



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

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This YG Network Medicare Poll was conducted from March 3-6, 2014, among a total sample of 504 likely voters 65 years and older in Louisiana. 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 four percentage points.

#### **Bottom Line:**

- ✓ Seniors don't like ObamaCare. Their approval of the law stands at 28-60, with 45% strongly disapproving. And, 57% 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 (55% say ObamaCare/Dems in Congress will deserve most blame for increase in Medicare Advantage costs, 58% say the same for increase in Part D costs).

#### **Key Findings:**

***Satisfaction of Medicare and Medicare Advantage is high among seniors*** — 84% of seniors say they are satisfied with their Medicare plan (with 27% indicating they are very satisfied) and 80% say they are satisfied with their Medicare Advantage plan (with 37% indicating they are very satisfied).

***A majority of seniors disapprove of ObamaCare*** —60% of seniors disapprove of the President's signature law, with 45% strongly disapproving. Just 28% approve and only 20% 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 (29%-63%, 40% strongly disapprove) are less inclined to support the law than women (28%-59%, 49% strongly disapprove), it is notable that majorities of both sexes disapprove.
- ✓ Younger seniors (65-74) are more inclined to support the law (31%-60%, 41% strongly disapprove) than older seniors (75+) (26%-61%, 51% strongly disapprove).

***And, a majority of seniors believe ObamaCare will ultimately hurt Medicare*** – 57% believe the healthcare law will negatively impact Medicare, with 38% believing it will make Medicare “much worse.” Just 24% believe ObamaCare will have a positive impact on Medicare (just 11% 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, 41% 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**— 54% are very concerned seniors will bear the rise in costs, 46% are very concerned the reduction will reduce plan availability and 46% 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	80%-20% (48%)	71%-28% (44%)	73%-27% (45%)
Women	80%-20% (58%)	77%-23% (47%)	78%-23% (47%)
Younger Seniors (65-74)	82%-18% (54%)	77%-23% (47%)	79%-21% (47%)
Older Seniors (75+)	76%-23% (53%)	71%-29% (44%)	71%-29% (45%)

**A majority of seniors are ready to blame Dems for any increased Medicare Advantage/Part D costs.** — Over one-third (38%) of seniors say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Medicare Advantage costs and 17% say Democrats in Congress will deserve the most blame (only 17% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame). Similarly, 40% say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Part D, while 18% say Democrats in Congress (again, just 16% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame).