



# Prescription Drug Use Among Persons Age 45+

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A Chart Book

June 2002



## Prescription Drug Use Among Persons Age 45+ A Chart Book

Data collection and preparation of topline report for 2002 data conducted by ReedHaldyMcIntosh.

Data Collection and preparation of topline report for 1986 data conducted by Hamilton, Frederick & Schneiders.

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### **Acknowledgements**

Linda L. Barrett, Ph.D., AARP Senior Research Advisor designed the 2002 survey in consultation with Elinor Ginzler, AARP Campaign Manager. ReedHaldyMcIntosh collected the data and conducted the topline analysis of the 2002 survey data. Linda Barrett created this chartbook by editing the 2002 topline report, adding an analysis comparing the 2002 findings with the results of an earlier study conducted in 1986, adding an executive summary and drawing conclusions. We would like to thank Gretchen Straw for providing access to the 1986 survey and Jeff Love for reviewing this final report. For additional information contact Linda L. Barrett at (202) 434-6197.

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# Executive Summary

## Introduction

- The cost of prescription medications concerns many Americans, especially those in their later years. As a result of this concern, AARP commissioned a national survey in March 2002 to examine the opinions and experiences of Americans age 45+ regarding prescription medications. This chart book details the findings from this survey and compares them with the results of an earlier study conducted in 1986.

The key findings from a.) the 2002 study and b.) a comparison of the 1986 and 2002 appears immediately after this introduction.

Following the key findings, the first part of the chart book presents all the findings from the 2002 study and then compares the findings from 1986 survey with the current findings. A section on implications and recommendations concludes this report.

## Key Findings 2002

- More than three in four persons age 45+ report that they take prescription medications on a regular basis.

On average, people 45+ take 4 prescription medications per day.

Older people are more likely to use prescription drugs than younger people. And, women are more likely to use prescription medications than men.



## Key Findings 2002 (continued)

- More than one in five people report that they have not filled at least one prescription their doctor gave them in the past two years.

The cost of the drug was the main reason for **not** having the prescription filled.

More than one in four report they stopped taking a prescription medication before the prescription ran out. Of those who stopped taking a prescription drug, the reasons mentioned most frequently are side effects, no effect from the drug, or their condition improved.

## Key Findings 2002 (continued)

- When we look at actual patient behaviors, large majorities of people 45+ say they:

Take drugs as prescribed

Understand why they are taking drugs

Read the literature that comes with their prescription

**BUT**, just two-thirds tell their doctor about all the medications they are taking.

**And**, much smaller proportions say they ask their physician or pharmacist for generic medications.

## Key Findings 2002 (continued)

- Despite the fact that Americans aged 45+ don't ask for generics, almost everyone (95%) says they are familiar with them.
- Among the 45+ population who say they are familiar with generics, almost three in ten think generic drugs differ from brand name drugs.

Among the small group that considers generics to be different from name brands, four in ten think that generic prescription drugs may be less effective than brand name drugs.

And, only about one in four think generics may be poorer in quality than brand name drugs.

To our surprise, only 15 percent of those who perceive a difference think generic drugs cost less than brand name drugs.

## **Key Findings: What has changed between 1986 with 2002?**

- There has been a significant increase in the proportion of Americans age 45+ who say they regularly take prescriptions medications.
- There has been a significant increase in the proportion of Americans age 45+ who say they have help paying for their prescription medications from insurance or other health coverage.
- The proportion of people who have co-pays has increased during the past 16 years.

## Key Findings (continued)

- The proportion of people who have not filled a prescription has risen slightly.

The cost of drugs has become the most frequently cited reason for not getting a prescription filled, and people are less likely to think a drug may be ineffective. This finding may suggest there is a greater acceptance of prescription drugs in everyday life among those 45+.

- Today a greater proportion of people say they have heard about generic drugs than in 1986.
- While doctors and patients are communicating more about medication side effects and what the medication is supposed to do for them, there has been no change over the past 16 years in the proportion of doctors and patients who discuss how and when to take medication and what precautions should be followed.

## Summary Implications

- The regular use of prescription medications among Americans age 45+ has risen over the past 16 years as more people have insurance or other health coverage that helps them pay prescription drug costs. More people who have prescription drug coverage also pay a portion of the cost for which they are not reimbursed. A small, but increasing proportion of people say they recently had a prescription they did not fill because of the medication's cost.
- While most Americans 45+ say they are aware of generic drugs, few understand the difference between generic and brand name medications (including the potential cost savings) and few ask their doctor for generics when they are available. This suggests we have an opportunity to educate the public about generics and to encourage them to talk with their doctors about whether generics are right for them.

# 2002 Focus

In 2002 our survey focused on the following topics:

- Prevalence of prescription drug use
- Non-use of prescribed medications
- Discussions with physicians regarding prescription drugs
- Prescription drug coverage and out-of-pocket costs
- Familiarity with generic prescription drugs
- Actions taken following receipt of prescription from physician
- Whom patients consult concerning their prescriptions:  
pharmacist versus physician



# ***Research Methodology***

## ***2002***

# Sample Design

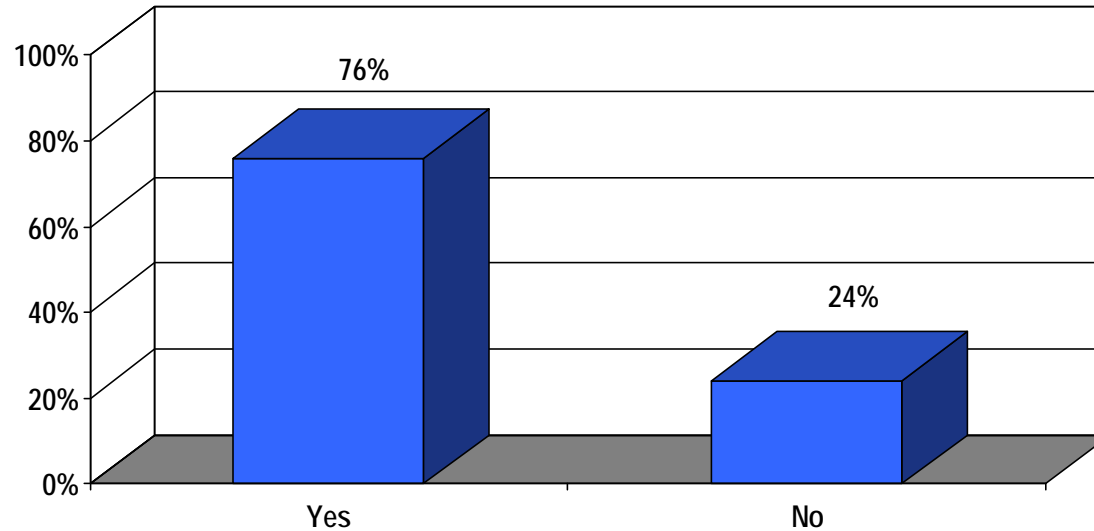
- The study was conducted using a telephone survey methodology in which a sample of telephone households in the continental United States was contacted using random digit dialing (RDD).
- Qualified respondents for this survey had to be age 45 or older. A balancing method was used to insure inclusion of both male and female respondents.
- The sample was designed to result in completed interviews with 250 persons age 45-49, 500 persons age 50-64, and 500 age 65+, for a total of 1,250 completed interviews.

# Data Collection

- All interviewing, including a pretest of the instrument, was conducted during the period March 19-24, 2002. The sample was released in replicates, and all sample households received an original and up to three call-backs to insure that all households had an equal chance of representation in the survey. A total of 1,250 interviews were completed. For a sample of this size, the sampling error is plus or minus 2.8 percent.
- When subgroup differences are cited in this report, they are statistically significant at the .05 level.

# ***Prevalence of Prescription Drug Use***

## Incidence of Regular Prescription Drug Use - Total - (n = 1,250)



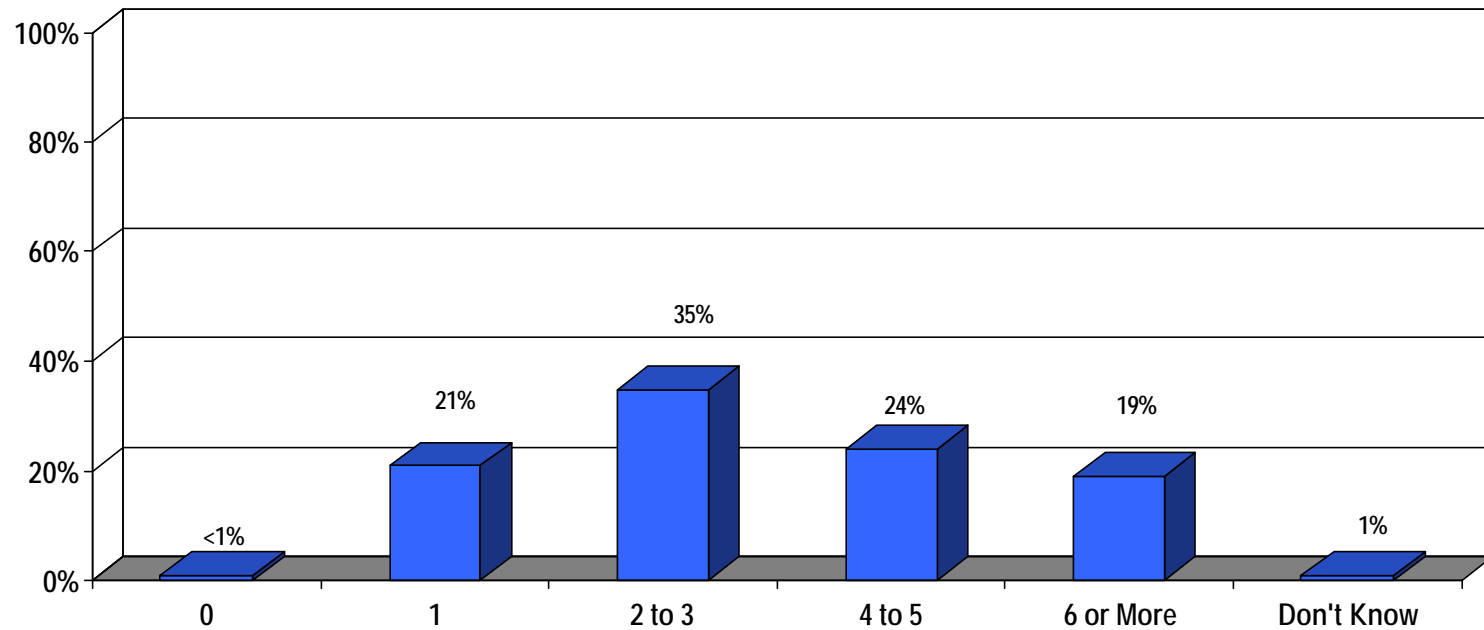
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Just over three in four respondents age 45+ report that they take prescription drugs on a regular basis.\*
- The incidence of prescription drug use increases with each successive age category (not shown). More than eight in ten respondents (87%) age 65+, three in four respondents (75%) age 50-64 years, and over half of respondents (56%) 45-49 years use prescription drugs on a regular basis. Women are more likely than men to take prescription medications regularly (81% versus 65%).

\*When the data were weighted, 75% of those 45+ say they take prescription drugs on a regular basis.

Q.10 Are you currently taking any prescription drugs on a REGULAR basis?

## Number of Prescription Drugs Taken Each Day - Regular Prescription Drug Users - (n = 947)



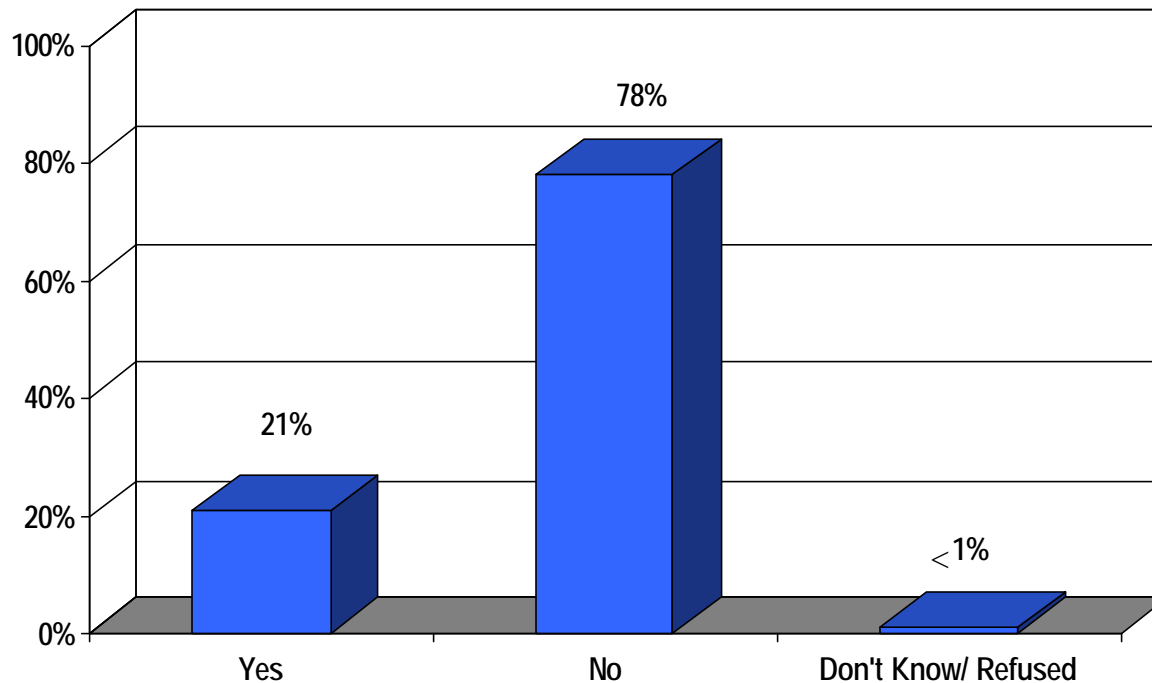
Source: AARP, June 2002

- On average, respondents age 45+ take 4 prescription medications per day.
- About one in five who take prescription drugs regularly take only one such drug per day, while about the same percentage take six or more prescription drugs per day. Almost six in 10 report taking between two and five prescription drugs per day.

Q.11 How many prescription drugs do you take each day?

# ***Non-Use of Prescribed Medications***

## Incidence of Not Using A Prescription in Past Two Years - Total - (n = 1,250)



Source: AARP, June 2002

- More than one in five report that they have not filled at least one prescription their doctor gave them within the past two years, while more than three in four have always had such prescriptions filled.\*

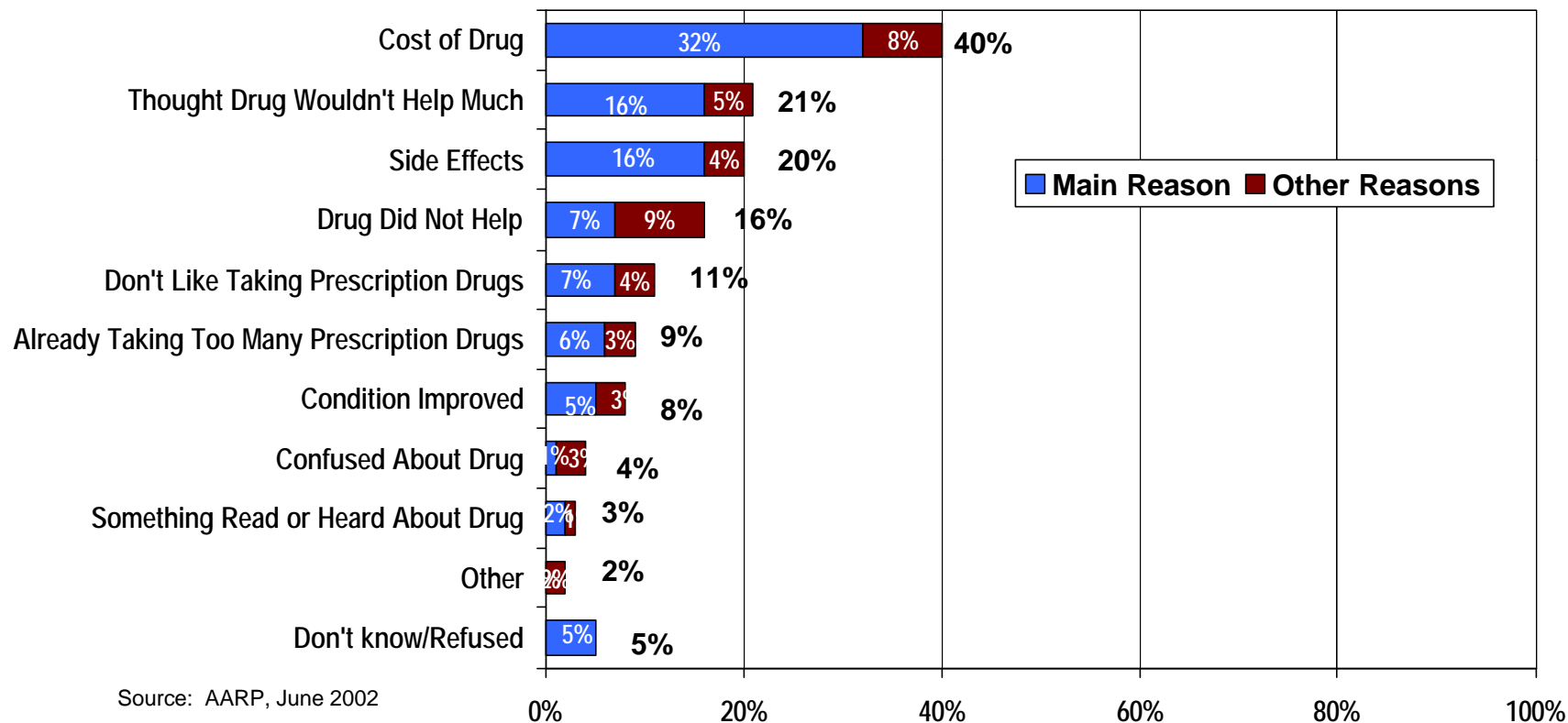
\*When the data were weighted, 22% said they did not fill a prescription in the past two years.

Q.2C In the last two years, did you ever decide NOT to fill a prescription that your doctor had given you?



## Reasons for Not Filling Prescription

### - Did Not Fill Prescription From Doctor Past 2 Years - (n = 269)



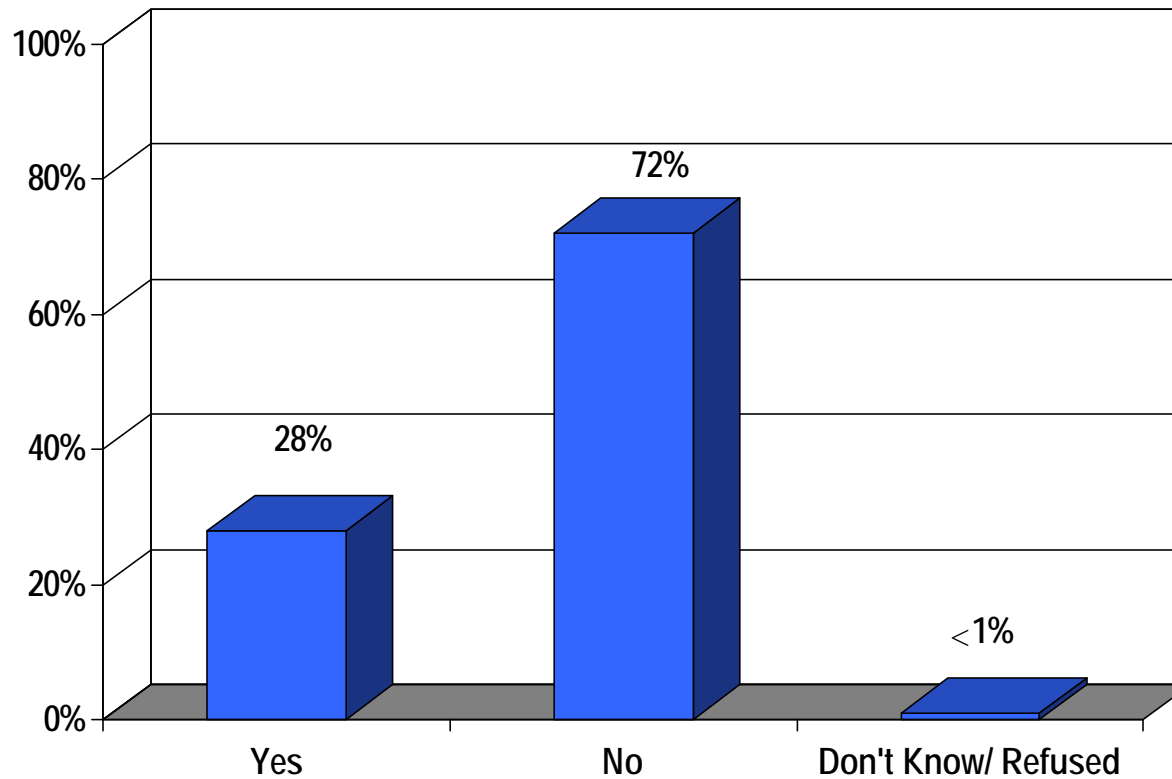
Source: AARP, June 2002

- The main reasons for **not** having filled a prescription are cost (32%), side effects (16%), and thinking the drug would not help much (16%).
- When additional reasons are examined, the pattern of responses is similar. Fully two in five (40%) mention cost as a reason for not filling having filled a prescription.
- Cost is more likely to be a main reason for women than men (36% versus 23%).

Q.3/3A Reasons for not filling prescription

## Incidence of Discontinuing Medication Before Prescription Ran Out

- Total -  
(n = 1,250)

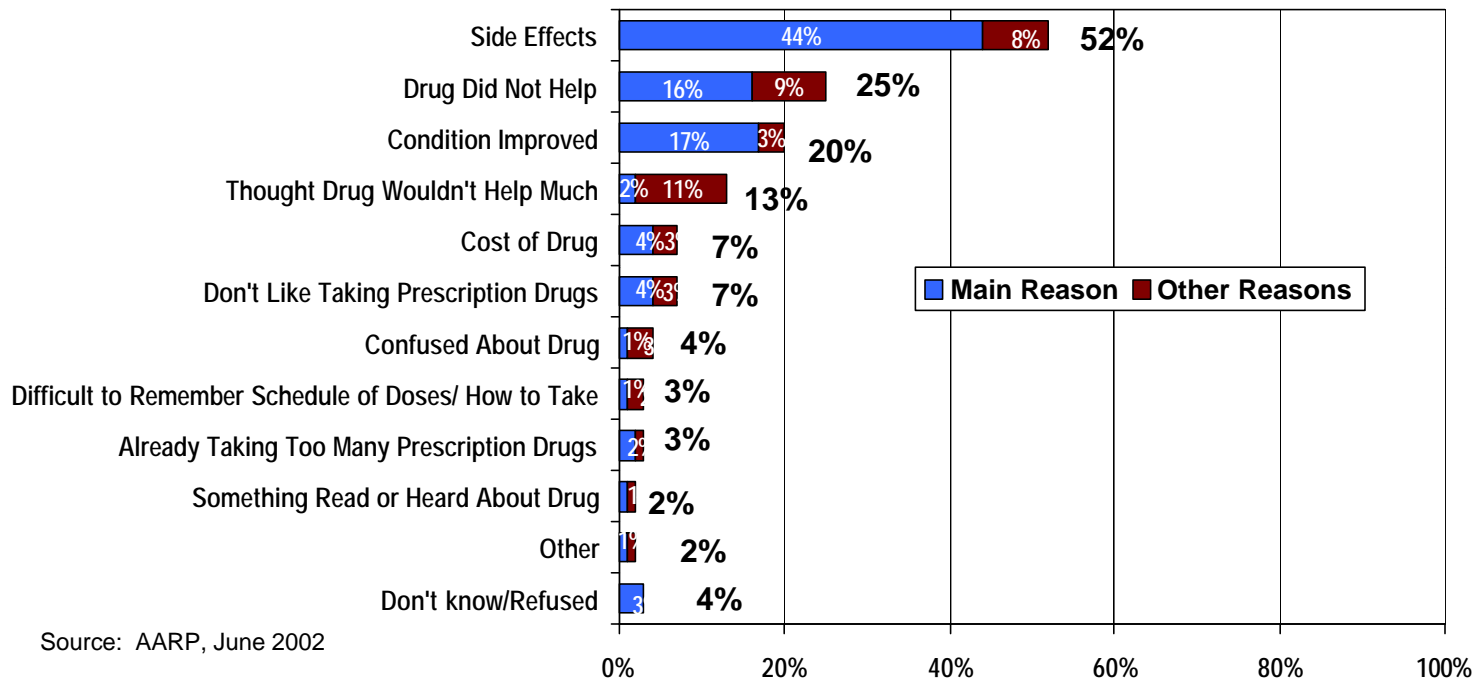


Source: AARP, June 2002

- More than one in four report having stopped taking a prescription medication before the prescription ran out (28%).

Q.4 In the last two years, did you ever have a prescription filled, then decide to stop taking the drug before your prescription ran out?

## Reasons Stopped Taking Prescription - *Discontinued Medication Before Prescription Ran Out* – (n = 348)

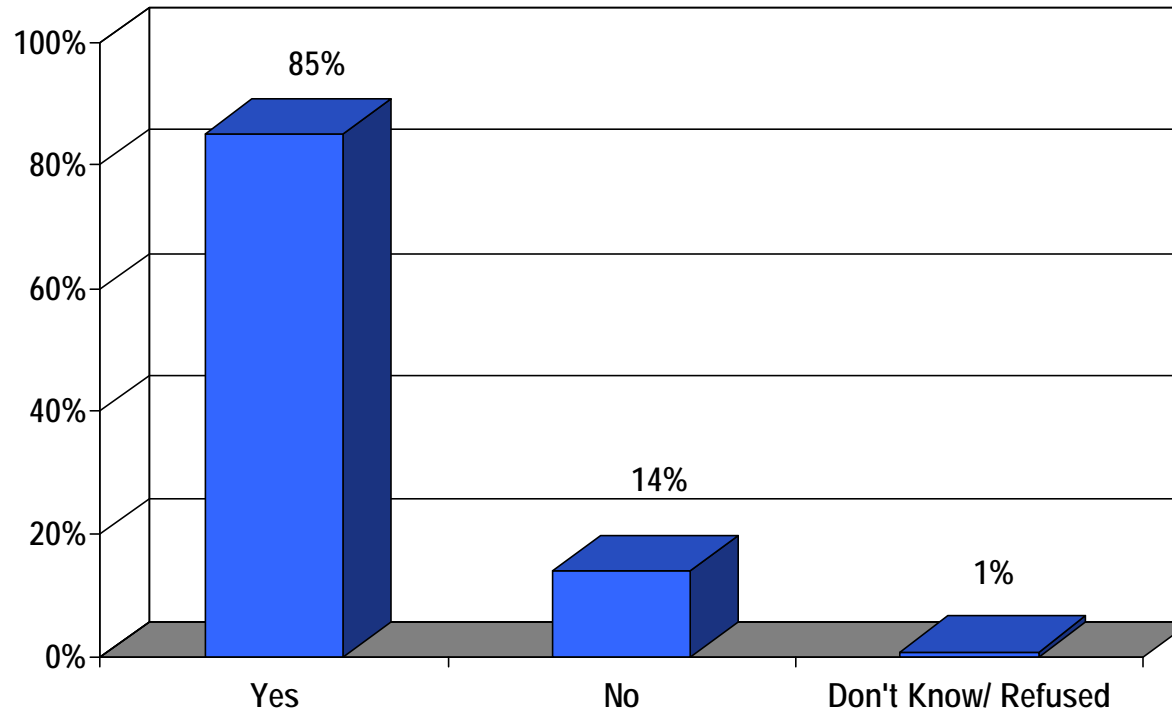


- Of those who stopped taking a prescription drug, the reasons mentioned most frequently are side effects (mentioned by 52% when all mentions are considered), that the drug did not help (25%), and that their condition improved (20%).
  - Respondents age 65+ are more likely to say side effects are a main reason for discontinuing a medication than respondents age 50-64 (52% versus 37%).
- Q.5 What is the MAIN reason you didn't fill your prescription?

***Discussion with Physician  
Regarding Prescription Drugs***

# Incidence of Discussing What Medication Was Supposed To Do

**- Total -  
(n = 1,250)**

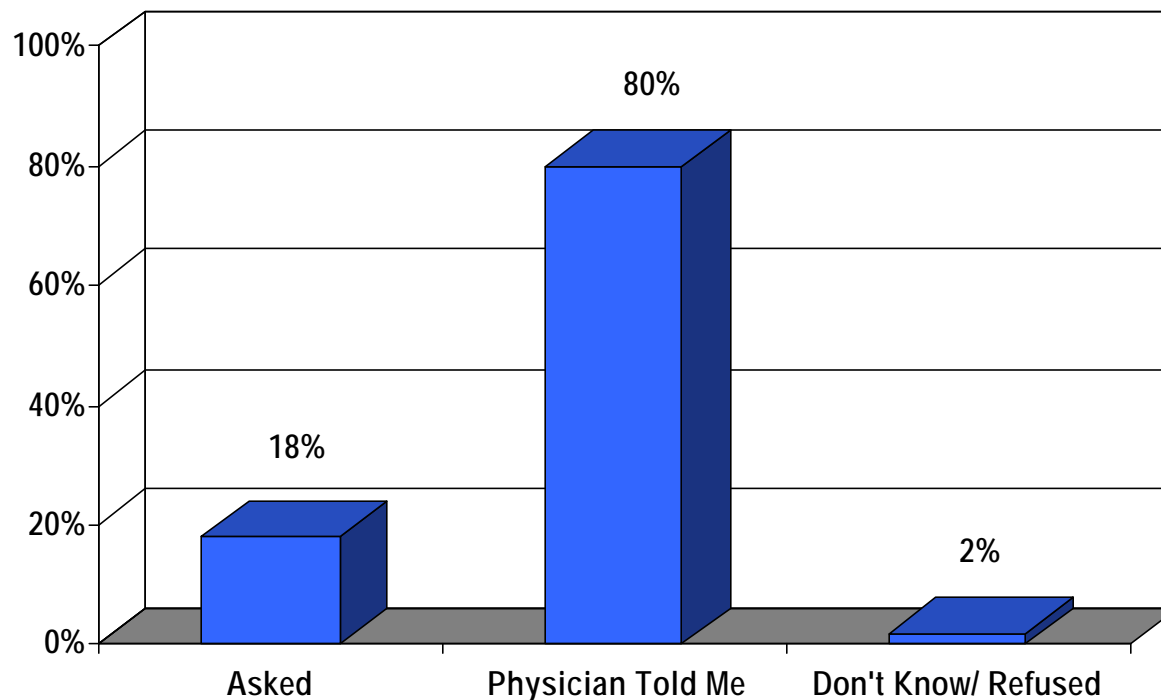


Source: AARP, June 2002

- The last time the doctor prescribed a medication, fully 85 percent of respondents said they talked with their doctor about what the medication was supposed to do.

Q.6A The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about what the medicine was supposed to do?

## Incidence of Asking/ Being Told About What Medication Was Supposed To Do - Discussed What Medication Was Supposed To Do - (n = 1058)



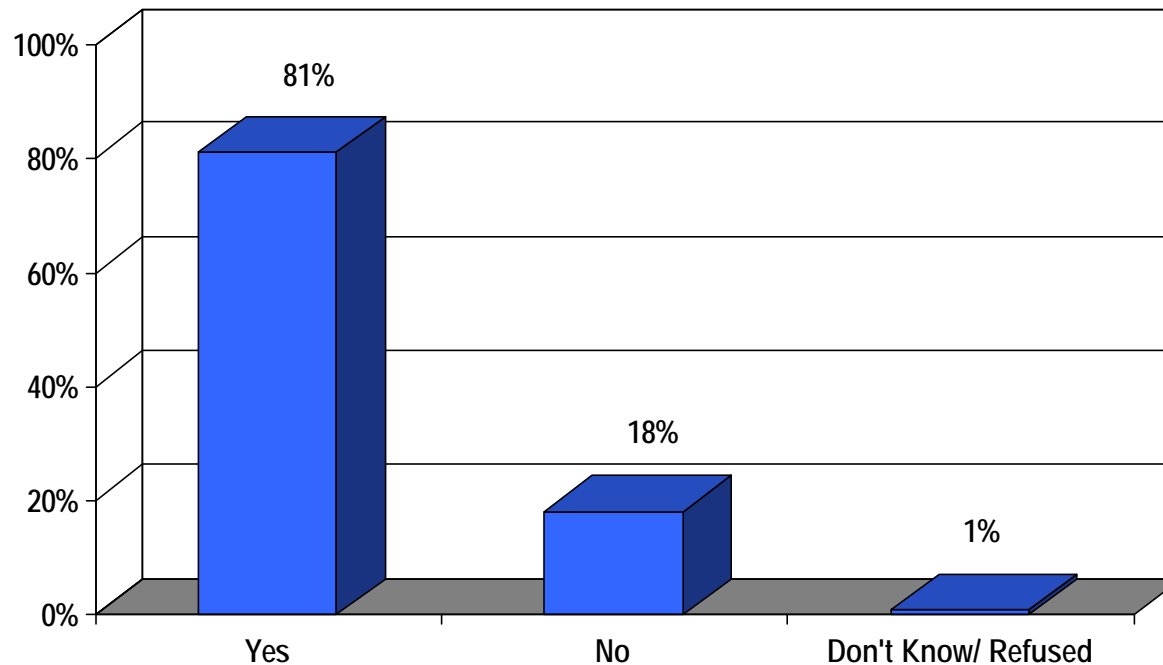
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Four in five who discussed this with their doctor said the doctor initiated the discussion, while only 18 percent had to ask.

Q.6B Were you told or did you have to ask?

## Incidence of Discussing How and When to Use Medication

- Total -  
(n = 1,250)

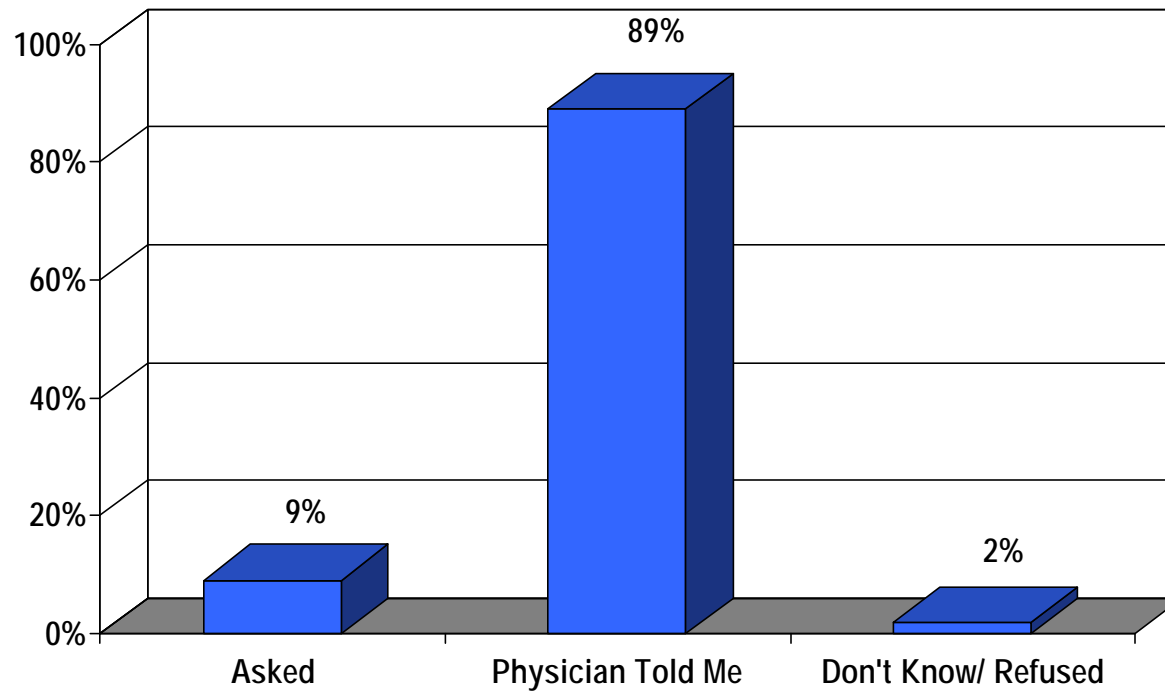


Source: AARP, June 2002

- Again, more than four in five said that the last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for them, they talked with the doctor about how and when to take it.

Q.7A The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about how and when to take the medicine?

## Incidence of Asking/ Being Told About How and When to Use Medication - Discussed How/When to Use Medication - (n = 1015)



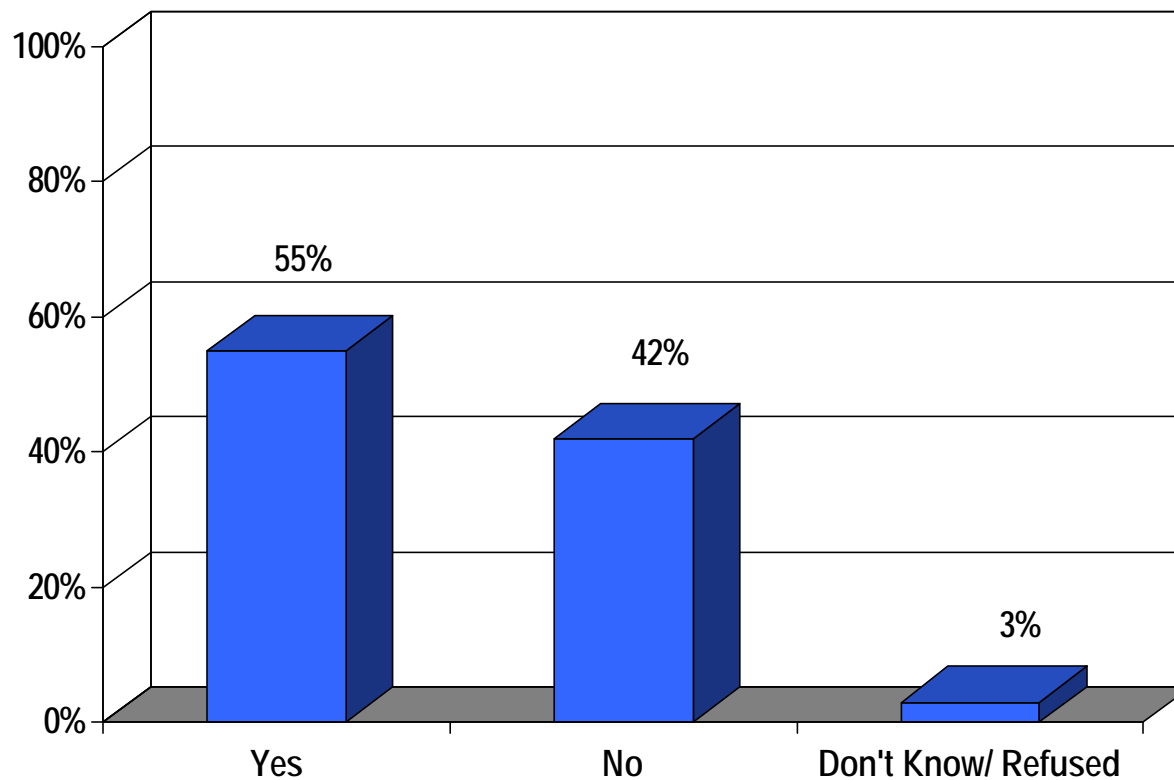
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Almost nine in 10 reported that their doctor initiated this discussion.

Q.7B Were you told or did you have to ask?



## Incidence of Discussing Precautions to Take While Using the Medicine - Total - (n = 1,250)



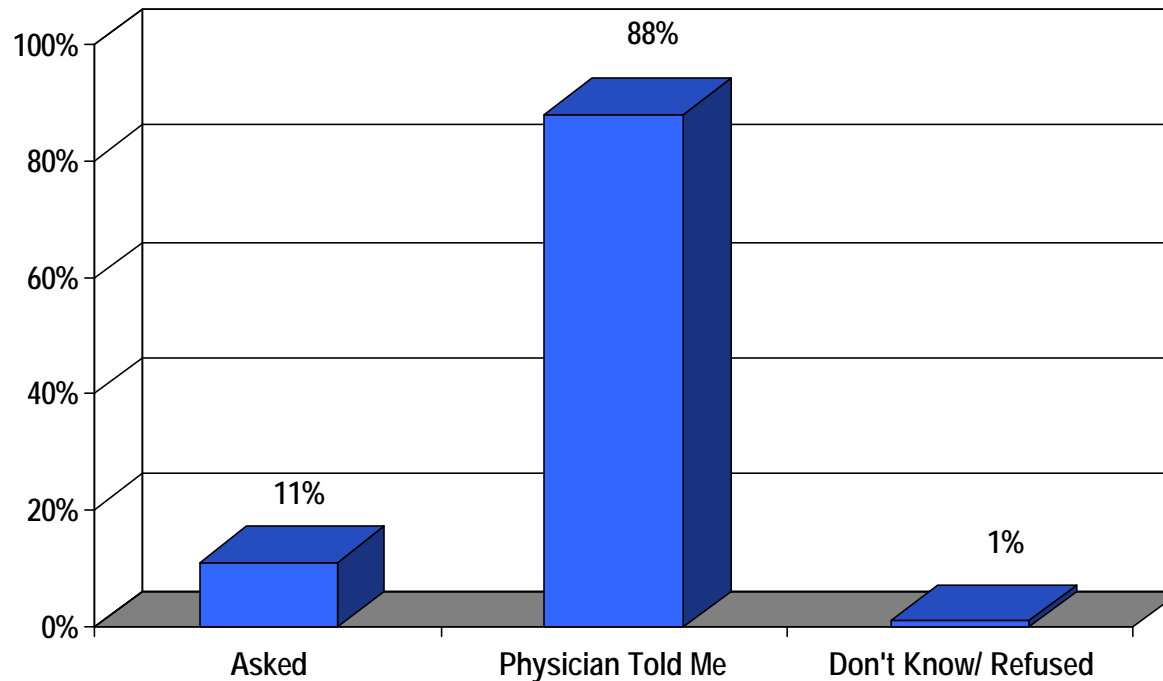
Source: AARP, June 2002

- A smaller proportion, but still more than half (55%), report having talked with their doctor about what precautions to take while using the medicine last prescribed.

Q.8A The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about precautions to take while using medicine?

## Incidence of Asking/ Being Told About Precautions While Using Medication

- *Discussed Precautions to Take While Using Medication – (n = 686)*



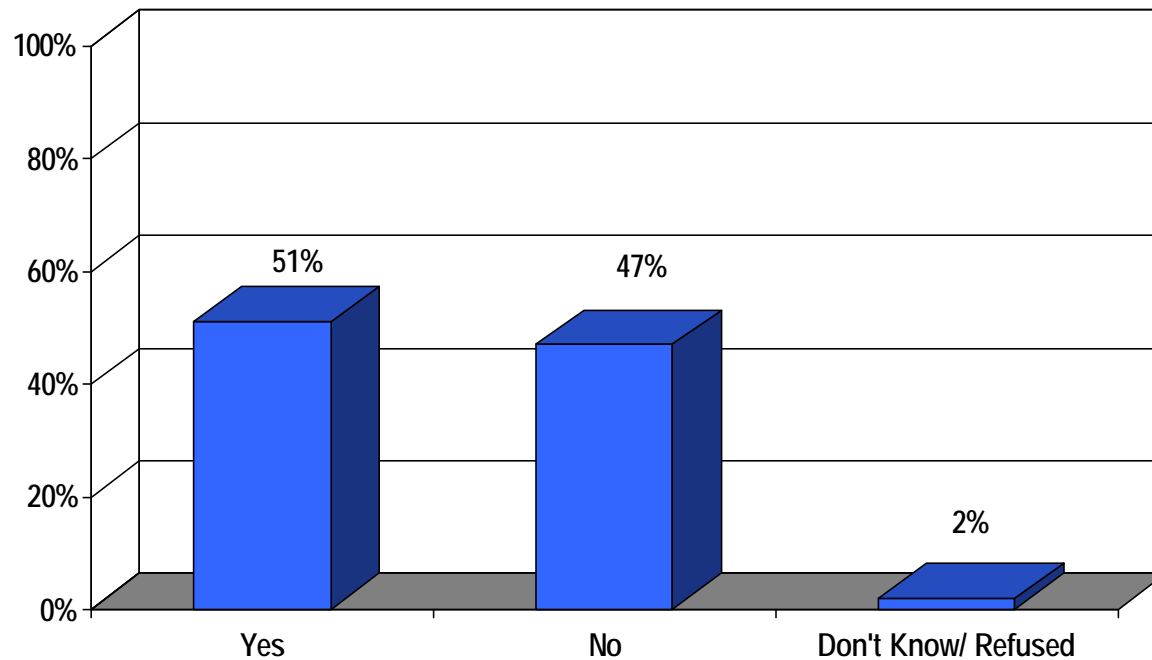
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Only 11 percent said they had to ask, while 88 percent said their doctor initiated this discussion.

Q.8B Were you told or did you have to ask?

## Incidence of Discussing Possible Side Effects While Using Prescription

- Total -  
(n = 1,250)



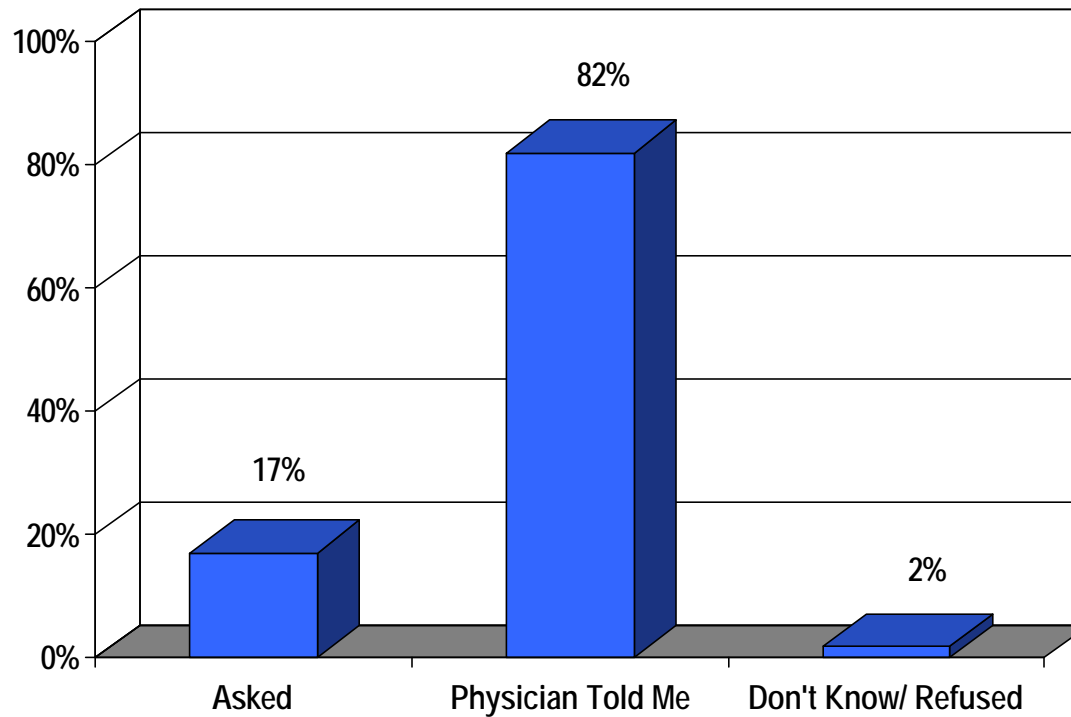
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Just over half (51%) reported they discussed with their doctor the possible side effects of the prescription drug last prescribed, while 47 percent did not.

Q.9A The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about what side effects might occur from the prescription?

# Incidence of Asking/ Being Told About Possible Side Effects While Using Medication

**- Discussed Side Effects of Medication –  
(n = 642)**



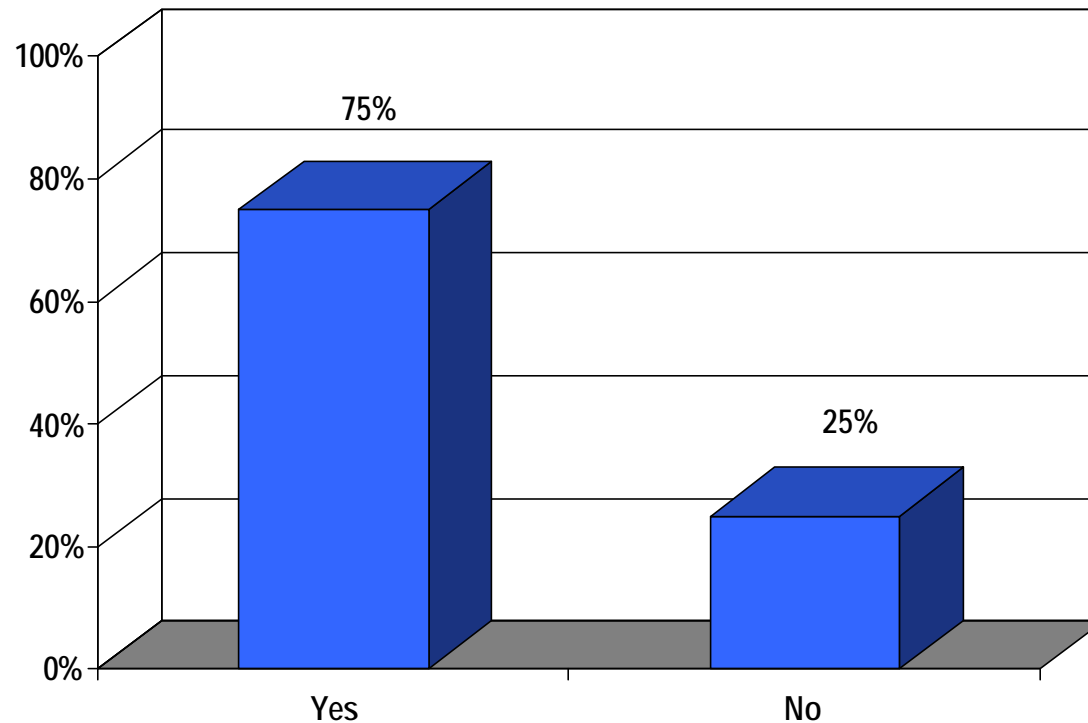
Source: AARP, June 2002

- In this case, a somewhat higher percentage said they had to ask (17%) than for other issues concerning the drug they discussed with their doctor.

Q.9B Were you told or did you have to ask?

# ***Prescription Drug Coverage and Out-of-Pocket Costs***

## Currently Covered by Health Insurance for Prescription Drugs - Current Prescription Drug Users - (n = 947)

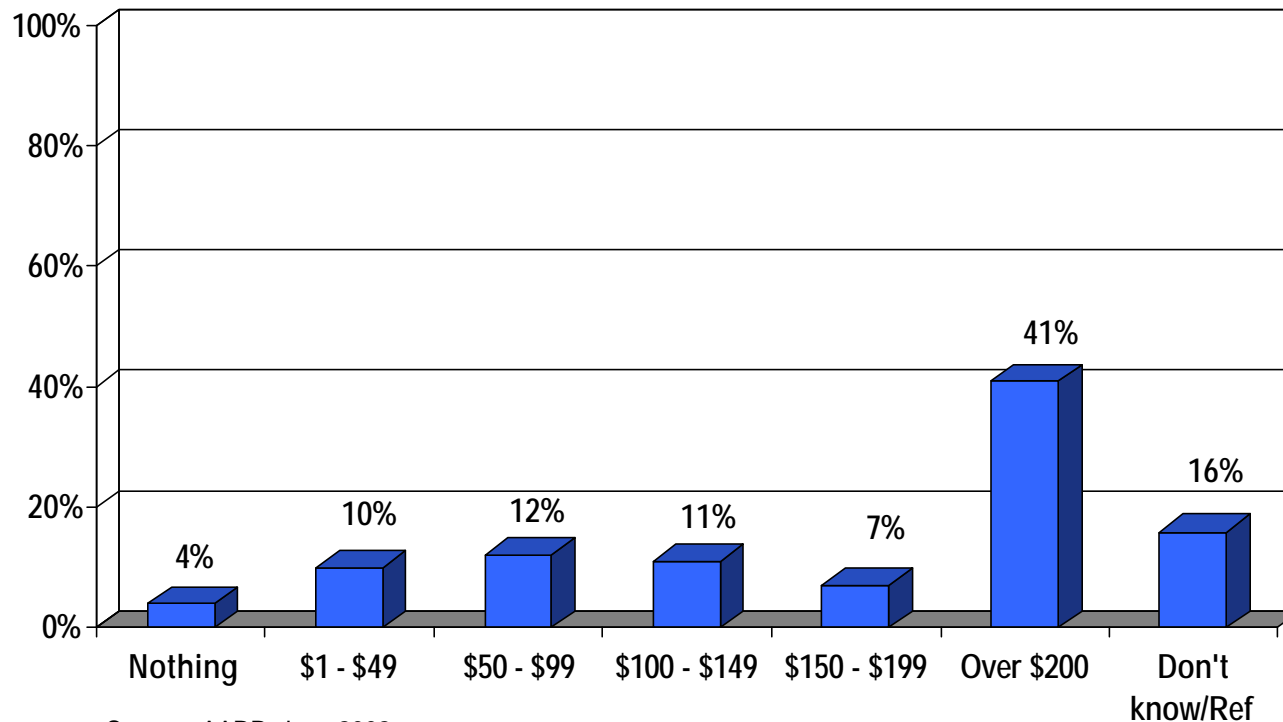


Source: AARP, June 2002

- Three in four respondents report having some insurance coverage for their prescription drugs, while one in four do not.

Q.12 Do you get any help in paying for these drugs from insurance or other health coverage?

## Estimate of How Much Their Prescription Drugs Would Cost Per Month if They Did Not Have Insurance/ Health Coverage – Current Prescription Drug Users with Drug Coverage – (n = 711)



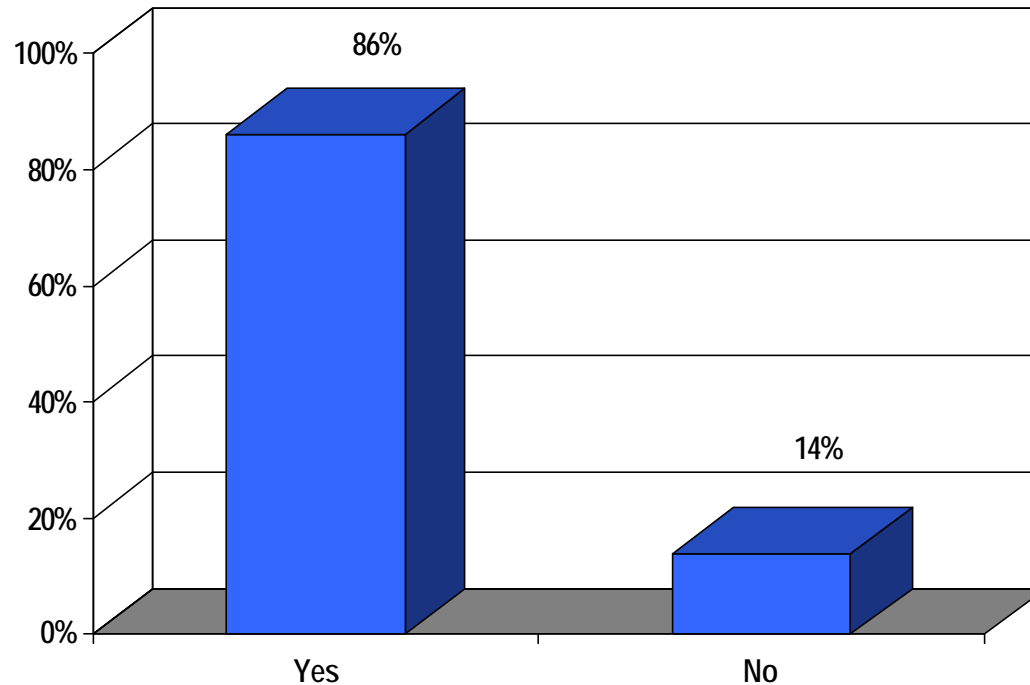
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Of those with prescription drug coverage, more than two in five (41%) think they would have to pay at least \$200 per month out-of-pocket if they did not have this coverage, and an additional 18 percent think they would have to pay \$100 to \$199.

Q.13 In an average month, how much money do you think you would have to pay for your prescriptions if you DID NOT get this help?

## Incidence of Out-of-Pocket Expenses for Prescription Drugs

- **Current Prescription Drug Users with Drug Coverage -  
(n = 711)**



Source: AARP, June 2002

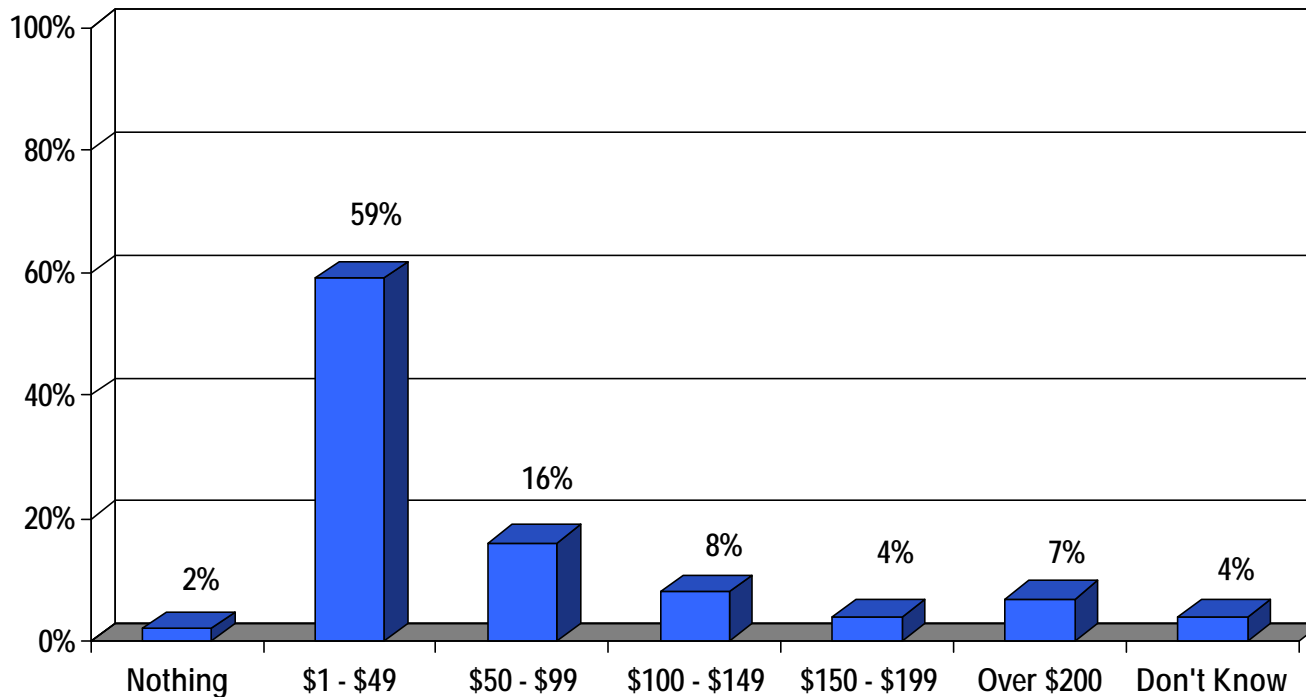
- Only 14 percent of those with prescription drug coverage said they do not have to pay anything out-of-pocket for prescription drugs, while 86 percent report that they do not get reimbursed for the full amount they pay.
- Interestingly, AARP members are more likely than non-members to report having to pay out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs (90% versus 82% - not shown).

Q.14 Do you have to pay any money out of your own pocket for prescriptions – that is money you do not get reimbursed for?



## Average Monthly Out-of Pocket Cost of Prescription Drugs

**- Current Prescription Drug Users with Drug Coverage  
and Out-of-Pocket Expenses -  
(n = 609)**



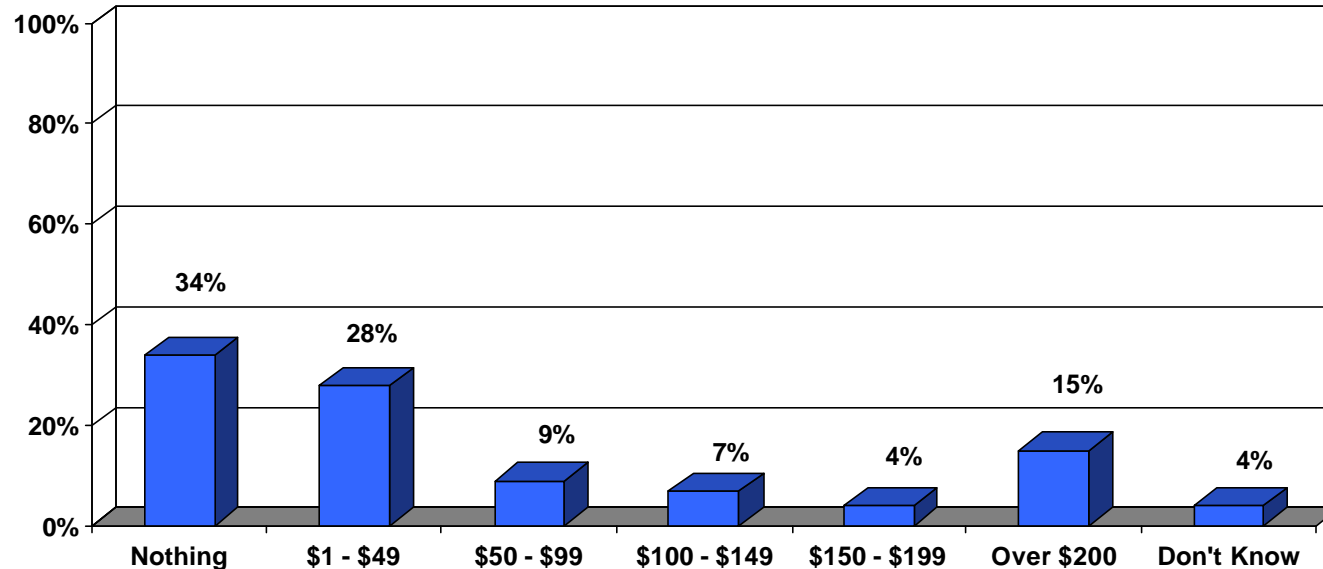
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Almost three in five (59%) of those with prescription drug coverage report paying under \$50 per month out-of-pocket for prescription drugs. Nineteen percent report they pay between \$100 and more than \$200 per month on such drugs and a minority (2%) pay nothing.

Q.15 In an average month, how much do you have to pay?

