the law, versus 23% who strongly approve. And, 48% expect the law to negatively impact Medicare (only 36% think it will improve 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 (42% say ObamaCare/Dems in Congress will deserve most blame for increase in Medicare Advantage costs, 42% say the same for increase in Part D costs).

Key Findings:

Satisfaction of Medicare and Medicare Advantage is high among seniors — 92% of seniors say they are satisfied with their Medicare plan (with 56% indicating they are very satisfied) and 84% say they are satisfied with their Medicare Advantage plan (with 49% indicating they are very satisfied).

A plurality of seniors disapprove of ObamaCare —49% of seniors disapprove of the President’s signature law, with 36% strongly disapproving. Just 46% approve and only 23% 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 (48%-49%, 37% strongly disapprove) are less inclined to support the law than women (44%-48%, 34% strongly disapprove), it is notable that majorities of both sexes disapprove.
- ✓ Over half (54%) of independent seniors disapprove of ObamaCare (33% strongly).
- ✓ Younger seniors (65-74) are almost the same in regards to support the law (48%-49%, 35% strongly disapprove) than older seniors (75+) (44%-48%, 36% strongly disapprove).

And, nearly half of seniors believe ObamaCare will ultimately hurt Medicare – 48% believe the healthcare law will negatively impact Medicare, with 22% believing it will make Medicare “much

worse.” Just 36% 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.

A majority of seniors are VERY satisfied with Part D — Among those who have a Part D plan, 52% of seniors say they are very satisfied with it (90% of seniors with a Part D plan indicate they are satisfied overall).

Seniors are VERY concerned about the Medicare Advantage rate adjustment— 47% are very concerned seniors will bear the rise in costs, 39% are very concerned the reduction will reduce plan availability and 38% are very concerned about reduced access to providers.

% Concerned-%Not Concerned (% Very Concerned)	Rise in Costs	Reduced # of plans	Reduced provider access
Men	73%-27% (47%)	68%-32% (43%)	66%-34% (39%)
Women	76%-24% (48%)	71%-29% (36%)	69%-31% (37%)
INDs	75%-25% (48%)	68%-32% (39%)	69%-31% (36%)
Younger Seniors (65-74)	75%-25% (46%)	70%-30% (41%)	68%-32% (40%)
Older Seniors (75+)	74%-26% (49%)	70%-30% (38%)	67%-32% (36%)

Seniors are ready to blame Dems for any increased Medicare Advantage/Part D costs. — About one-third (30%) of seniors say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Medicare Advantage costs and 12% say Democrats in Congress will deserve the most blame (only 20% 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 8% say Democrats in Congress (again, just 18% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame).