

The page features several decorative elements: a solid green rectangle in the top left corner; a thin horizontal line extending from the green rectangle to the right, ending at a small yellow square; a thin vertical line extending from the yellow square down to the bottom of the page; a thin horizontal line extending from the yellow square to the left, ending at the left edge of the page; and a large, thin, light-colored arc that starts at the top right, curves down and left, and ends at the yellow square.

**AARP Closer LookSM
Survey of Experiences
with Medicare Waste Fraud
and Abuse
September 30, 2009**

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Washington, DC 20049
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Introduction

AARP conducted a survey of the 65+ population to see the degree to which this Medicare-eligible cohort had experienced various forms of waste fraud and abuse within Medicare. RDD telephone interviews were conducted from July 23 – August 9, 2009 among a nationally representative sample of 624 respondents 65 years of age or older. Of those, a total of 112 were Hispanic. The margin of error for total respondents is +/- 3.92% at the 95% confidence level. Weights are applied to allow unbiased generalization to the overall 65+ cohort.

Key Survey Findings

There is some variability in the number of people 65 and older that report having experienced specific forms of waste fraud and abuse:

- Nine percent of those 65 and older report that they or somebody else that they know on Medicare have received a medical test or treatment that may have been unnecessary, unhelpful or one that simply duplicated a previous test.
- Nine percent of those 65 and older report that they or somebody else that they know on Medicare have had someone try to sell them Medicare medical supplies (such as electronic mobility scooters, diabetes test strips, etc) that were not truly needed to improve their health or conditions.
- Seven percent of those 65 and older report that they or somebody else that they know on Medicare have received a medical bill for tests or treatments that they actually did not receive.
- Nineteen percent of the 65+ sample report experiencing at least one of the above forms of Medicare Waste Fraud and Abuse.
- Eighty percent of those asked reported that eliminating waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare should be at least one of the top priorities in health care reform.

**Annotated Survey
Medicare Waste, Fraud and Abuse**

The study was conducted for AARP via telephone by ICR, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from July 23 – August 9, 2009 among a nationally representative sample of 624 respondents 65 years of age or older. Of those, a total of 112 were Hispanic. The margin of error for total respondents is +/-3.92% at the 95% confidence level. More information about ICR can be obtained by visiting www.icrsurvey.com

MW-1 Are you covered by Medicare, the main health insurance program for people 65 years old and older?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
	93	7	*	--

As you know, there has been talk in the media about cutting waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicare system. I'm interested in whether **you or someone you know** may have had any personal experiences related to this and I have a few questions for you on this topic:

(Asked of total respondents age 65+ who are covered by Medicare; n = 579)

MW-2 Have you or someone you know in Medicare **ever** received a medical test or treatment that may have been unnecessary, unhelpful or one that simply duplicated a previous test?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
	9	86	5	--

(Asked of total respondents age 65+ who are covered by Medicare; n = 579)

MW-3 Have you or someone you know in Medicare **ever** gotten a medical bill for tests or treatments that you actually did not receive?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
	7	89	3	*

(Asked of total respondents age 65+ who are covered by Medicare; n = 579)

MW-4 Has someone ever tried to sell you or someone you know in Medicare medical supplies (such as electronic mobility scooters, diabetes test strips, etc) that were not truly needed to improve your health or condition?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
	9	90	1	--

Note: Custom Table asked of respondents age 65+ who are covered by Medicare (excluding Refused and Don't Know categories)

Have you or someone you know in Medicare **ever** received either:

- a medical test or treatment that may have been unnecessary, unhelpful or one that simply duplicated a previous test?
- a medical bill for tests or treatments that you actually did not receive? Or
- Has someone ever tried to sell you or someone you know in Medicare medical supplies (such as electronic mobility scooters, diabetes test strips, etc) that were not truly needed to improve your health or condition?

	Yes	No
	19	81

(Asked of total respondents age 65+ who are covered by Medicare; n = 579)

MW-5 Do you think eliminating waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare should be a top priority in health care reform?

	-----YES-----			-----NO-----			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Yes, it should be the top priority	Yes, it should be one of the top priorities	NET	No, it is only one priority among many	No, it should not be a priority of health care reform at all		
8/9/09	80	42	38	13	9	5	7	*

AM-1 Are you or your spouse or partner currently a member of AARP (IF NECESSARY: formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons)?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
8/9/09	53	45	1	*