## Average Monthly Out-of-Pocket Cost of Prescription Drugs

– *Current Prescription Drug Users With NO Drug Coverage* –  
(n = 535)



Source: AARP, June 2002

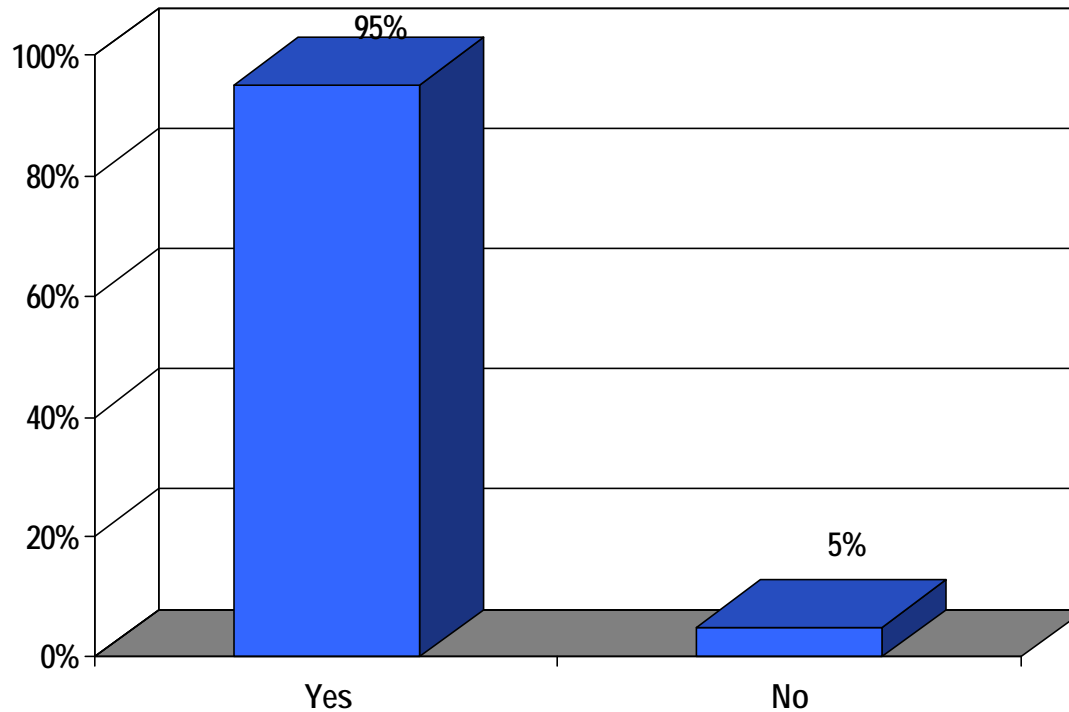
- More than half (62%) of prescription drug users who do not have insurance coverage for their prescriptions say they pay less than \$50 a month for their prescription drugs. By contrast, 15 percent report they pay more than \$200 per month on prescription drugs.
- The mean estimated out-of-pocket monthly expense for prescription drugs for this group is \$68.
- Those age 65+ pay an average of \$98 per month, significantly more than those 45-49 years (\$46) and those age 50-64 (\$51).

Q.16 In an average month, how much do you have to pay?

# ***Familiarity with Generic Prescription Drugs***

# Incidence of Being Familiar with Generic Prescription Drugs

**-Total -**  
**(n = 1,250)**



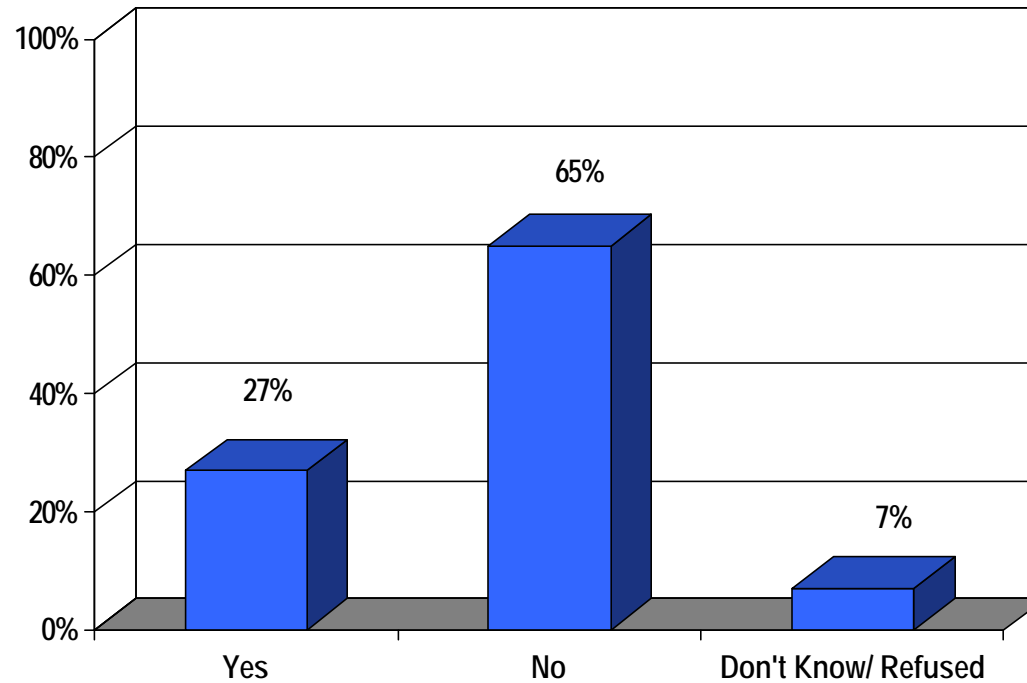
Source: AARP, June 2002

- More than nine in ten respondents (95%) say they are familiar with generic prescription drugs.

Q.17 Have you heard about generic prescription drugs?

## Perception that Generic and Brand Name Prescription Drugs Differ

– *Aware of Generic Prescription Drugs* –  
(*n = 1,181*)



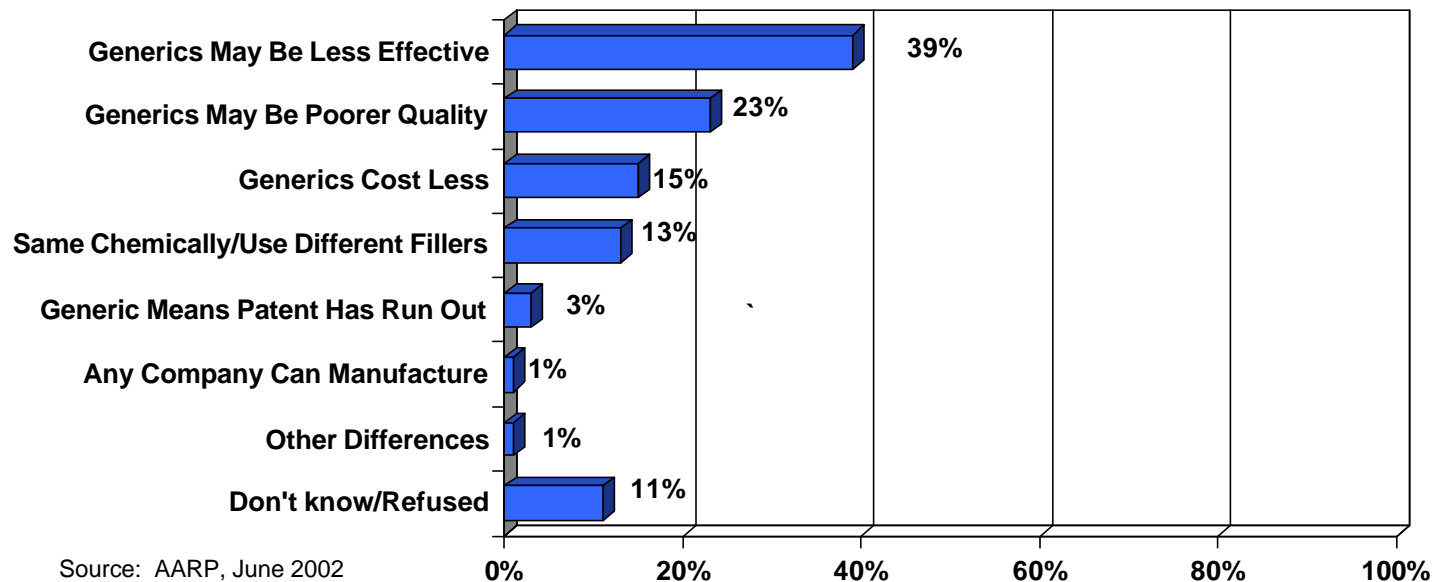
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Among people who say they are familiar with generic prescription drugs, most (65%) think there is no difference between generic and brand name prescription drugs.

Q.18A Based on whatever you have seen or heard about generic prescription drugs, do you think they differ from brand name prescription drugs?

# Perceived Differences Between Generic and Brand Name Prescription Drugs

– *Believe Generic and Prescription Drugs are Different* –  
(n = 324)



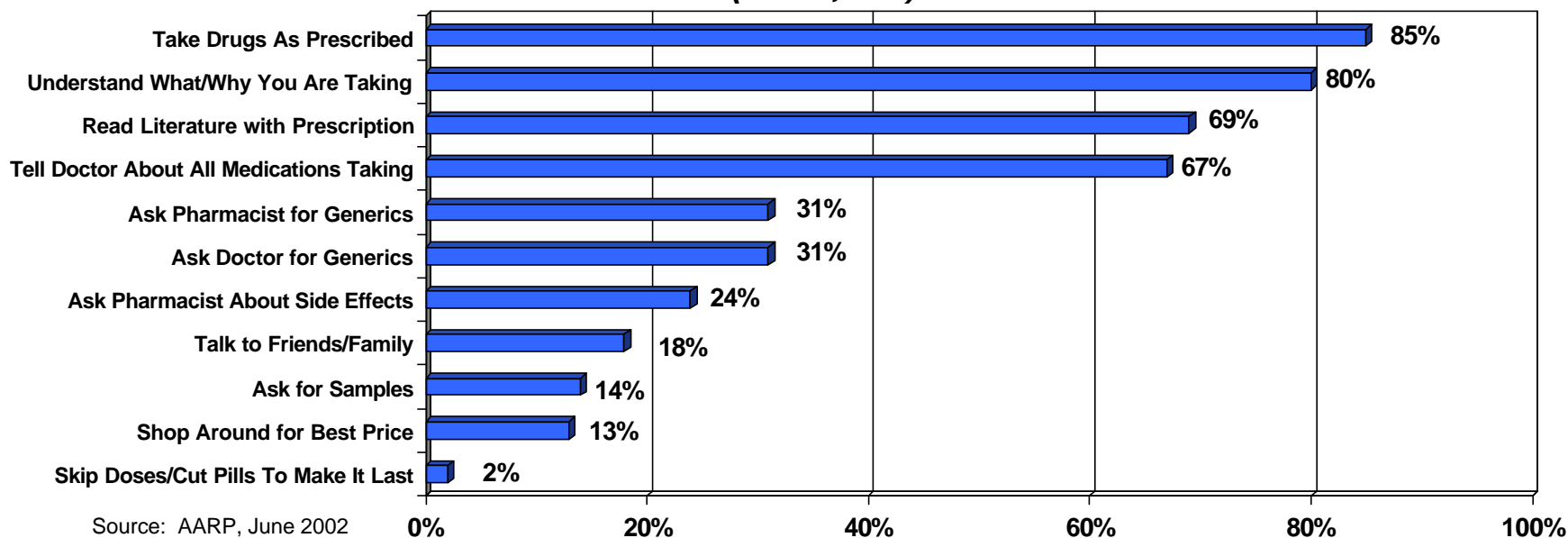
- Surprisingly few respondents identified three actual differences between generic and brand name prescriptions: generics cost less than brand name drugs (15%), generic and prescription drugs are the same chemically but have different fillers and/or binders (12%), generic means the brand name patent has expired (3%) .
- Almost four in ten (39%) think generic prescription drugs may be less effective than brand name prescription drugs.
- More than one in five (23%) think generics may be poorer in quality than brand name drugs. Men are more likely than women to say generics may be poorer in quality than brand name drugs (33% versus 18%).

Q.18B How do you think generic prescription drugs differ from brand prescription drugs?

***Actions Taken Following  
Receipt of Prescription  
from Physician***

## Incidence of Always Taking Selected Actions After Receipt of Prescription from Physician

**-Total -  
(n = 1,250)**



Source: AARP, June 2002

- More than four in five respondents say they “always” take their prescription drugs as prescribed by their doctors (85%), and try to understand what they are taking and why they are taking it (80%).
- About two in three say they always read the literature that comes with their prescription drugs (69%), and always tell their doctor about all medications (both prescription and over-the-counter) they are taking (67%) .
- Only about three in ten say they ask their physician for generic drugs (31%),or ask their pharmacist for the generic version if it has been approved by their physician (31%).
- Less than one in four ask the pharmacist about potential side effects of their prescription drugs (24%), shop around for the best price before having their prescription filled (only 13%) or ask their doctor for a sample of the medication to try out before having their prescription filled (14%).
- Reassuringly, only two percent report that they skip doses or split their pills to make them last longer.
- Those age 65+ are more likely than younger respondents to take their drugs as prescribed but less likely to tell their doctor about all the medications they are taking.
- Women are more likely than men to read the inserted literature and to try to understand what they are taking and why they are taking it and to tell their doctor about all medications they are taking.

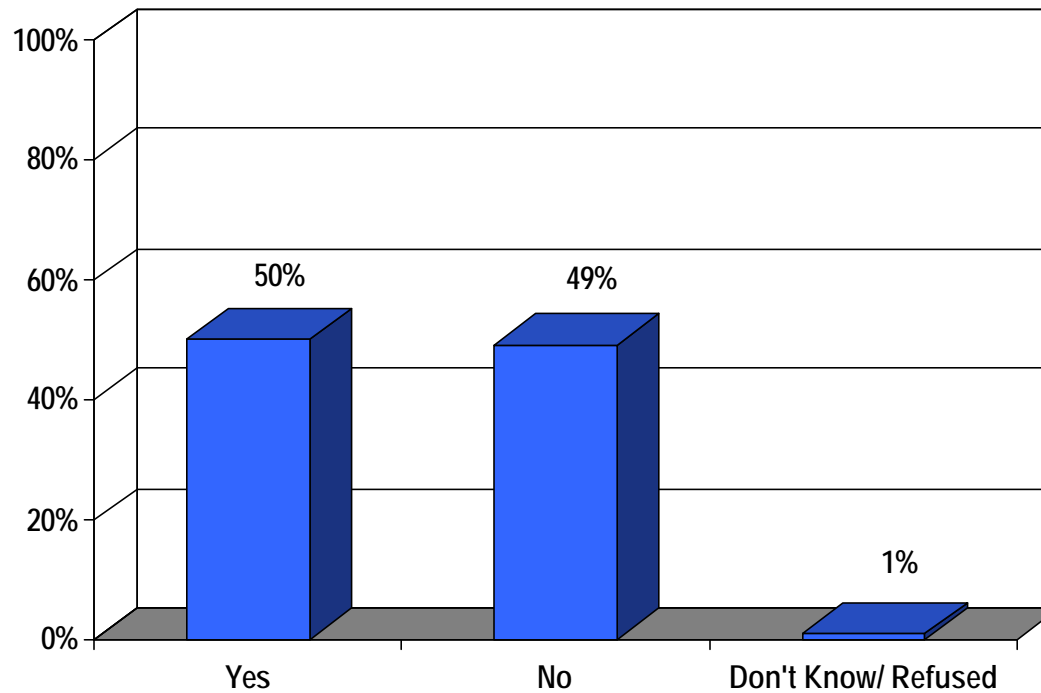
Q.19 For each action you may take after your doctor has written you a prescription, please tell me whether you do it always, often, sometimes or never?



***Pharmacist or Physician:  
Whom to Consult?***

## Incidence of Discussing Prescription Medications With Pharmacist Within Past Two Years

**-Total -  
(n = 1,250)**



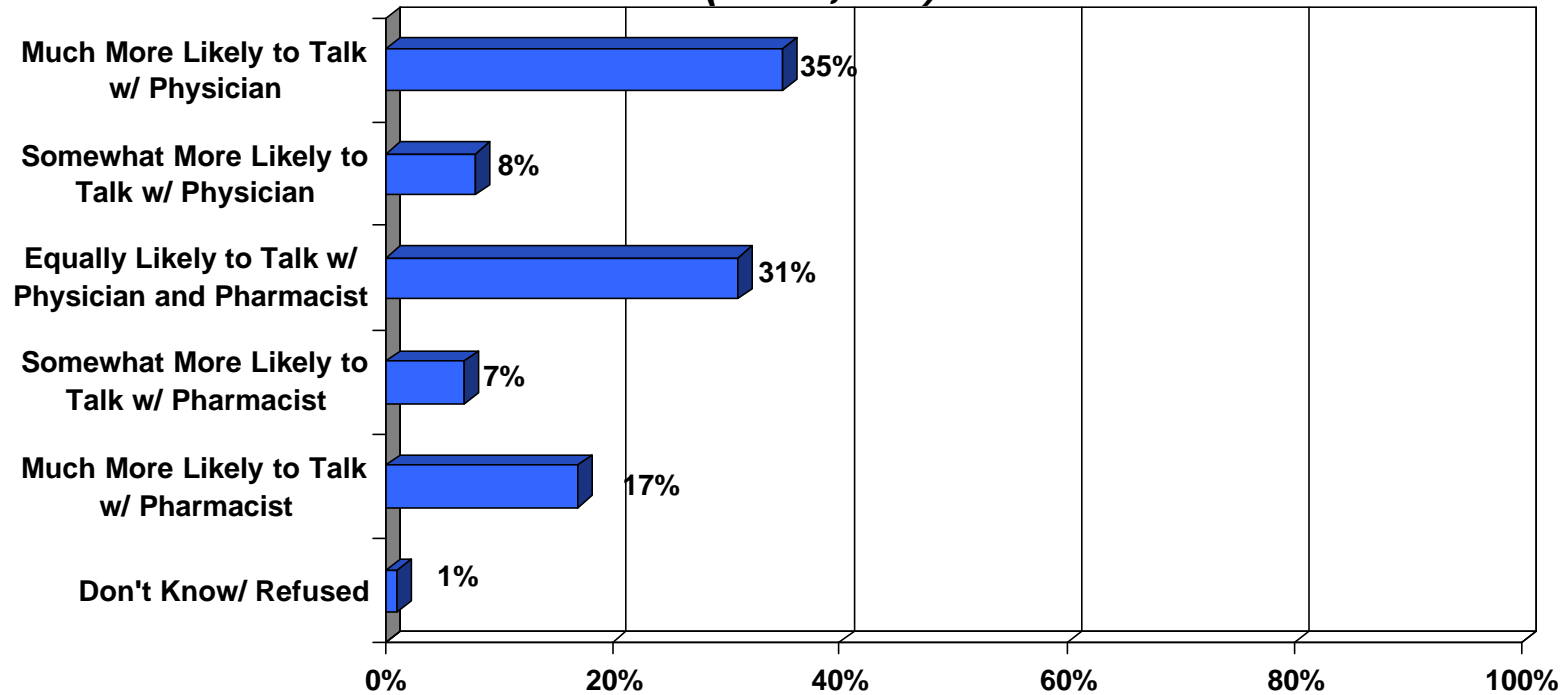
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Respondents are evenly split regarding discussing their medications with a pharmacist.

Q.21 In the past TWO YEARS, have you asked your pharmacist questions about your prescription medications?

# Likelihood of Asking Questions of Physician or Pharmacist Regarding Prescription Medications

**-Total -  
(n = 1,250)**



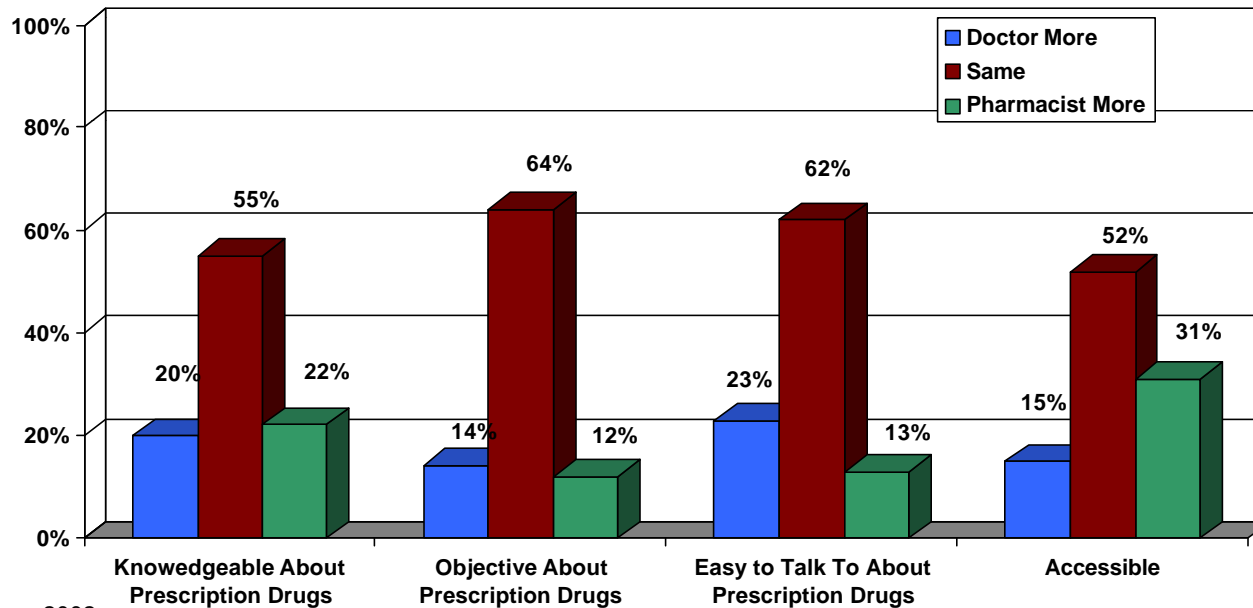
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Just over one third of respondents (35%) say they are much more likely to talk with their physician about their prescription drugs while three in ten (31%) say they are equally likely to talk with their physician or pharmacist.

Q.22 If you have questions about your prescription medicine(s), would you be...(much more likely to talk with doctor/ somewhat more likely to talk with doctor/ equally likely to talk with doctor or pharmacist; somewhat more likely to talk with pharmacist/ much more likely to talk with pharmacist/ don't know/ refused)?

