



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

This YG Network Medicare Poll was conducted from March 3-6, 2014, among a total sample of 616 likely voters 65 years and older in North Carolina. 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 37-57, with 41% strongly disapproving. And, 55% 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, 58% say the same for increase in Part D costs).

Key Findings:

Satisfaction of Medicare and Medicare Advantage is high among seniors — 85% of seniors say they are satisfied with their Medicare plan (with 50% indicating they are very satisfied) and 87% say they are satisfied with their Medicare Advantage plan (with 58% indicating they are very satisfied).

A majority of seniors disapprove of ObamaCare — 57% of seniors disapprove of the President's signature law, with 41% strongly disapproving. Just 37% 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 (37%-56%, 44% strongly disapprove) are slightly more inclined to support the law than women (36%-57%, 39% strongly disapprove), it is notable that majorities of both sexes disapprove.
- ✓ Younger seniors (65-74) are less inclined to support the law (38%-57%, 43% strongly disapprove) than older seniors (75+) (36%-55%, 38% strongly disapprove).

And, a majority of seniors believe ObamaCare will ultimately hurt Medicare – 55% believe the healthcare law will negatively impact Medicare, with 32% believing it will make Medicare “much worse.” Just 35% believe ObamaCare will have a positive impact on Medicare (only 12% believe it will make Medicare “much better”). A plurality of seniors expect ObamaCare to decrease access to providers practicing in their Medicare networks and a majority of seniors expect ObamaCare to decrease access to providers in their Medicare Advantage networks.

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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 (87% of seniors with a Part D plan indicate they are satisfied overall).

Seniors are VERY concerned about the Medicare Advantage rate adjustment— 59% are very concerned seniors will bear the rise in costs, 52% are very concerned the reduction will reduce plan availability and 53% are very concerned about reduced access to providers.

% Concerned-%Not Concerned (% Very Concerned)	Rise in Costs	Reduced # of plans	Reduced provider access
Men	80%-20% (59%)	82%-18% (57%)	80%-20% (55%)
Women	85%-15% (60%)	81%-19% (49%)	83%-17% (52%)
Younger Seniors (65-74)	88%-12% (63%)	83%-16% (57%)	82%-17% (55%)
Older Seniors (75+)	78%-22% (55%)	78%-21% (46%)	81%-19% (50%)

Nearly one-half of seniors are ready to blame Dems for any increase in Medicare Advantage costs and a majority are ready to blame Dems for any increase in Part D costs. — One-third (33%) 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 17% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame). Similarly, 44% say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Part D, while 14% say Democrats in Congress (again, just 20% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame).