

**AARP SURVEY ON MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN  
SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS  
NOVEMBER 20, 2003**

Conducted by Knowledge Networks for AARP on November 19<sup>th</sup>  
494 AARP members interviewed  
Sampling margin of error of +/- 4.4 percentage points  
Note that some totals do not total to 100% due to rounding.

As you may know, Medicare is the health insurance program for people 65 and older. People in Medicare currently pay about \$58 per month for their health insurance, which does **not** cover prescription drugs taken outside of a hospital.

A bill is now being considered in Congress that would add prescription drug coverage to Medicare. We will show you an overview of the plan being considered and ask you some questions about it.

1. First, how much, if anything, have you read, seen or heard about a Medicare prescription drug debate in Congress?

A great deal	8%
A fair amount	42%
Very little	46%
Nothing	4%

2. How familiar are you with the specifics of the plan that is being considered in Congress?

Very familiar	2%
Somewhat familiar	35%
Not very familiar	49%
Not at all familiar	13%
REFUSED	1%

This plan is voluntary. Seniors who want the benefit would pay a monthly premium of about \$35 and an annual deductible of about \$275. Medicare would cover 75% of seniors' prescription drug costs, up to about \$2,200. If a senior's out-of-pocket costs reached about \$3,600, Medicare would then pay 95% of their prescription drug costs after that amount.

For seniors with low incomes, there is additional help:

Seniors with incomes below \$16,000 for a couple would only pay \$1 - \$5 per prescription. They would not have to pay any other costs, like the premium or deductible, for the plan.

Seniors with incomes between \$16,000 and \$18,000 for a couple would only pay a 15% copay per prescription and a \$50 deductible. They would not have to pay any other costs, like the premium or deductible, for the plan.

There are 3 other important provisions in the bill:

1. The bill closes legal loopholes so that seniors can get generic drugs sooner
2. The bill includes incentives for employers to continue to offer prescription drug coverage through their retiree plans
3. The new drug plan will be available both from the Medicare program and through private plans.

3. Do you think you will be helped by this benefit, hurt by it or do you think it will have no effect on you?

Helped by the benefit	30%
Hurt by the benefit	13%
The benefit will have no effect on me	33%
Don't Know	24%

4. Even if this plan won't affect you personally either way, do you think it should be passed so that people with low-incomes or people with high drug costs can be helped?

Yes	75%
No	10%
Don't Know	15%
REFUSED	1%

5. Do you support or oppose this plan that adds prescription drug coverage to Medicare?

Strongly support	44%
Somewhat support	39%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	6%

6. If this plan was offered to you, would you be most likely to:

Enroll in this new plan	30%
Keep your current prescription drug coverage	44%
Continue to pay for prescription drugs yourself, without any insurance coverage	6%
Other	7%
Don't know	13%

**DEMOGRAPHICS/OTHER:**

7. Do you currently have prescription drug coverage?

Yes	76%
No	24%

- (If no or skip and age 50-64, skip to Q. 31
- If no or skip and age 65+, go to Q32)

8. What is the source of your prescription drug coverage? Is it...

Provided by your current employer	16%
Provided by your spouse's current employer	7%
Retiree benefit from my former employer	16%
Retiree benefit from my spouse's former employer	12%
Medicare managed care plan/HMO (Medicare+Choice)	7%
Medicare supplemental policy (Medigap)	2%
Medicaid	1%
Self purchased individual/family coverage (Not Medigap)	6%
Some other source	8%
Not asked	24%

**[IF "some other source" = yes]**

8b. You indicated in the previous question that your prescription drug coverage comes from some other source. Please describe the source in the text box below.

[Text box]

**[IF age 50-64 only]**

9. Do you anticipate having any prescription drug insurance coverage in retirement?

Yes	21%
No	12%
Not Sure	13%
Not asked	55%

10. In a typical month, how much of your own money, not reimbursed by health insurance, do you personally spend on prescription drugs?

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (VALID RANGE 0 TO 9,999)

**[IF age 65+ only]**

11. Do you have a supplemental insurance policy, such as a Medigap or retiree plan?

Yes	34%
No	21%
Not asked	45%

Methodological Note

The poll was conducted November 19<sup>th</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup> using the Knowledge Networks web-enabled panel, which provides a representative sample of U.S. households (see <http://www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp>). AARP members that had been previously identified by Knowledge Networks were sampled for this survey.

The Knowledge Networks probability panel is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants were chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers. Persons in selected households were then invited by telephone to participate in the web-enabled panel. Those who agreed to participate were sent an Internet appliance and received an Internet service connection provided by Knowledge Networks. In some cases, people who already had computers and Internet service were permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then received unique log-in information for accessing surveys online, and then were sent emails three-to-four times a month inviting them to participate in research.

The sampling margin of error for the sample of 494 AARP members is 4.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

The survey results are not weighted.

Contact information for questions about the methodology: J. Michael Dennis, [mdennis@knowledgenetworks.com](mailto:mdennis@knowledgenetworks.com), (650) 289-2160.