# Comparison of Physicians and Pharmacists on Selected Characteristics

**-Total -  
(n = 1,250)**



Source: AARP, June 2002

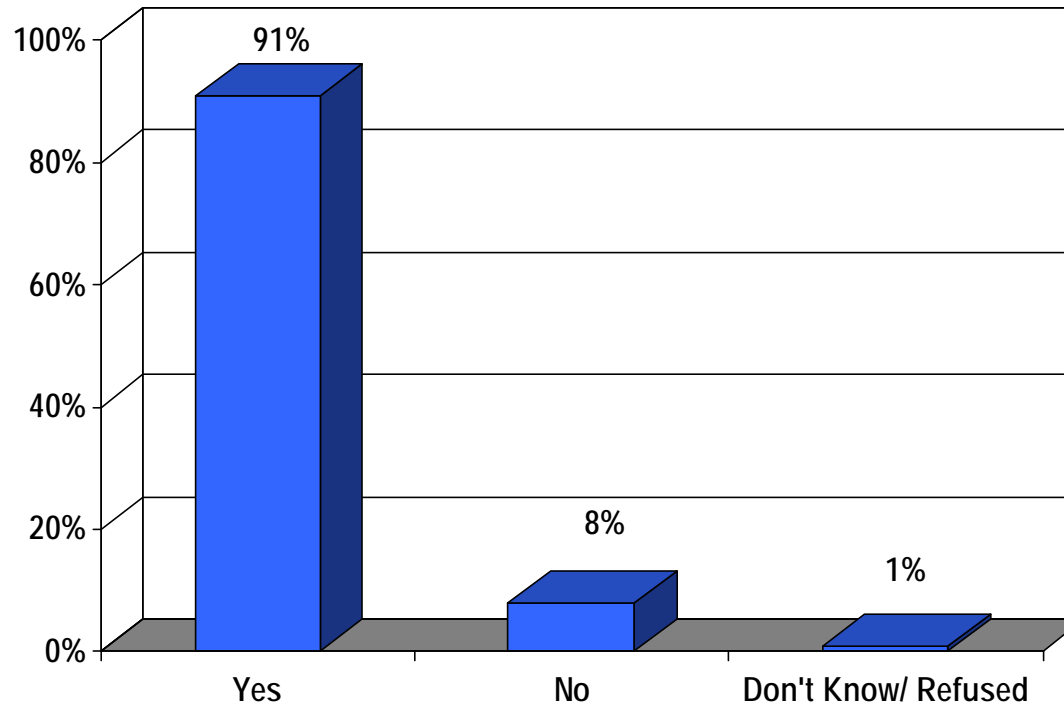
- A majority of respondents view their pharmacist and physician as the same on four factors: level of knowledge about prescription drugs (55%), objectivity about prescription drugs (64%), ease of talking about prescription drugs (62%), and accessibility (52%).
- Nonetheless, 31 percent think their pharmacist is more accessible and twenty-three percent say their doctor is easier to talk to about prescription drugs.
- Men generally outscore women in their confidence in their physician on all four attributes (not shown), and younger persons are more likely than persons age 65+ to favor their physician (not shown).

Q.23A/B Do you feel your doctor or your pharmacist is much more or somewhat more (knowledgeable about prescription drugs/ objective about prescription drugs/ easy to talk to about prescription drugs/ accessible)?

# ***Media Advertising of Prescription Drugs***

## Incidence of Ever Seeing Prescription Drugs Advertised on Television or in Newspapers/Magazines

**-Total -  
(n = 1,250)**



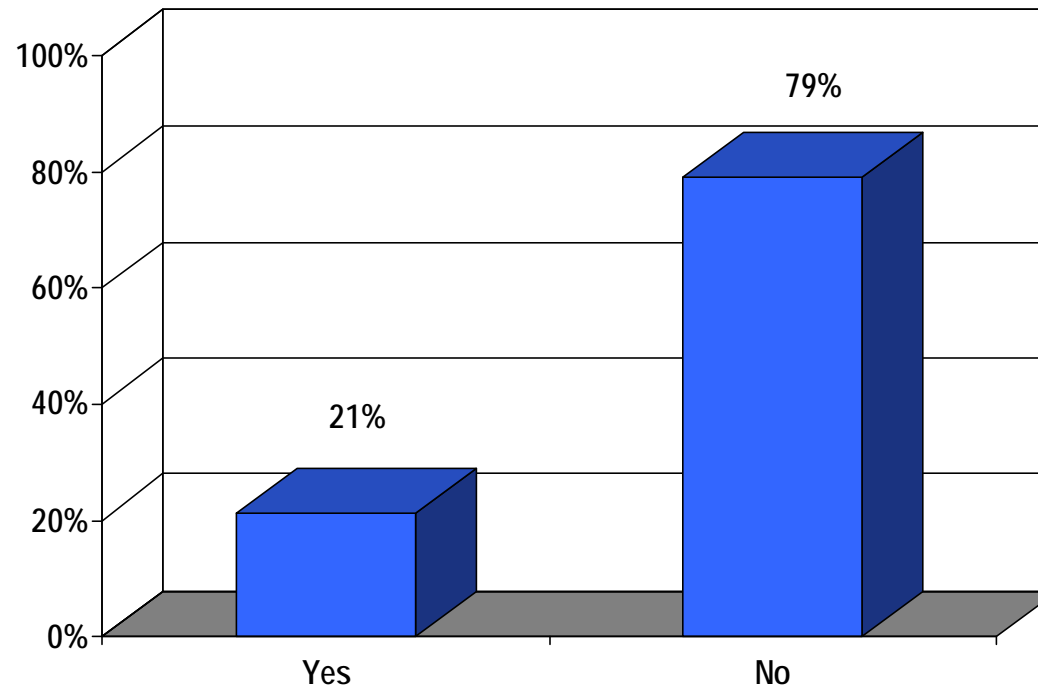
Source: AARP, June 2002

- More than nine in ten respondents (91%) report having seen prescription drugs advertised on television, in newspapers, or in magazines.
- Persons age 65+ were less likely to report having seen such advertisements, but the incidence was high among all three age groups (88% - 94% not shown).

Q.24 Have you ever seen prescription drugs advertised on television, in newspapers or in magazines?

## Incidence of Asking Physician for Prescription Drug Based on Advertising

**– Have Seen Prescription Drug Advertisements –  
(n = 1,142)**



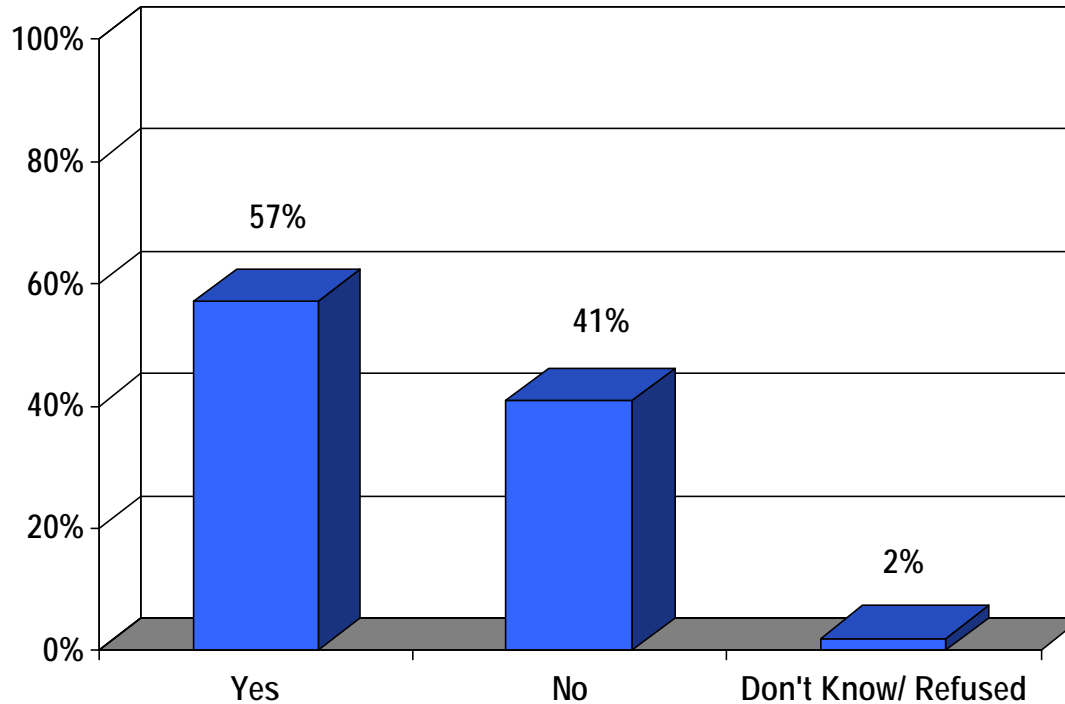
Source: AARP, June 2002

- About one in five respondents (21%) report having asked their doctor for a prescription drug they saw advertised, while almost four in five (79%) have not.

Q.25 Have you ever asked your doctor for a prescription drug based on advertising you have seen about the drug?

## Incidence of Doctor Prescribing Advertised Drug

– *Asked Doctor for Advertised Prescription Drug* –  
(n = 237)



Source: AARP, June 2002

- Among the minority (21%) who have asked their doctor for a prescription based on an advertisement, more than half (57%) say their doctor wrote them a prescription for the medication.

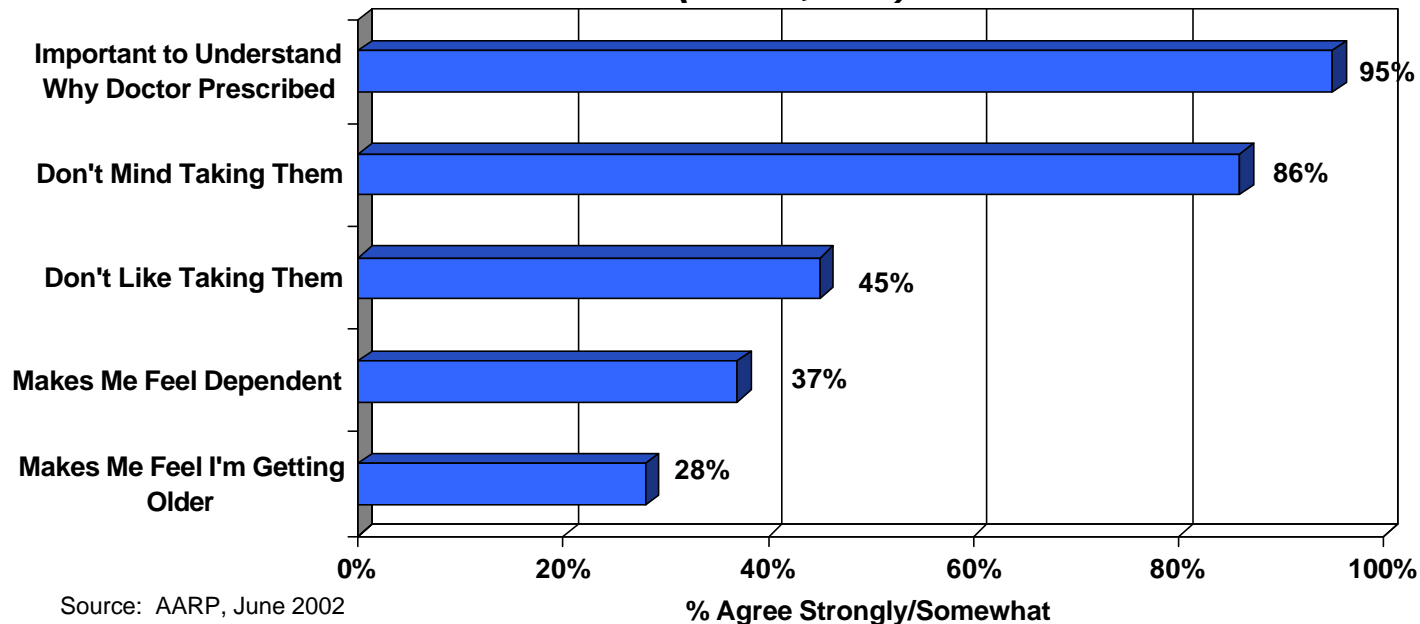
Q.26 Did your doctor write you a prescription for the drug?



# ***Attitudes Toward Taking Prescription Drugs***

# Agreement with Statements About Taking Prescription Drugs

**-Total -  
(n = 1,250)**



Source: AARP, June 2002

- In accordance with earlier findings reported, a very high proportion of respondents think it is important to understand why their doctor has prescribed their medication in the way he/she did: 95 percent strongly or somewhat agree.
- A high proportion, say they strongly/somewhat agree they don't mind taking drugs prescribed by their doctor (86%). At the same time, however, close to half (45%) strongly/somewhat agree that they don't like to take their prescribed drugs.
- Smaller proportions of respondents agree that taking prescription drugs makes them feel dependent (37%) or that they are getting older (28%).

Q.27A/ B For each statement that may or may not be important to you personally, please tell me whether you agree or disagree.

## Implications from 2002 Survey

- This survey suggests we have opportunities for educating people about the importance of communicating with their doctor or their pharmacist about the use of prescription drugs, and following their suggestions.
- The survey shows that people are aware of generics, but are confused about the difference between generics and brand name drugs.
- And, finally, this study shows that people are not asking their doctors or pharmacists for generics and the implication is that they may be able to save money if they do.

# **Comparing 1986 and 2002 Findings**

# Introduction

This section compares the findings from the 2002 survey of prescription drug use among people age 45+ with the findings from a 1986 survey that also examined this issue.

The comparison will focus on the following areas:

- Prevalence of prescription drug usage
- Drug coverage
- Compliance with doctor's orders
- Awareness of generics
- Doctor – patient communication
- Health status and satisfaction with health and physical condition

# Research Methodology

# Sample Design

- The 1986 survey results were based on a random telephone survey of 2,000 Americans age 45 +.
- The 2002 survey results were based on telephone interviews with 1,250 Americans age 45+. The 2002 data have been weighted to the 2002 U.S. Census estimates by age and gender for comparison with the 1986 study.

# Data Collection

- Data collection for the 2002 survey is explained on page 6.
- Data for the 1986 survey were collected between December 8 and December 28, 1986.
- Reported differences between the two samples are significant at the .05 level. The maximum margin of error at the 95% confidence level is within plus or minus 3.7 points for base sizes of 2,000 in 1986 and 1,250 in 2002.
- Reported differences within the 2002 data are significant at the .05 level. With a sample this size, the sampling error is plus or minus 2.8.

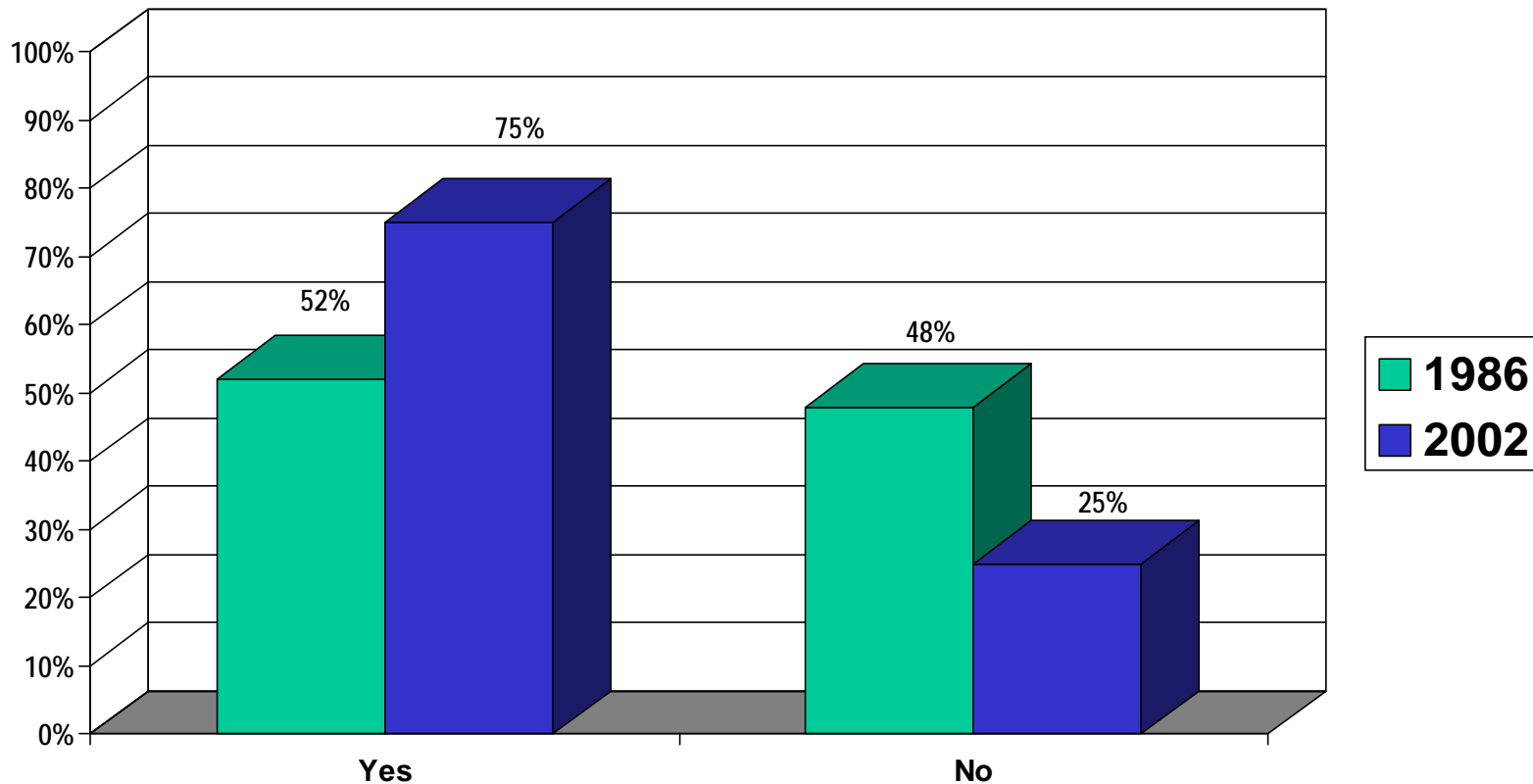
The 1986 study was commissioned by AARP with Hamilton, Frederick & Schneiders.

The 2002 study was commissioned by AARP with ReedHaldyMcIntosh & Associates.



# Prevalence of Prescription Drug Use

## Incidence of Regular Prescription Drug Use - Total - (n = 2,000 in 1986 and 1,250 in 2002)



Source: AARP, June 2002

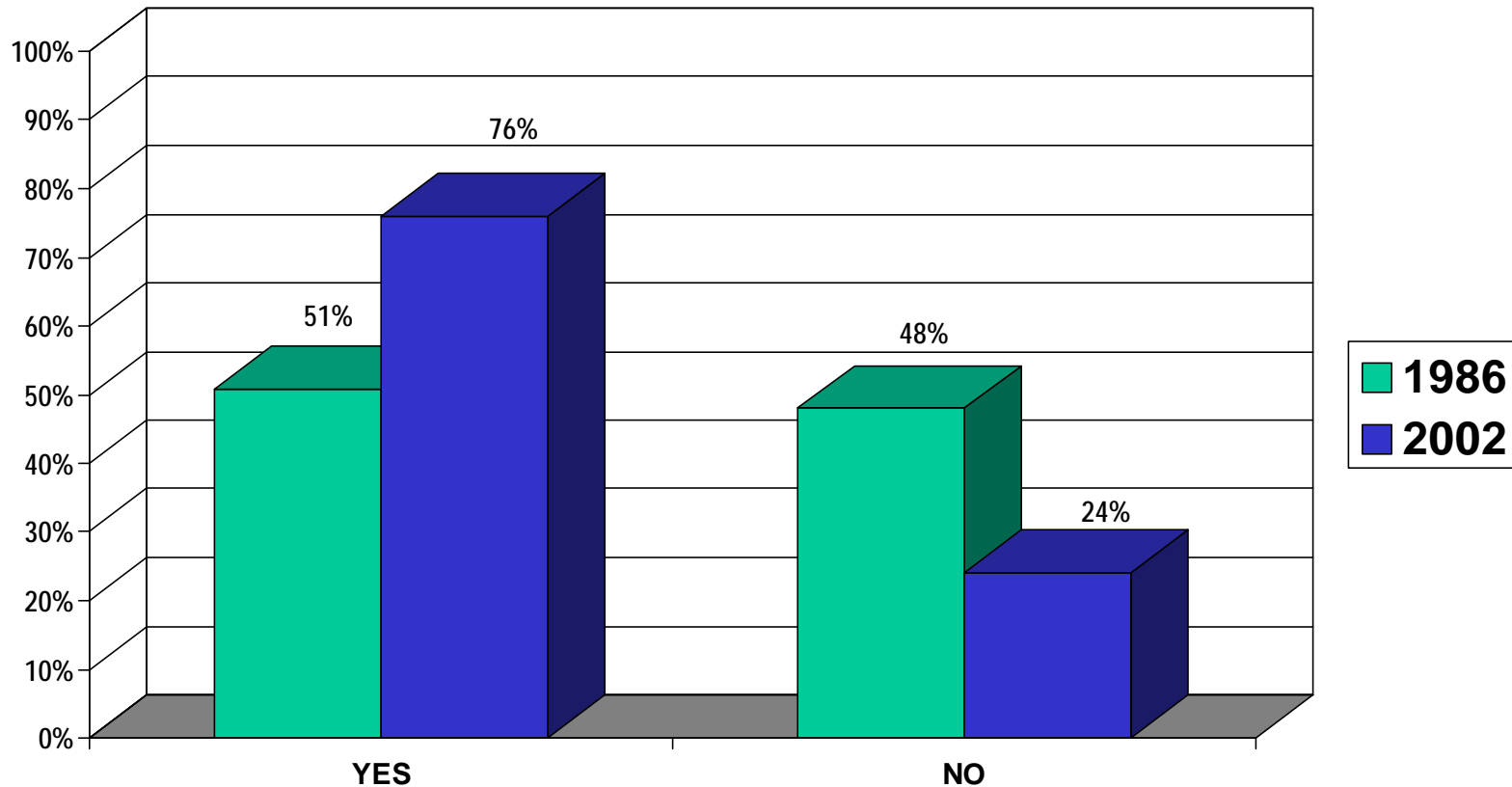
- The proportion of people age 45+ who say they currently take prescription medications on a regular basis has increased from 52% in 1986 to 75% in 2002.

