
A large green rectangular area is positioned in the top left corner of the page. A thin black line extends from the bottom right corner of this green area, crossing a horizontal line and ending at a small yellow square. A large, thin, yellow arc starts from the top right and curves down to the right side of the page, ending at the same yellow square.

**Medicare Prescription
Drug Benefits:
A Survey of Registered
Voters Age 50+
In Tennessee**

A thin black horizontal line extends from the left side of the page to the right, where it meets a vertical line. A small yellow square is located at the intersection of these two lines.

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**Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits:
A Survey of Registered Voters
Age 50+ in Tennessee**

**Data Collected by Woelfel Research, Inc.
Report Prepared by
Margret Straw, Ph.D.**

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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization for people 50 and over. We provide information and resources; advocate on legislative, consumer, and legal issues; assist members to serve their communities; and offer a wide range of unique benefits, special products, and services for our members. These benefits include AARP Webplace at www.aarp.org, *AARP Modern Maturity*, and *My Generation* magazines, the monthly *AARP Bulletin*, and a Spanish-language newspaper, *Segunda Juventud*. Active in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP celebrates the attitude that age is just a number and life is what you make it.

Background

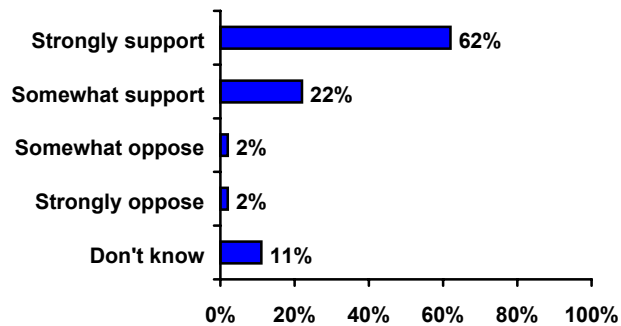
The U.S. Senate is considering expansion of Medicare to include a prescription drug benefit. This survey of 502 registered voters age 50 and older in Tennessee explores opinions about Medicare prescription drug legislation. Specifically, it explores reactions to “a permanent Medicare drug benefit that has an affordable premium, has some cost-sharing, has no gap in coverage, is voluntary, and is available to everyone eligible for Medicare.”

Key Findings

Medicare prescription drug coverage is important to Tennessee registered voters age 50+: Eighty-six percent say it is very important (69%) or somewhat important (17%) that the Senate passes this Medicare prescription drug legislation.

There is strong support for this Medicare prescription drug legislation. Over eight in ten Tennessee voters age 50+ strongly (62%) or somewhat (22%) support this benefit. Indeed, supporters outnumber opponents by a margin of over 20 to 1 (84% vs. 4%).

Support for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage
(n=502)



Tennessee voters age 50+ are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports this Medicare prescription drug benefit: Over 25 times as many say that support for this benefit would make them more likely to vote *for* a candidate (57%) than say it would make them more likely to vote *against* a candidate (2%). For 27 percent support for this benefit would make no difference in voting, and 15 percent do not know what affect it would have on their vote.

If the respondent’s Senator did not act on this bill this year, 35 percent say they would be more likely to vote *against* that Senator in the next election, compared to just 11 percent who would be more likely to vote *for* the Senator. The remainder say it would not affect their vote (39%) or they do not know what the impact would be (14%).

Methodology

AARP commissioned Woelfel Research to conduct a random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey of registered voters age 50 or older in Tennessee. Respondents were screened for age and voter registration. A total of 502 interviews were completed from July 12 – July 16, 2002.¹ The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 4.4 percent. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of 4.4 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every registered voter in Tennessee age 50 or older had been surveyed. Data were weighted to correctly represent the age and gender distribution of the 50+ population in Tennessee. Responses to all survey questions are in the attached annotated questionnaire.

For more information about this study, contact Margret Straw, AARP Knowledge Management, (202) 434-6334.

¹ The response rate for this survey was 8% and the cooperation rate was 94%. The response rate is Response Rate 3 and the cooperation rate is Cooperation Rate 3 from the following publication: The American Association for Public Opinion Research. 2000. *Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: AAPOR.

Annotated Questionnaire
AARP TENNESSEE Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Survey

N = 502

Sampling error = \pm 4.4 percent

* indicates less than .5%; percents may not add up to 100 due to rounding

Data weighted by age and gender

[Quota: 500 Eligible voters age 50+]

Introduction

Hello, this is _____ from Woelfel Research, a national opinion research company. We're conducting a study among **TENNESSEE** residents about an important topic. This is not a sales call and you will not be asked to buy anything either now or later. We would really like to include your opinions in our study and assure you that all of your answers will remain completely confidential. The survey should take only about 5 minutes to complete.

Screening

1. How many people are in your household that are...[READ LIST]

- 1 Under 50 _____
- 2 50 years or older _____

[IF NONE 50 OR OLDER, THANK AND TERMINATE. IF 1, ASK FOR THAT PERSON. IF 2 OR MORE, ASK Q2]

2. To make our study more representative, I need to speak with the youngest male who is at home right now *and* is at least 50 years old.

- 1 Person on phone is youngest male → [SKIP TO Q.5]
- 2 Other person is youngest male and is coming to phone → [SKIP TO Q.4]
- 3 Person is not available
- 4 Refused → [SKIP TO Q.REFUSAL]

3. Then may I speak to the oldest female who is at home right now *and* is at least 50 years old?

- 1 Person on phone is oldest female → [SKIP TO Q.5]
- 2 Other person is oldest female and is coming to the phone → [SKIP TO Q.4]
- 3 Person is not available → [SCHEDULE CALLBACK]
- 4 Refused → [SKIP TO Q.REFUSAL]

4. Hello, this is _____ from Woelfel Research, a national opinion research company. We're conducting a study among **TENNESSEE** residents about an important topic. This is not a sales call and you will not be asked to buy anything either now or later. We would really like to include your opinions in our study and assure you that all of your answers will remain completely confidential. The survey should take only about 5 minutes to complete.

- 1 CONTINUE
- 2 REFUSED → [SKIP TO Q.REFUSAL]

5. What was your age as of your last birthday?

_____ [RECORD IN YEARS]

- %
- 55 50-64
- 43 65+
- 2 Refused

5B. [RECORD GENDER]

- %
- 44 Male
- 56 Female

5C: Are you currently registered to vote in **TENNESSEE**?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

**[THANK AND TERMINATE IF NOT REGISTERED VOTER IN
TENNESSEE]**

Main Questionnaire [ASK ALL]

The U.S. Senate is currently considering Medicare prescription drug legislation that would provide a permanent Medicare drug benefit that has an affordable premium, has some cost-sharing, has no gap in coverage, is voluntary, and is available to everyone eligible for Medicare. [INSTRUCTION TO INTERVIEWER – READ THIS DESCRIPTION SLOWLY SO THAT RESPONDENT HEARS EACH PHRASE. REPEAT IF NECESSARY FOR CLARITY DURING FOUR FOLLOWING QUESTIONS]

1. How important is it to you that the Senate passes this legislation? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?
%
69 Very important
17 Somewhat important
5 Not very important
3 Not at all important
6 Don't know (Volunteered)
* Refused (Volunteered)

2. Would you support or oppose this Medicare prescription drug benefit? And would you strongly or somewhat (support/oppose) this benefit?
%
62 Strongly support
22 Somewhat support
2 Somewhat oppose
2 Strongly oppose
11 Don't know (Volunteered)
1 Refused (Volunteered)

3. If a candidate for the U.S. Senate supported funding this Medicare prescription drug benefit, would you be more likely to vote for that candidate, more likely to vote against them, or would it not make any difference? And would you be much more likely or somewhat more likely to vote (for/against) this candidate? [ROTATE ORDER OF PRESENTATION OF FOR AND AGAINST STATEMENT]
%
38 Much more likely to vote for
19 Somewhat more likely to vote for
27 Would make no difference
1 Somewhat more likely to vote against
1 Much more likely to vote against
15 Don't know (Volunteered)
* Refused (Volunteered)

4. If your Senator did not act on this bill this year, would you be more likely to vote for your Senator in the next election, more likely to vote against your Senator, or would it make no difference? And is that much more likely or somewhat more likely to vote (for/against) your Senator? [ROTATE ORDER OF PRESENTATION OF FOR AND AGAINST STATEMENT]

%

- 6 Much more likely to vote for
- 5 Somewhat more likely to vote for
- 39 Would make no difference
- 14 Somewhat more likely to vote against
- 21 Much more likely to vote against
- 14 Don't know (Volunteered)
- 1 Refused (Volunteered)

Demographics

My last few questions are for classification purposes only.

- D1. Which of the following best describes your marital status? **(READ)**

%

- 62 Married
- 5 Single, never married
- 13 Divorced/separated
- 1 Not married, living together
- 20 Widowed
- 0 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- 1 REFUSED

- D2. What is your race? [READ LIST]

%

- 90 White
- 7 African American
- 0 Asian
- 1 Native American or Alaskan Native
- Some other race [SPECIFY:]
- 1 Hispanic (Volunteered)
- * Mixed (Volunteered)
- * DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- 1 REFUSED

D3. Which of the following best describes your highest level of education? [READ]

%

- 19 Some high school or less
- 26 High school graduate
- 29 Some college or technical school
- 14 College graduate
- 11 Post graduate degree
- 0 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- 1 REFUSED

D4. Are you currently.... [READ LIST]

%

- 31 Employed full-time
- 7 Employed part-time
- 44 Retired and not working
- 9 Homemaker
- 2 Unemployed and looking for work
- 5 Disabled
- 1 Self-employed
- * Something else – not specified
- 0 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- 1 REFUSED

D5. Which of the following best describes your voting behavior in elections for the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives held in the past ten years? Would you say you always vote, sometimes miss one, rarely vote, or never vote in elections for the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives?

%

- 64 Always vote
- 29 Sometimes miss one
- 4 Rarely vote
- 2 Never vote
- * DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- 1 REFUSED

D6. Which of the following best represents your household income in the year 2001 before taxes?

%

- 10 Less than \$10,000 → [SKIP TO CLOSE]
- 18 \$10,000 to \$19,999 → [SKIP TO CLOSE]
- 11 \$20,000 to \$29,999 → [SKIP TO CLOSE]
- 12 \$30,000 to \$39,999 → [SKIP TO CLOSE]
- 9 \$40,000 to \$49,999 → [SKIP TO CLOSE]
- 12 \$50,000 to \$74,999 → [SKIP TO CLOSE]
- 13 \$75,000 or more → [SKIP TO CLOSE]
- 3 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE → [ASK D7]
- 13 REFUSED [ASK D7]

D7. We realize that income is a private matter and that many people do not feel comfortable sharing that information with others. Rather than identifying a particular income range, would you mind telling me simply whether your household income is below \$40,000?

Base=79 who did not answer D6

%

- 35 Yes, Below
- 16 No, \$40,000 or more
- 9 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- 40 REFUSED

Thank you for participating! Your Opinion Counts.

Interviewer Name: _____

Date: _____

Time end: _____

Length of interview: _____

Interviewer ID # _____