

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY **...don't cut it.**

Polling Memo: Americans' Views on Medicare

[Kaiser Family Foundation: Health Tracking Poll](#)

November 2016

- Majorities of Americans across party lines support the Affordable Care Act's increase in Medicare payroll contributions from upper-income Americans

Overall: 69 percent
Democrats: 82 Percent
Independents: 63 percent
Republicans: 63 percent

- Majorities of Americans across party lines support the Affordable Care Act's provision that closes the Medicare prescription drug "doughnut hole" so people on Medicare will no longer be required to pay the full cost of their medications

Overall: 81 percent
Democrats: 86 percent
Independents: 89 percent
Republicans: 69 percent

[Kaiser Family Foundation: "Medicare and Medicaid at 50"](#)

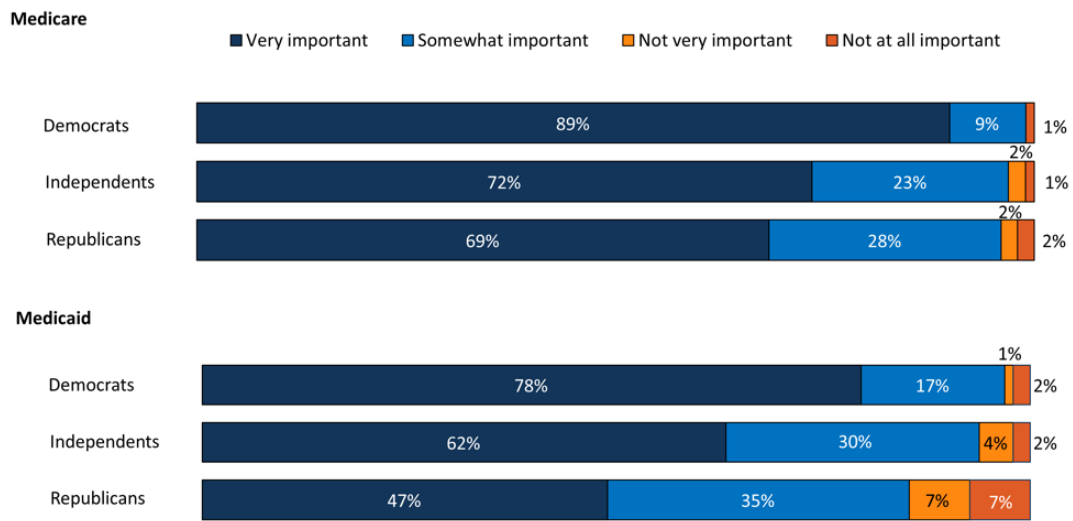
July 2015

- Majorities of Americans across party lines believe that Medicare is a very important government program.

Overall: 77 percent
Democrats: 89 percent
Independents: 72 percent
Republicans: 69 percent

Many Say Programs Are Very Important, But Some Variation By Partisan Identification

Now I'm going to read you a list of government programs and for each one, please tell me how important you think this program is.



NOTE: Don't know/Refused responses not shown.

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Medicare and Medicaid at 50 Survey (conducted April 23-May 31, 2015)



- 60 percent of Americans believe that Medicare works well. Among Americans covered by Medicare, approval is even higher, at 75 percent.
- Majorities of Americans across party lines say that Medicare is personally important to them and their families

Overall: 76 percent
 Democrats: 83 percent
 Independents: 73 percent
 Republicans: 71 percent

- Of the 76 percent of Americans who believe Medicare is personally important to them and their families:
 - 94 percent like knowing that the Medicare program exists for seniors and younger adults with long-term disabilities
 - 93 percent think they or someone in their family may need Medicare benefits in the future
 - 80 percent have received, or know someone who has received, healthcare paid for by Medicare
- **92 percent of Americans do not support decreasing Medicare spending.**
- Majorities of Americans of all ages support allowing the federal government to negotiate with drug companies to get a lower price on medications for people on Medicare.

88 percent of Americans 18 to 54
 88 percent of Americans 55 to 64
 83 percent of Americans 65 or older

- Majorities of Americans despite age or political affiliation believe Medicare should continue as it is today rather than being changed to a system with guaranteed vouchers toward the cost of health insurance

Overall: 70 percent
Democrats: 78 percent
Independents: 66 percent
Republicans: 64 percent
Americans 18 to 54: 68 percent
Americans 55 to 64: 71 percent
Americans 65 or older: 77 percent

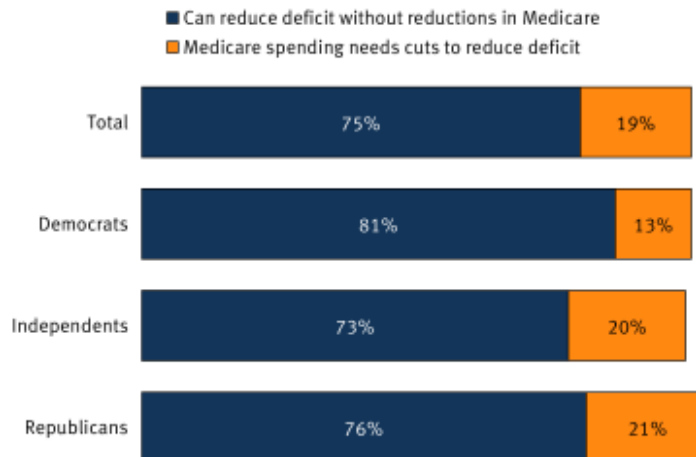
[Kaiser Family Foundation: “The Public Health Care Agenda for the 113th Congress”](#)

January 2013

- 75 percent of Americans believe the deficit can be reduced without cuts to Medicare

Most Believe Deficit Reduction Can Happen Without Cutting Medicare

Which comes closer to your opinion: if the president and Congress made the right changes, they could reduce the federal budget deficit without major reductions in Medicare spending, or in order to significantly reduce the federal budget deficit, the president and Congress will need to make major cuts in Medicare spending?



NOTE: Asked of half sample. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113th Congress (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



- 68 percent of Americans strongly favor requiring drug companies to give the federal government a better deal on medication for low-income people on Medicare