Q. Are you currently taking any prescription drugs on a REGULAR basis?

# Drug Coverage

# Currently Covered by Health Insurance for Prescription Drugs

- *Current Prescription Drug Users –  
(n = 1,030 in 1986 and 947 in 2002)*



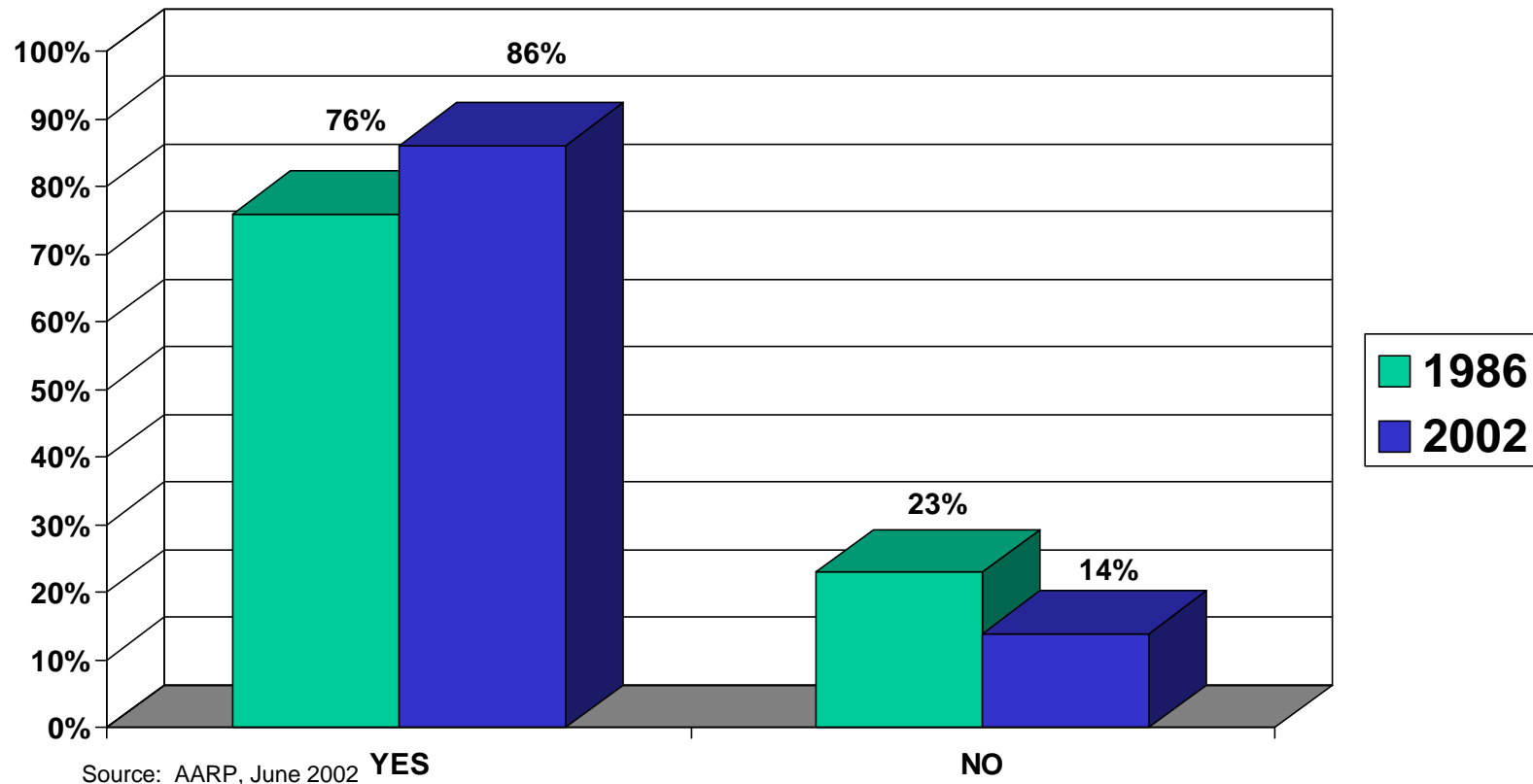
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Among people who take prescription drugs on a regular basis, the proportion who say they receive help paying for the drugs from insurance or other health coverage has increased from 51% in 1986 to 76% in 2002.

Q. Do you get any help in paying for these drugs from insurance or other health coverage?

# Incidence of Out-of-Pocket Expenses for Prescription Drugs

- *Current Prescription Drug Users With Drug Coverage –  
(n = 524 in 1986 and 714 in 2002)*

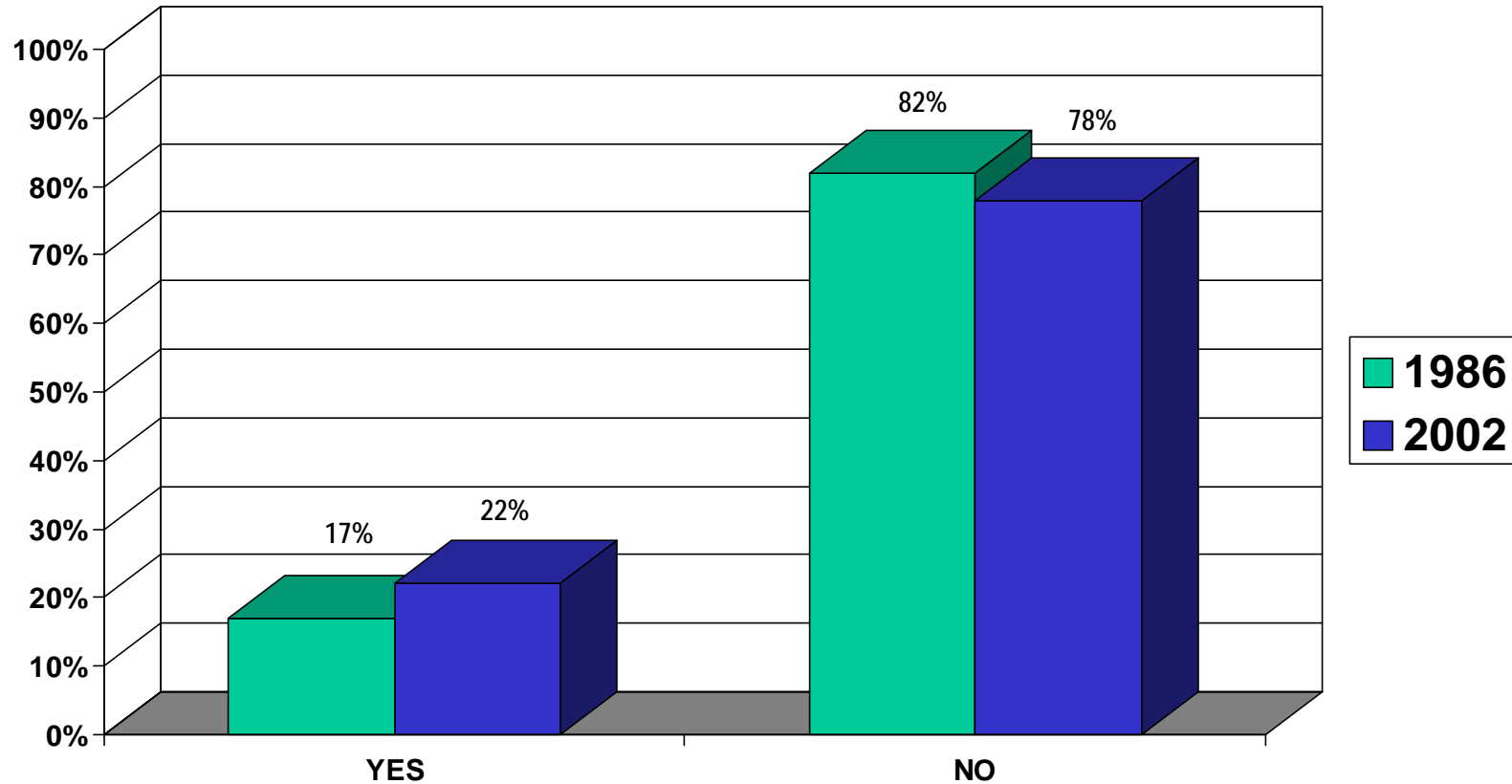


- The proportion of people who have co-pays has increased during the past 16 years from 76 percent to 86 percent. In 1986 a plurality (42%) said they paid ten dollars or less for their prescription medications per month.

Q. Do you have to pay any money out of your own pocket for prescriptions – that is money you do not get reimbursed for?

# **Compliance with Doctor's Orders**

# Incidence of Not Using A Prescription in Past Two Years - Total - (n = 2,000 in 1986 and 1,250 in 2002)



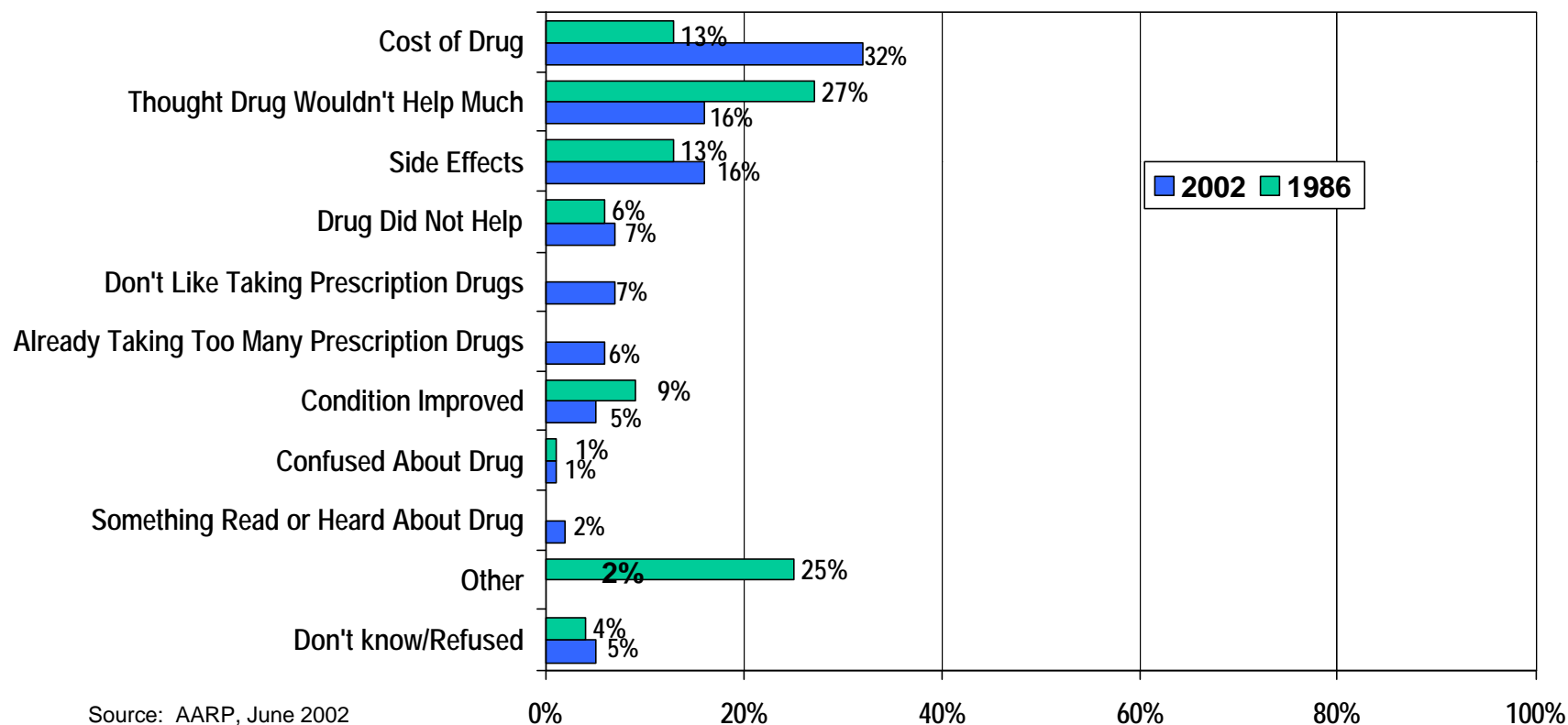
Source: AARP, June 2002

- Although most people fill their prescriptions, the proportion of people who have not complied with getting a prescription filled has risen slightly over the past 16 years.

Q. In the past two years, did you ever decide NOT to fill a prescription that your doctor had given you?

## Main Reason for Not Filling Prescription

**- Did Not Fill Prescription From Doctor Past 2 Years -**  
**(n = 341 in 1986 and 269 in 2002)**



- The proportion of people who say cost was a main reason for not the getting a prescription filled rose from 13 percent to 32 percent between 1986 and 2002. Cost was the most frequently cited reason for not getting a prescription filled in 2002.
- The proportion of people who say the reason they did not fill a prescription was because they thought the drug would not help much decreased from 27 percent to 16 percent during the past 16 years.

Q. Reasons for not filling prescription

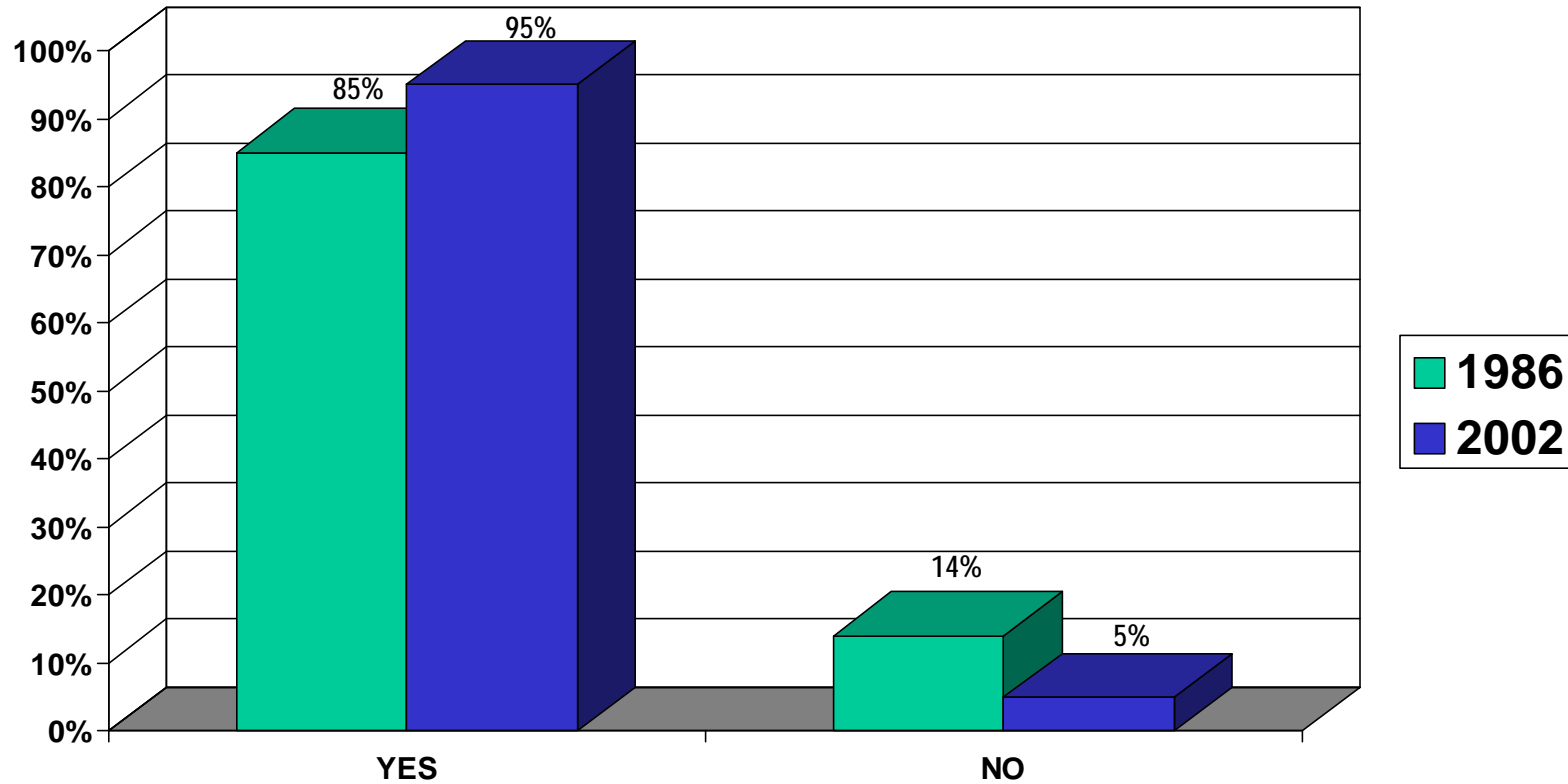


# **Familiarity with Generic Prescription Drugs**

# Incidence of Being Familiar with Generic Prescription Drugs

## - Total -

(n = 2,000 in 1986 and 1,250 in 2002)



Source: AARP, June 2002

- Americans age 45+ are more likely to have heard about generic prescription drugs today than in 1986 (95% versus 85%).

Q. Have you heard about generic prescription drugs?

## Beliefs About Generic Drugs

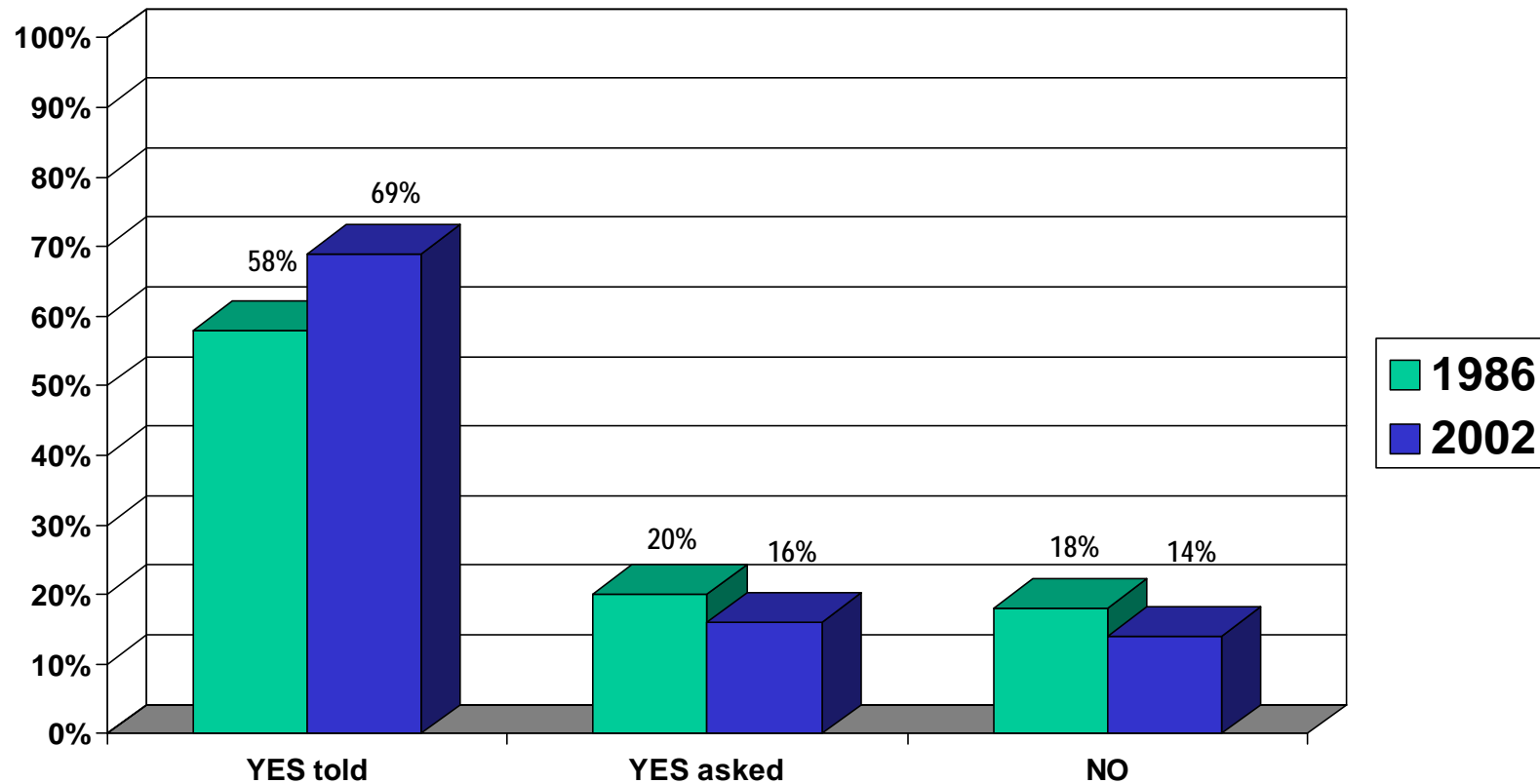
- In 1986 56% of the people who had heard of generic drugs said they thought the government has the same standards for safety, effectiveness, and quality for both generic and brand-name drugs. Seventeen percent said they thought the government has lower standards for generics and 27 per cent said they did not know.
- Among people who say they have heard about generic medications and believe there are differences between generic and brand name prescription drugs in 2002, 39 percent believe generics may be less effective and 23 percent believe generics may be poorer quality than brand name prescription drugs.

