



**New Data on Medicare**

The American public still starts out strongly in favor of the new Medicare law but becomes very uncertain when confronted with argument for it or against it. The latest data from the University of Pennsylvania’s National Annenberg Election Survey, based on 852 interviews conducted from March 1 to 15, shows that 70 percent start out favoring the bill while 21 percent oppose it. After hearing arguments against their initial position, 22 percent favored the bill, 49 percent said they were now uncertain, and 17 percent opposed it. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus three percentage points.

**Questions**

Those who said they did not know or did not answer are not included in charts below.

A. President Bush has signed a Medicare bill which among other things provides prescription drug coverage for senior citizens and allows private companies to provide some Medicare services. From what you have heard or read do you favor or oppose this bill? **IF FAVOR:** Is that strongly favor or somewhat favor. **IF OPPOSE:** Is that strongly oppose or somewhat oppose?

<b>March 1-15</b>		
	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>Total</b>	70%	21%
<b>North East</b>	68%	21%
<b>Mid-West</b>	66%	26%
<b>South</b>	76%	17%
<b>West</b>	67%	23%
<b>18-29</b>	78%	14%
<b>30-44</b>	79%	13%
<b>45-64</b>	65%	25%
<b>65 and older</b>	53%	39%
<b>High School or Less</b>	72%	20%
<b>Some College</b>	68%	20%
<b>College Degree or More</b>	68%	24%
<b>Less than \$35,000</b>	71%	22%
<b>\$35, 000 to \$75,000</b>	67%	24%
<b>\$75,000 or More</b>	73%	18%

<b>March 1-15</b>		
	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>Conservative</b>	77%	16%
<b>Moderate</b>	67%	23%
<b>Liberal</b>	61%	30%
<b>Republican</b>	78%	13%
<b>Democrat</b>	62%	31%
<b>Independent</b>	69%	20%
<b>Male</b>	67%	26%
<b>Female</b>	73%	16%

B. (Asked only of the 70% who said they favored the bill) Some people say the prescription drug coverage benefits won't help many seniors very much and cutting costs by bringing in private companies will eventually destroy Medicare. Considering that do you still favor the bill or are you uncertain?

	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Favor</b>	31%
<b>Uncertain</b>	60%
<b>Oppose*</b>	6%

\*Volunteered

C. (Asked only of the 21% who said they opposed the bill) Some people say the drug benefit is an important first step and the cost-cutting measures are essential for Medicare to survive. Considering that, do you still oppose this bill, or are you uncertain?

	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	59%
<b>Uncertain</b>	34%
<b>Favor*</b>	3%

\*Volunteered

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D. After questions B and C were asked, these were the combined results:

<b>March 1-15</b>			
	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Uncertain</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>Total</b>	22%	49%	17%
<b>North East</b>	20%	51%	17%
<b>Mid-West</b>	23%	45%	20%
<b>South</b>	22%	52%	15%
<b>West</b>	25%	47%	17%
<b>18-29</b>	25%	54%	12%
<b>30-44</b>	22%	56%	11%
<b>45-64</b>	23%	43%	21%
<b>65 and older</b>	19%	42%	27%
<b>High School or Less</b>	19%	56%	14%
<b>Some College</b>	23%	43%	21%
<b>College Degree or More</b>	28%	45%	17%
<b>Less than \$35,000</b>	19%	55%	17%
<b>\$35,000 to \$75,000</b>	22%	49%	17%
<b>\$75,000 or More</b>	31%	41%	18%
<b>Conservative</b>	26%	50%	14%
<b>Moderate</b>	19%	51%	18%
<b>Liberal</b>	17%	48%	23%
<b>Republican</b>	32%	45%	12%
<b>Democrat</b>	17%	51%	23%
<b>Independent</b>	19%	51%	16%
<b>Male</b>	27%	43%	21%
<b>Female</b>	19%	55%	14%

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