# **Discussion with Physician Regarding Prescription Drugs**

# Incidence of Discussing What Medication Was Supposed To Do

- Total -

(n = 2,000 in 1986 and 1,250 in 2002)



Source: AARP, June 2002

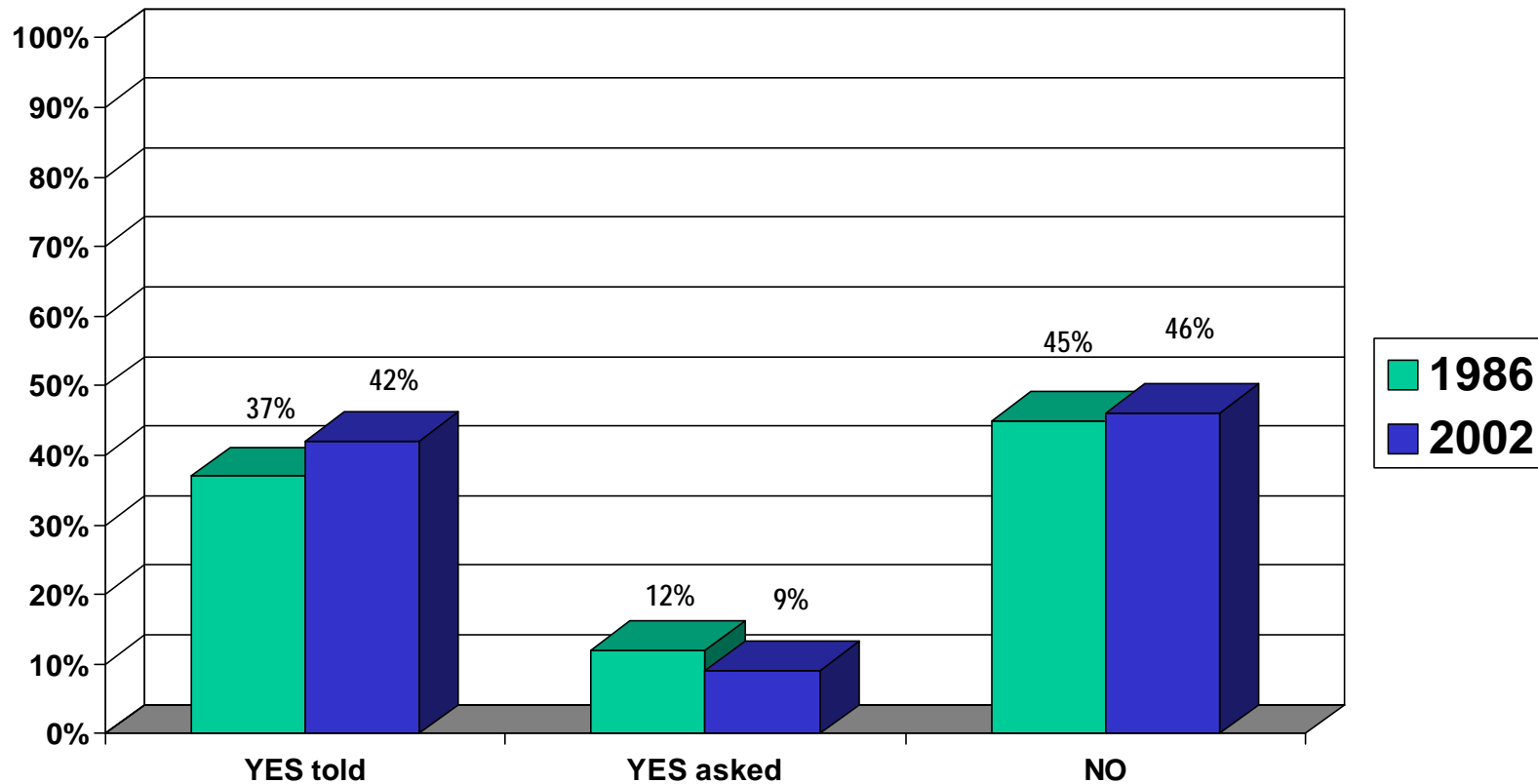
- The proportion of people who say their doctor discussed what the drug was supposed to do for them increased between 1986 and 2002 (58% and 69% respectively).

Q. The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about what the medicine was supposed to do?

# Incidence of Discussing Possible Side Effects While Using Prescription

- Total -

(n = 2,000 in 1986 and 1,250 in 2002)



Source: AARP, June 2002

- The proportion of people who say their doctor discussed prescription medication side effects with them increased slightly between 1986 and 2002 (37% and 42% respectively).

Q. The last time a doctor prescribed a medication for you, did you talk about what side effects might occur from the prescription?

## Incidence of Discussing How and When to Take Medications Precautions to Take

- Although a majority of adults age 45+ say their doctor talks to them about how and when to take medication (no change between 1986 and 2002, 74% and 73% respectively) this still means that over 25% of Americans age 45+ say their doctor does not talk with them about how and when to take their medications.
- Less than half of the respondents say their doctor talked to them about precautions to take when using prescription medications (no change between 1986 and 2002, 47% and 49% respectively. Obviously, this suggests that more than half of the respondents say their doctor has not talked with them about the precautions they should take when using their prescription medications.

## Health Status and Satisfaction

- Almost three in four (74%) of our respondents in 2002 say that compared to other people their age, their health is excellent (17%), very good (28%), or good(29%).
- Yet, a smaller proportion of people 45+ are satisfied with their health and physical condition today (69%) than in 1986 (84%), a similar point spread exists between those who say they are very satisfied (40% versus 54%).



## Implications 1986 - 2002

- The regular use of prescription medications among Americans age 45+ has risen over the past 16 years as more people have insurance or other health coverage that helps them pay prescription costs. More people who have prescription drug coverage also pay a portion of the cost for which they are not reimbursed. A small, but increasing proportion of people say they recently had a prescription they did not fill because of the medication's cost.
- While most Americans 45+ say they are aware of generic prescriptions, few understand the difference between generic and brand name medications (including the potential cost savings) and few ask their doctor for generics when they are available. This suggests we have an opportunity to educate the public about generics and to encourage them to talk with their doctors about whether generics are right for them.

## Implications 1986 – 2002 Continued

- Communication between doctors and their patients regarding the use of prescription medications should be improved to enhance the potential benefits of prescription drugs. This is especially the case regarding patient education about precautions they need to take when using prescription medications. Doctors also have an opportunity to improve patient education about how and when to take medications.

Unweighted Data  
Base = 1250 Respondents  
Age

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
20%	250	<b>45 – 49</b>
40%	500	<b>50 – 64</b>
40%	500	<b>65 or older</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

1. Compared to people your age, would you say your health is...?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
17%	218	<b>Excellent</b>
28%	352	<b>Very Good</b>
29%	365	<b>Good</b>
17%	208	<b>Fair</b>
8%	105	<b>Poor</b>
<1%	2	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

- 2A/2B. How do you feel about your health and physical condition – are you satisfied or dissatisfied?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
70%	871	<b>Satisfied (net)</b>
40%	498	<b>Very satisfied</b>
29%	366	<b>Somewhat satisfied</b>
<1%	5	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	2	<b>Refused</b>
29%	366	<b>Dissatisfied (net)</b>
18%	228	<b>Somewhat dissatisfied</b>
11%	137	<b>Very dissatisfied</b>
<1%	1	<b>Don't know</b>
1%	11	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	2	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

- 2C. In the last two years, did you ever decide not to fill a prescription that your doctor had given you?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
21%	268	<b>Yes</b>
78%	978	<b>No</b>
<1%	3	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 268 Respondents who "did not fill a prescription a doctor had given" in Question 2C

3. What is the main reason you didn't fill your prescription?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
32%	85	<b>Cost of the drug</b>
16%	44	<b>Thought drug wouldn't help much</b>
16%	43	<b>Side effects of drug</b>
7%	18	<b>Drug did not help</b>
7%	18	<b>I don't like taking (prescription) drugs</b>
6%	17	<b>I am already taking too many (prescription) drugs</b>
5%	13	<b>Condition improved</b>
2%	5	<b>Something read or heard about the drug</b>
1%	4	<b>Confused about the drug</b>
<1%	2	<b>Use/ Look into other methods of treatment</b>
<1%	1	<b>Other</b>
<1%	1	<b>No reason</b>
<1%	1	<b>No need after receiving second opinion</b>
<1%	1	<b>No need, due to seasonal allergies only</b>
4%	12	<b>Don't know</b>
1%	3	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 268 Respondents who “did not fill a prescription a doctor had given” in Question 2C

3A. What other reasons did you have for not filling your prescription?

<b><u>%</u></b>	<b><u>n</u></b>	
8%	22	<b>Cost of the drug</b>
9%	23	<b>Drug didn't help</b>
5%	14	<b>Thought drug wouldn't help much</b>
4%	11	<b>Side effects of drug</b>
4%	11	<b>I don't like taking (prescription) drugs</b>
3%	7	<b>Confused about the drug</b>
3%	8	<b>I am already taking too many (prescription) drugs</b>
3%	9	<b>Condition improved</b>
1%	3	<b>Something read or heard about the drug</b>
1%	2	<b>Difficult to remember schedule of doses or how to take medication</b>
2%	4	<b>Other</b>
<1%	1	<b>No need after receiving second opinion</b>
21%	57	<b>No Other Reason</b>
29%	77	<b>Don't know</b>
6%	16	<b>No first mention</b>
1%	3	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

4. In the last two years, did you ever have a prescription filled, then decide to stop taking the drug before your prescription ran out?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
28%	348	<b>Yes</b>
72%	896	<b>No</b>
<1%	5	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 348 Respondents who "stopped taking prescription before it ran out" in Question 4

5. What is the main reason you stopped taking your prescription medicine?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
44%	153	<b>Side effects of drug</b>
16%	56	<b>Drug didn't help</b>
17%	59	<b>Condition improved</b>
4%	15	<b>I don't like taking (prescription) drugs</b>
4%	14	<b>Cost of the drug</b>
2%	8	<b>Thought drug wouldn't help much</b>
2%	6	<b>I am already taking too many (prescription) drugs</b>
1%	5	<b>Something read or heard about the drug</b>
1%	5	<b>Difficult to remember schedule of doses (or how to take medication)</b>
1%	5	<b>Confused about the drug</b>
1%	5	<b>Other</b>
<1%	1	<b>No reason</b>
3%	11	<b>Don't know</b>
1%	5	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 348 Respondents who “stopped taking prescription before it ran out” in Question 4

5A. For what other reasons did you stop taking your prescription medicine?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
11%	37	<b>Thought drug wouldn't help much</b>
9%	33	<b>Drug didn't help</b>
8%	28	<b>Side effects of drug</b>
3%	11	<b>Confused about the drug</b>
3%	12	<b>Condition improved</b>
3%	10	<b>I don't like taking (prescription) drugs</b>
3%	11	<b>Cost of the drug</b>
2%	6	<b>Difficult to remember schedule of doses (or how to take medication)</b>
1%	5	<b>I am already taking too many (prescription) drugs</b>
1%	4	<b>Something read or heard about the drug</b>
<1%	2	<b>Other</b>
6%	21	<b>No Other Reason</b>
42%	147	<b>Don't know</b>
5%	17	<b>No first mention</b>
1%	5	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

6A. The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about what the medicine was supposed to do?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
85%	1058	<b>Yes</b>
14%	178	<b>No</b>
1%	12	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	2	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1058 Respondents who “talked about what medicine was supposed to do” in Question 6A

6B. Were you told or did you have to ask?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
18%	193	<b>Had to ask</b>
80%	842	<b>Doctor told me</b>
2%	20	<b>Don’t remember</b>
<1%	3	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

7A. The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about how and when to take the medicine?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
81%	1015	<b>Yes</b>
18%	221	<b>No</b>
1%	12	<b>Don’t know</b>
<1%	2	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1015 Respondents who “talked about how and when to take medicine” in Question 7A

7B. Were you told or did you have to ask?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
9%	93	<b>Had to ask</b>
89%	907	<b>Doctor told me</b>
1%	14	<b>Don’t remember</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>



Base = 1250 Respondents

- 8A. The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about precautions to take while using the medicine?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
55%	686	<b>Yes</b>
42%	531	<b>No</b>
3%	32	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 686 Respondents who "talked about precautions to take while using medicine" in Question 8A

- 8B. Were you told or did you have to ask?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
11%	75	<b>Had to ask</b>
88%	605	<b>Doctor told me</b>
1%	5	<b>Don't remember</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

- 9A. The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about what side effects might occur from the prescription?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
51%	642	<b>Yes</b>
47%	582	<b>No</b>
2%	25	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 642 Respondents who “talked about side effects” in Question 9A

9B. Were you told or did you have to ask?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
17%	107	<b>Had to ask</b>
82%	525	<b>Doctor told me</b>
2%	10	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

10. Are you currently taking any prescription drugs on a regular basis?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
76%	947	<b>Yes</b>
24%	302	<b>No</b>
<1%	1	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 947 Respondents who are “currently taking any prescription drugs on a regular basis” in Question 10

11. How many prescription drugs do you take each day?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
<1%	4	<b>0</b>
21%	200	<b>1</b>
35%	330	<b>2 – 3</b>
24%	224	<b>4 – 5</b>
19%	181	<b>6 or more</b>
1%	8	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>

Base = 947 Respondents who are “currently taking any prescription drugs on a regular basis” in Question 10

12. Do you get any help in paying for these drugs from insurance or other health coverage?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
75%	711	<b>Yes</b>
25%	233	<b>No</b>
<1%	3	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 711 Respondents who “currently get help in paying for prescription drugs” in Question 12

13. In an average month, how much money do you think you would have to pay for your prescriptions if you did not get this help?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
4%	26	<b>\$0</b>
10%	70	<b>\$1 – \$49</b>
12%	84	<b>\$50 – \$99</b>
11%	78	<b>\$100 – \$149</b>
7%	50	<b>\$150 – \$199</b>
41%	288	<b>Over \$200</b>
15%	106	<b>Don't know</b>
1%	9	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 711 Respondents who “currently get help in paying for prescription drugs” in Question 12

14. Do you have to pay any money out of your own pocket for prescriptions –that is money you do not get reimbursed for?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
86%	609	<b>Yes</b>
14%	101	<b>No</b>
<1%	1	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 609 Respondents who “pay money out of pocket for prescription drugs” in Question 14

15. In an average month, how much do you have to pay?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
2%	15	<b>\$0</b>
59%	359	<b>\$1 – \$49</b>
16%	98	<b>\$50 – \$99</b>
8%	47	<b>\$100 – \$149</b>
4%	23	<b>\$150 – \$199</b>
7%	45	<b>Over \$200</b>
4%	22	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 535 Respondents who are “not taking prescription drugs on a regular basis” in Question 10 or “do not get help from insurance in paying for prescription drugs” in Question 12

16. In an average month, how much money do you usually have to pay for your prescription drugs?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
34%	181	<b>\$0</b>
28%	148	<b>\$1 – \$49</b>
9%	47	<b>\$50 – \$99</b>
7%	35	<b>\$100 – \$149</b>
4%	22	<b>\$150 – \$199</b>
15%	78	<b>Over \$200</b>
4%	23	<b>Don’t know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

17. Have you heard about generic prescription drugs?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
95%	1181	<b>Yes</b>
5%	67	<b>No</b>
<1%	2	<b>Don’t know</b>

Base = 1181 Respondents who have “heard of generic drugs” in Question 17

- 18A. Based on whatever you have seen or heard about generic prescription drugs, do you think they differ from brand name prescription drugs?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
27%	324	<b>Yes</b>
65%	767	<b>No</b>
7%	86	<b>Don’t know</b>
<1%	4	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 324 Respondents who “think generic prescription drugs differ from brand name” in Question 18A. (multiple mentions possible)

18B. How do you think generic prescription drugs differ from brand prescription drugs?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
39%	126	<b>Generic prescription drugs may be less effective than brand name prescription drugs</b>
23%	74	<b>Generic prescription drugs may be poorer quality than brand name prescription drugs</b>
13%	42	<b>Generic and prescription drugs are the same chemically (same active ingredients) but have different fillers and / or binders (inactive ingredients)</b>
15%	48	<b>Generic prescriptions cost less than brand name drugs</b>
3%	9	<b>Generic means the patent has run out on a brand name drug</b>
1%	4	<b>Any company can manufacture generic drugs</b>
<1%	2	<b>Generic prescription drugs may have side effects</b>
1%	4	<b>Other differences</b>
9%	28	<b>Don't know</b>
2%	6	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

19. I am going to read you a list of actions you might take after your doctor has written you a prescription. For each, please tell me whether you do it always, often, sometimes or never.

	ALWAYS	OFTEN	SOME-TIMES	NEVER	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
<b>Take prescription drugs as your doctor prescribes</b>	1063 85%	88 7%	58 5%	34 3%	6 <1%	1 <1%
<b>Shop around for the best price</b>	168 13%	42 3%	196 16%	833 67%	8 1%	3 <1%
<b>Ask your pharmacist about potential side effects</b>	301 24%	76 6%	268 21%	589 47%	12 1%	4 <1%
<b>Ask your doctor for generic prescription drugs instead of brand name drugs when generics are available</b>	385 31%	80 6%	167 13%	602 48%	15 1%	1 <1%
<b>Ask your pharmacist for generic prescription drugs instead of brand name drugs when generics are available and approved by your doctor</b>	389 31%	80 6%	169 14%	591 47%	18 1%	3 <1%
<b>Read the literature that comes with your prescription drugs</b>	863 69%	113 9%	153 12%	116 9%	4 <1%	1 <1%
<b>Skip doses or cut pills to make the medicine last longer</b>	25 2%	22 2%	175 14%	1021 82%	6 <1%	1 <1%
<b>Ask your doctor for samples of the prescription drug to see if it works before buying it</b>	176 14%	77 6%	264 21%	726 58%	6 <1%	1 <1%
<b>Try to understand what you are taking and why you are taking it</b>	995 80%	101 8%	69 6%	74 6%	9 1%	2 <1%
<b>Tell your doctor about all the prescription drugs and over the counter medications you are currently taking</b>	840 67%	72 6%	124 10%	189 15%	22 2%	3 <1%
<b>Talk to friends or family who may be familiar with the drug</b>	229 18%	173 14%	415 33%	424 34%	7 1%	2 <1%

Base = 1250 Respondents

21. In the past two years, have you asked your pharmacist questions about your prescription medications?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
50%	628	<b>Yes</b>
49%	613	<b>No</b>
1%	9	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

22. If you have questions about your prescription medicine(s), would you be...?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
35%	440	<b>Much more likely to talk to your doctor than your pharmacist</b>
8%	104	<b>Somewhat more likely to talk to your doctor</b>
31%	393	<b>Equally likely to talk to your doctor or pharmacist</b>
7%	84	<b>Somewhat more likely to talk to your pharmacist than your doctor, or</b>
17%	214	<b>Much more likely to talk to your pharmacist</b>
1%	11	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	4	<b>Refused</b>



Now I would like you to compare your doctor and your pharmacist on some characteristics.

Base = 1250 Respondents

23A. Do you feel your doctor or your pharmacist is more...or are they about the same?

Base = 1250 Respondents

23B. Would that be much more or somewhat more?

	Doctor is much more	Doctor is somewhat more	Both are the same	Pharmacist is somewhat more	Pharmacist is much more	DK	Ref
<b>Knowledgeable about prescription drugs</b>	133 11%	109 9%	683 55%	137 11%	136 11%	49 4%	3 <1%
<b>Objective about prescription drugs</b>	104 8%	79 6%	796 64%	91 7%	65 5%	110 9%	5 <1%
<b>Easy to talk to about prescription drugs</b>	196 16%	91 7%	773 62%	64 5%	94 8%	26 2%	6 <1%
<b>Accessible</b>	127 10%	58 5%	650 52%	156 12%	233 19%	24 2%	2 <1%

Base = 1250 Respondents

24. Have you ever seen prescription drugs advertised on television, in newspapers or in magazines?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
91%	1142	<b>Yes</b>
8%	96	<b>No</b>
1%	11	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1142 Respondents who “have seen prescription drugs advertised” in Question 24

25. Have you ever asked your doctor for a prescription drug based on advertising you have seen about the drug?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
21%	237	<b>Yes</b>
79%	901	<b>No</b>
<1%	3	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 237 Respondents who “have asked doctors for a prescription drug based on advertising seen about the drug” in Question 25

26. Did your doctor write you a prescription for the drug?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
57%	135	<b>Yes</b>
41%	97	<b>No</b>
2%	4	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

27A. I am going to read some statements that may or may not be important to you personally. For each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree. Do you agree or disagree with...?

Base = 1250 Respondents

27B. Do you strongly or only somewhat agree/disagree?

	AGREE				DISAGREE				DK	REF
	STRO NGLY	SOME WHAT	DK	REF	STRO NGLY	SOME WHAT	DK	REF		
<b>I don't mind taking prescription drugs when my doctor prescribes them</b>	789 63%	287 23%	12 1%	0 0%	50 4%	88 7%	2 <1%	0 0%	19 2%	3 <1%
<b>It is important to me to understand why my doctor prescribed the drugs the way he/she did</b>	1066 85%	125 10%	4 <1%	2 <1%	9 1%	28 2%	0 0%	0 0%	12 1%	4 <1%
<b>I don't like taking prescription drugs even when my doctor prescribes them</b>	337 27%	222 18%	5 <1%	0 0%	412 33%	241 19%	10 1%	1 <1%	19 2%	3 <1%
<b>Taking prescription drugs makes me feel I am getting older</b>	186 15%	162 13%	1 <1%	0 0%	581 46%	263 21%	8 1%	2 <1%	42 3%	5 <1%
<b>Taking prescription drugs makes me feel dependent</b>	254 20%	212 17%	4 <1%	0 0%	469 38%	265 21%	6 <1%	0 0%	37 3%	3 <1%

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Base = 1250 Respondents

D1. Record gender by observation

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
33%	416	<b>Male</b>
66%	831	<b>Female</b>
<1%	3	<b>Unable to determine</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

D2. What is the last level of education that you completed?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
11%	140	<b>Less than high school</b>
32%	396	<b>High school graduate or equivalent</b>
4%	45	<b>Post high school vocational training</b>
23%	292	<b>Some college</b>
18%	231	<b>College graduate (4 years)</b>
4%	50	<b>Some post-graduate work</b>
6%	81	<b>Post-graduate degree</b>
1%	15	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

D3. Which of the following best describes your employment status?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
32%	402	<b>Work <u>full-time</u></b>
8%	101	<b>Work <u>part-time</u></b>
7%	86	<b>Full time homemaker</b>
6%	72	<b>Unemployed, laid off or looking for work</b>
46%	576	<b>Retired</b>
1%	13	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

D4. Which of the following best describes you?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
57%	708	<b>Married</b>
11%	136	<b>Divorced</b>
2%	23	<b>Separated</b>
20%	249	<b>Widowed</b>
2%	21	<b>Living with a steady partner, but not married</b>
1%	13	<b>Have a steady partner, but do not live with him/her</b>
7%	85	<b>Single, without a steady partner</b>
1%	15	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

D5. What do you consider to be your racial or ethnic background?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
85%	1057	<b>White/Caucasian</b>
8%	98	<b>Black/African American</b>
<1%	2	<b>Asian</b>
<1%	4	<b>Pacific Islander</b>
2%	20	<b>Native American/Alaskan</b>
1%	16	<b>Hispanic</b>
1%	8	<b>Other</b>
1%	9	<b>Don't know</b>
3%	36	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

D6. Are you or is your spouse a member of any of the following organizations?

	Yes	No	DK	Ref
<b>American Automobile Association (AAA)</b>	387 31%	843 67%	6 <1%	14 1%
<b>AARP</b>	543 43%	683 55%	12 1%	12 1%
<b>A religious organization, such as a church, a synagogue or a mosque</b>	894 72%	338 27%	4 <1%	14 1%

Base = 1250 Respondents

D7. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2001? Stop me when I get to the right category.

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
10%	123	<b>Less than \$10,000</b>
13%	159	<b>\$10,000 to just under \$20,000</b>
13%	160	<b>\$20,000 to just under \$30,000</b>
10%	119	<b>\$30,000 to just under \$40,000</b>
10%	119	<b>\$40,000 to just under \$50,000</b>
11%	133	<b>\$50,000 to just under \$75,000, or</b>
13%	159	<b>\$75,000 or more</b>
8%	95	<b>Don't know</b>
15%	183	<b>Refused</b>

Weighted Data  
Base = 1250 Respondents  
Age

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
21%	256	<b>45 – 49</b>
44%	545	<b>50 – 64</b>
36%	449	<b>65 or older</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

1. Compared to people your age, would you say your health is...?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
18%	220	<b>Excellent</b>
28%	352	<b>Very Good</b>
29%	363	<b>Good</b>
16%	206	<b>Fair</b>
8%	106	<b>Poor</b>
<1%	2	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

- 2A/2B. How do you feel about your health and physical condition – are you satisfied or dissatisfied?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
69%	867	<b>Satisfied (net)</b>
40%	497	<b>Very satisfied</b>
29%	364	<b>Somewhat satisfied</b>
<1%	5	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	2	<b>Refused</b>
30%	370	<b>Dissatisfied (net)</b>
18%	229	<b>Somewhat dissatisfied</b>
11%	140	<b>Very dissatisfied</b>
<1%	1	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	11	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	2	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

- 2C. In the last two years, did you ever decide not to fill a prescription that your doctor had given you?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
22%	273	<b>Yes</b>
78%	973	<b>No</b>
<1%	3	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 273 Respondents who "did not fill a prescription a doctor had given" in Question 2C

3. What is the main reason you didn't fill your prescription?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
32%	86	<b>Cost of the drug</b>
17%	45	<b>Thought drug wouldn't help much</b>
16%	43	<b>Side effects of drug</b>
7%	19	<b>Drug did not help</b>
7%	18	<b>I don't like taking (prescription) drugs</b>
6%	17	<b>I am already taking too many (prescription) drugs</b>
5%	14	<b>Condition improved</b>
2%	5	<b>Something read or heard about the drug</b>
2%	4	<b>Confused about the drug</b>
<1%	2	<b>Use/ Look into other methods of treatment</b>
<1%	1	<b>Other</b>
<1%	1	<b>No reason</b>
<1%	1	<b>No need after receiving second opinion</b>
<1%	1	<b>No need, due to seasonal allergies only</b>
4%	12	<b>Don't know</b>
1%	3	<b>Refused</b>



Base = 273 Respondents who “did not fill a prescription a doctor had given” in Question 2C

3A. What other reasons did you have for not filling your prescription?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
8%	22	<b>Cost of the drug</b>
9%	24	<b>Drug didn't help</b>
5%	14	<b>Thought drug wouldn't help much</b>
4%	12	<b>Side effects of drug</b>
4%	11	<b>I don't like taking (prescription) drugs</b>
3%	7	<b>Confused about the drug</b>
3%	8	<b>I am already taking too many (prescription) drugs</b>
4%	10	<b>Condition improved</b>
1%	3	<b>Something read or heard about the drug</b>
1%	2	<b>Difficult to remember schedule of doses or how to take medication</b>
2%	4	<b>Other</b>
<1%	1	<b>No need after receiving second opinion</b>
21%	57	<b>No Other Reason</b>
29%	77	<b>Don't know</b>
6%	16	<b>No first mention</b>
1%	3	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

4. In the last two years, did you ever have a prescription filled, then decide to stop taking the drug before your prescription ran out?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
28%	351	<b>Yes</b>
71%	894	<b>No</b>
<1%	5	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 351 Respondents who "stopped taking prescription before it ran out" in Question 4

5. What is the main reason you stopped taking your prescription medicine?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
43%	152	<b>Side effects of drug</b>
16%	57	<b>Drug didn't help</b>
17%	61	<b>Condition improved</b>
4%	16	<b>I don't like taking (prescription) drugs</b>
4%	14	<b>Cost of the drug</b>
2%	8	<b>Thought drug wouldn't help much</b>
2%	6	<b>I am already taking too many (prescription) drugs</b>
1%	5	<b>Something read or heard about the drug</b>
1%	5	<b>Difficult to remember schedule of doses (or how to take medication)</b>
1%	5	<b>Confused about the drug</b>
1%	5	<b>Other</b>
<1%	1	<b>No reason</b>
3%	11	<b>Don't know</b>
1%	5	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 351 Respondents who “stopped taking prescription before it ran out” in Question 4

5A. For what other reasons did you stop taking your prescription medicine?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
11%	38	<b>Thought drug wouldn't help much</b>
9%	32	<b>Drug didn't help</b>
8%	28	<b>Side effects of drug</b>
3%	12	<b>Confused about the drug</b>
3%	12	<b>Condition improved</b>
3%	10	<b>I don't like taking (prescription) drugs</b>
3%	11	<b>Cost of the drug</b>
2%	6	<b>Difficult to remember schedule of doses (or how to take medication)</b>
1%	5	<b>I am already taking too many (prescription) drugs</b>
1%	4	<b>Something read or heard about the drug</b>
<1%	2	<b>Other</b>
6%	21	<b>No Other Reason</b>
43%	149	<b>Don't know</b>
5%	17	<b>No first mention</b>
1%	5	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

6A. The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about what the medicine was supposed to do?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
85%	1060	<b>Yes</b>
14%	177	<b>No</b>
1%	11	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	2	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1060 Respondents who “talked about what medicine was supposed to do” in Question 6A

6B. Were you told or did you have to ask?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
18%	195	<b>Had to ask</b>
80%	842	<b>Doctor told me</b>
2%	20	<b>Don’t remember</b>
<1%	3	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

7A. The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about how and when to take the medicine?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
81%	1017	<b>Yes</b>
17%	220	<b>No</b>
1%	11	<b>Don’t know</b>
<1%	2	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1017 Respondents who “talked about how and when to take medicine” in Question 7A

7B. Were you told or did you have to ask?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
9%	93	<b>Had to ask</b>
89%	908	<b>Doctor told me</b>
1%	14	<b>Don’t remember</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

8A. The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about precautions to take while using the medicine?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
55%	689	<b>Yes</b>
42%	528	<b>No</b>
3%	32	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 689 Respondents who "talked about precautions to take while using medicine" in Question 8A

8B. Were you told or did you have to ask?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
11%	77	<b>Had to ask</b>
88%	606	<b>Doctor told me</b>
1%	5	<b>Don't remember</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

9A. The last time a doctor prescribed a medicine for you, did you talk about what side effects might occur from the prescription?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
52%	647	<b>Yes</b>
46%	578	<b>No</b>
2%	25	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 647 Respondents who “talked about side effects” in Question 9A

9B. Were you told or did you have to ask?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
17%	111	<b>Had to ask</b>
81%	526	<b>Doctor told me</b>
2%	10	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

10. Are you currently taking any prescription drugs on a regular basis?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
75%	941	<b>Yes</b>
25%	308	<b>No</b>
<1%	1	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 941 Respondents who are “currently taking any prescription drugs on a regular basis” in Question 10

11. How many prescription drugs do you take each day?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
<1%	4	<b>0</b>
21%	202	<b>1</b>
35%	327	<b>2 – 3</b>
23%	220	<b>4 – 5</b>
19%	179	<b>6 or more</b>
1%	8	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>

Base = 941 Respondents who are “currently taking any prescription drugs on a regular basis” in Question 10

12. Do you get any help in paying for these drugs from insurance or other health coverage?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
76%	714	<b>Yes</b>
24%	224	<b>No</b>
<1%	3	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 714 Respondents who “currently get help in paying for prescription drugs” in Question 12

13. In an average month, how much money do you think you would have to pay for your prescriptions if you did not get this help?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
4%	26	<b>\$0</b>
10%	70	<b>\$1 – \$49</b>
12%	85	<b>\$50 – \$99</b>
11%	78	<b>\$100 – \$149</b>
7%	50	<b>\$150 – \$199</b>
41%	291	<b>Over \$200</b>
15%	104	<b>Don't know</b>
1%	9	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 714 Respondents who “currently get help in paying for prescription drugs” in Question 12

14. Do you have to pay any money out of your own pocket for prescriptions –that is money you do not get reimbursed for?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
86%	611	<b>Yes</b>
14%	102	<b>No</b>
<1%	1	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 611 Respondents who “pay money out of pocket for prescription drugs” in Question 14

15. In an average month, how much do you have to pay?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
2%	15	<b>\$0</b>
59%	363	<b>\$1 – \$49</b>
16%	99	<b>\$50 – \$99</b>
8%	46	<b>\$100 – \$149</b>
4%	23	<b>\$150 – \$199</b>
7%	44	<b>Over \$200</b>
3%	21	<b>Don't know</b>



Base = 532 Respondents who are “not taking prescription drugs on a regular basis” in Question 10 or “do not get help from insurance in paying for prescription drugs” in Question 12

16. In an average month, how much money do you usually have to pay for your prescription drugs?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
35%	185	<b>\$0</b>
28%	148	<b>\$1 – \$49</b>
9%	46	<b>\$50 – \$99</b>
6%	33	<b>\$100 – \$149</b>
4%	20	<b>\$150 – \$199</b>
14%	76	<b>Over \$200</b>
4%	23	<b>Don’t know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

17. Have you heard about generic prescription drugs?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
95%	1182	<b>Yes</b>
5%	66	<b>No</b>
<1%	2	<b>Don’t know</b>

Base = 1182 Respondents who have “heard of generic drugs” in Question 17

- 18A. Based on whatever you have seen or heard about generic prescription drugs, do you think they differ from brand name prescription drugs?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
28%	327	<b>Yes</b>
65%	767	<b>No</b>
7%	83	<b>Don’t know</b>
<1%	4	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 327 Respondents who “think generic prescription drugs differ from brand name” in Question 18A. (multiple mentions possible)

18B. How do you think generic prescription drugs differ from brand prescription drugs?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
39%	126	<b>Generic prescription drugs may be less effective than brand name prescription drugs</b>
23%	75	<b>Generic prescription drugs may be poorer quality than brand name prescription drugs</b>
14%	47	<b>Generic and prescription drugs are the same chemically (same active ingredients) but have different fillers and / or binders (inactive ingredients)</b>
13%	42	<b>Generic prescriptions cost less than brand name drugs</b>
3%	9	<b>Generic means the patent has run out on a brand name drug</b>
1%	4	<b>Any company can manufacture generic drugs</b>
<1%	2	<b>Generic prescription drugs may have side effects</b>
1%	4	<b>Other differences</b>
9%	28	<b>Don't know</b>
2%	6	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

19. I am going to read you a list of actions you might take after your doctor has written you a prescription. For each, please tell me whether you do it always, often, sometimes or never.

	ALWAYS	OFTEN	SOME-TIMES	NEVER	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
<b>Take prescription drugs as your doctor prescribes</b>	1060 85%	89 7%	59 5%	34 3%	6 <1%	1 <1%
<b>Shop around for the best price</b>	168 13%	42 3%	196 16%	834 67%	8 1%	2 <1%
<b>Ask your pharmacist about potential side effects</b>	306 24%	78 6%	268 21%	582 47%	12 1%	4 <1%
<b>Ask your doctor for generic prescription drugs instead of brand name drugs when generics are available</b>	388 31%	81 6%	166 13%	599 48%	14 1%	1 <1%
<b>Ask your pharmacist for generic prescription drugs instead of brand name drugs when generics are available and approved by your doctor</b>	393 31%	81 6%	169 14%	486 47%	17 1%	3 <1%
<b>Read the literature that comes with your prescription drugs</b>	863 69%	115 9%	152 12%	114 9%	4 <1%	1 <1%
<b>Skip doses or cut pills to make the medicine last longer</b>	26 2%	22 2%	176 14%	1020 82%	5 <1%	1 <1%
<b>Ask your doctor for samples of the prescription drug to see if it works before buying it</b>	177 14%	78 6%	265 21%	723 58%	6 <1%	1 <1%
<b>Try to understand what you are taking and why you are taking it</b>	995 80%	102 8%	70 6%	73 6%	8 1%	2 <1%
<b>Tell your doctor about all the prescription drugs and over the counter medications you are currently taking</b>	847 68%	72 6%	121 10%	185 15%	21 2%	3 <1%
<b>Talk to friends or family who may be familiar with the drug</b>	232 19%	174 14%	417 33%	418 33%	7 1%	2 <1%

Base = 1250 Respondents

21. In the past two years, have you asked your pharmacist questions about your prescription medications?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
51%	636	<b>Yes</b>
48%	606	<b>No</b>
1%	9	<b>Don't know</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

22. If you have questions about your prescription medicine(s), would you be...?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
35%	436	<b>Much more likely to talk to your doctor than your pharmacist</b>
8%	101	<b>Somewhat more likely to talk to your doctor</b>
31%	397	<b>Equally likely to talk to your doctor or pharmacist</b>
7%	85	<b>Somewhat more likely to talk to your pharmacist than your doctor, or</b>
17%	217	<b>Much more likely to talk to your pharmacist</b>
1%	11	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	4	<b>Refused</b>

Now I would like you to compare your doctor and your pharmacist on some characteristics.

Base = 1250 Respondents

23A. Do you feel your doctor or your pharmacist is more...or are they about the same?

Base = 1250 Respondents

23B. Would that be much more or somewhat more?

	Doctor is much more	Doctor is somewhat more	Both are the same	Pharmacist is somewhat more	Pharmacist is much more	DK	Ref
<b>Knowledgeable about prescription drugs</b>	132 11%	109 9%	683 55%	138 11%	138 11%	47 4%	3 <1%
<b>Objective about prescription drugs</b>	104 8%	79 6%	796 64%	93 7%	67 5%	109 9%	5 <1%
<b>Easy to talk to about prescription drugs</b>	193 15%	92 7%	773 62%	65 5%	96 8%	25 2%	6 <1%
<b>Accessible</b>	126 10%	58 5%	650 52%	157 13%	238 19%	24 2%	2 <1%

Base = 1250 Respondents

24. Have you ever seen prescription drugs advertised on television, in newspapers or in magazines?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
92%	1145	<b>Yes</b>
7%	93	<b>No</b>
1%	10	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1145 Respondents who “have seen prescription drugs advertised” in Question 24

25. Have you ever asked your doctor for a prescription drug based on advertising you have seen about the drug?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
21%	241	<b>Yes</b>
79%	900	<b>No</b>
<1%	3	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 237 Respondents who “have asked doctors for a prescription drug based on advertising seen about the drug” in Question 25

26. Did your doctor write you a prescription for the drug?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
58%	138	<b>Yes</b>
40%	97	<b>No</b>
2%	4	<b>Don't know</b>
<1%	1	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

27A. I am going to read some statements that may or may not be important to you personally. For each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree. Do you agree or disagree with...?

Base = 1250 Respondents

27B. Do you strongly or only somewhat agree/disagree?

	AGREE				DISAGREE				DK	REF
	STRO NGLY	SOME WHAT	DK	REF	STRO NGLY	SOME WHAT	DK	REF		
<b>I don't mind taking prescription drugs when my doctor prescribes them</b>	784 63%	290 23%	11 1%	0 0%	51 4%	89 7%	2 <1%	0 0%	19 2%	3 <1%
<b>It is important to me to understand why my doctor prescribed the drugs the way he/she did</b>	1070 86%	123 10%	4 <1%	2 <1%	9 1%	28 2%	0 0%	0 0%	11 1%	4 <1%
<b>I don't like taking prescription drugs even when my doctor prescribes them</b>	336 27%	222 18%	5 <1%	0 0%	413 33%	241 19%	10 1%	1 <1%	19 1%	3 <1%
<b>Taking prescription drugs makes me feel I am getting older</b>	187 15%	162 13%	1 <1%	0 0%	581 47%	263 21%	8 1%	2 <1%	40 3%	5 <1%
<b>Taking prescription drugs makes me feel dependent</b>	254 20%	212 17%	4 <1%	0 0%	473 38%	263 21%	6 <1%	0 0%	36 3%	3 <1%

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Base = 1250 Respondents

D1. Record gender by observation

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
33%	416	<b>Male</b>
66%	831	<b>Female</b>
<1%	3	<b>Unable to determine</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

D2. What is the last level of education that you completed?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
11%	135	<b>Less than high school</b>
31%	391	<b>High school graduate or equivalent</b>
4%	46	<b>Post high school vocational training</b>
23%	293	<b>Some college</b>
19%	236	<b>College graduate (4 years)</b>
4%	52	<b>Some post-graduate work</b>
7%	82	<b>Post-graduate degree</b>
1%	14	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

D3. Which of the following best describes your employment status?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
34%	422	<b>Work <u>full-time</u></b>
8%	104	<b>Work <u>part-time</u></b>
7%	88	<b>Full time homemaker</b>
6%	76	<b>Unemployed, laid off or looking for work</b>
44%	547	<b>Retired</b>
1%	13	<b>Refused</b>



Base = 1250 Respondents

D4. Which of the following best describes you?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
57%	718	<b>Married</b>
11%	140	<b>Divorced</b>
2%	23	<b>Separated</b>
19%	232	<b>Widowed</b>
2%	22	<b>Living with a steady partner, but not married</b>
1%	14	<b>Have a steady partner, but do not live with him/her</b>
7%	86	<b>Single, without a steady partner</b>
1%	15	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

D5. What do you consider to be your racial or ethnic background?

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
85%	1056	<b>White/Caucasian</b>
8%	98	<b>Black/African American</b>
<1%	2	<b>Asian</b>
<1%	4	<b>Pacific Islander</b>
2%	20	<b>Native American/Alaskan</b>
1%	17	<b>Hispanic</b>
1%	8	<b>Other</b>
1%	9	<b>Don't know</b>
3%	36	<b>Refused</b>

Base = 1250 Respondents

D6. Are you or is your spouse a member of any of the following organizations?

	Yes	No	DK	Ref
<b>American Automobile Association (AAA)</b>	386 31%	844 68%	6 <1%	14 1%
<b>AARP</b>	537 43%	690 55%	11 1%	12 1%
<b>A religious organization, such as a church, a synagogue or a mosque</b>	891 71%	342 27%	4 <1%	13 1%

Base = 1250 Respondents

D7. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2001? Stop me when I get to the right category.

<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>	
10%	121	<b>Less than \$10,000</b>
12%	154	<b>\$10,000 to just under \$20,000</b>
13%	160	<b>\$20,000 to just under \$30,000</b>
10%	119	<b>\$30,000 to just under \$40,000</b>
10%	120	<b>\$40,000 to just under \$50,000</b>
11%	137	<b>\$50,000 to just under \$75,000, or</b>
13%	166	<b>\$75,000 or more</b>
7%	92	<b>Don't know</b>
14%	180	<b>Refused</b>