

**TRACKING SURVEY OF SENIORS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN
THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT
MARCH 6-9, 2006 (SELF ENROLLEES)
MARCH 6-11, 2006 (AUTOMATIC ENROLLEES)**

Hello, this is _____ with Ayres, McHenry & Associates, a public opinion research company. We're talking with seniors throughout America today for just a few minutes about some health care issues. We are not trying to sell anything, your answers are completely confidential, and we would really appreciate your cooperation (DO NOT PAUSE).

SCREEN 1. Are you under the age of 65, or are you 65 or older?

UNDER AGE 65 GO TO SCREEN 2
65 OR OLDER..... GO TO SCREEN 3
REFUSED..... THANK AND CLOSE

SCREEN 2. Is there anyone else in your household age 65 or older?

YES May I speak with that person please? GO TO INTRO
NO THANK AND CLOSE

SCREEN 3. Are you currently enrolled in the new prescription drug benefit in Medicare, known as Part D?

YES GO TO SCREEN 4
NO THANK AND CLOSE
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED..... THANK AND CLOSE

SCREEN 4. Did you sign up for the Medicare prescription drug benefit yourself, were you automatically signed up through Medicaid, or are you covered under your employer's plan?

PERSONALLY SIGNED UP..... 1 GO TO SECTION A
AUTOMATICALLY SIGNED UP/MEDICAID..... 2 GO TO SECTION B
COVERED BY EMPLOYER 3 THANK AND CLOSE
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 4 THANK AND CLOSE

SECTION A: SELF ENROLLEES

A1. Do you regularly take prescription drugs for an ongoing condition or illness? (IF YES, ASK: How many prescription drugs do you take each month?)

	SELF	
	3/06	
YES/1 PRESCRIPTION.....	10%	GO TO Q. A2
YES/2 PRESCRIPTIONS.....	14%	GO TO Q. A2
YES/3 PRESCRIPTIONS.....	15%	GO TO Q. A2
YES/4 OR 5 PRESCRIPTIONS.....	22%	GO TO Q. A2
YES/MORE THAN 5 PRESCRIPTIONS.....	25%	GO TO Q. A2
YES/DON'T KNOW NUMBER.....	4%	GO TO Q. A2
NO.....	10%	GO TO Q. A3
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION.....	0%	GO TO Q. A3

Note: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

Self Enrollees 3/06 results based on 408 respondents, MoE ±4.85 percent.

Self Enrollees 12/05 results based on 401 respondents, MoE ±4.89 percent.

Automatic Enrollees (Dual Eligibles) 3/06 results based on 401 respondents, MoE ±4.89 percent.

A2. Does your new Medicare prescription drug benefit plan cover the drugs you need?

	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05
YES	79%	82%
NO	12%	7%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	9%	11%

Note: 3/06 results are based on 367 seniors who regularly take prescription drugs.

A3. Are you saving money each month compared to what you spent before you enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug benefit? (IF YES, ASK: About how much are you saving in out-of-pocket costs every month for prescription drugs compared to before you enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug benefit?)

	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05
YES/\$20 OR LESS	7%	
YES/\$21-\$50	9%	
YES/\$51-\$100	9%	
YES/\$101-\$200	6%	
YES/MORE THAN \$200	4%	
YES/DON'T KNOW AMOUNT	24%	
NO	23%	
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	18%	
	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05
YES	59%	51%
NO	23%	28%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	18%	21%

Note: 12/05 question asked, "Do you think your new Medicare prescription drug benefit plan will save you money over what you currently pay?"

A4. Given the benefits you are receiving, was the time and effort you put into evaluating the many drug plans worth it or not?

	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05
WORTH IT	66%	57%
NOT WORTH IT	13%	16%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	20%	27%

Note: 12/05 question asked, "Given the benefits you will receive, was the time and effort you put into evaluating the many drug plans worth it or not?"

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A5. Given your experience with the new benefit, would you recommend that other seniors sign up or not?

	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05
YES, WOULD RECOMMEND.....	65%	56%
NO, WOULD NOT RECOMMEND.....	8%	9%
IT DEPENDS (VOLUNTEERED).....	18%	24%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION.....	9%	11%

Note: 12/05 question asked, "Given your experience signing up for the new benefit, would you recommend that other seniors sign up or not?"

A6. Did you experience any problems signing up for the Medicare prescription drug benefit? (IF YES, ASK: Have those problems been resolved)?

	SELF 3/06
YES/RESOLVED.....	11%
YES/NOT RESOLVED.....	5%
NO PROBLEMS.....	84%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION.....	1%

A7. Did you use the Internet to help you decide on the right prescription drug benefit plan, either personally or with the assistance of someone else?

	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05
YES, PERSONALLY.....	16%	15%
YES, WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S HELP.....	16%	13%
NO.....	66%	71%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....	1%	2%

A8. Did you attend any organized seminars to help you decide on the right prescription drug benefit plan?

	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05
YES.....	18%	25%
NO.....	80%	74%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....	2%	1%

A9. Have you had any problems using the new prescription drug benefit? (IF YES, ASK: Have those problems been resolved)?

	SELF 3/06	
YES/RESOLVED.....	2%	GO TO SECTION C
YES/NOT RESOLVED.....	5%	GO TO SECTION C
NO PROBLEMS.....	85%	GO TO SECTION C
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION.....	8%	GO TO SECTION C

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SECTION B: AUTOMATIC ENROLLEES

B1. Do you regularly take prescription drugs for an ongoing condition or illness? (IF YES, ASK: How many prescription drugs do you take each month?)

	AUTO	
	3/06	
YES/1 PRESCRIPTION	7%	GO TO Q. B2
YES/2 PRESCRIPTIONS	11%	GO TO Q. B2
YES/3 PRESCRIPTIONS	9%	GO TO Q. B2
YES/4 OR 5 PRESCRIPTIONS	17%	GO TO Q. B2
YES/MORE THAN 5 PRESCRIPTIONS	35%	GO TO Q. B2
YES/DON'T KNOW NUMBER	4%	GO TO Q. B2
NO	13%	GO TO Q. B3
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	3%	GO TO Q. B3

B2. Does your new Medicare prescription drug benefit plan cover the drugs you need?

	AUTO	
	3/06	
YES	80%	
NO	15%	
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	4%	

Note: Results are based on 337 seniors who regularly take prescription drugs.

B3. Have you had any problems using the new prescription drug benefit? (IF YES, ASK: Have those problems been resolved)?

	AUTO	
	3/06	
YES/RESOLVED	4%	GO TO SECTION C
YES/NOT RESOLVED	4%	GO TO SECTION C
NO PROBLEMS	90%	GO TO SECTION C
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	2%	GO TO SECTION C

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SECTION C: JOINT QUESTIONS

C1. When you hear politicians criticize the new Medicare prescription drug benefit plan, do you think they are (ROTATE: sincerely trying to fix the plan, or just trying to score political points in an election year?)

	SELF	AUTO
	3/06	3/06
SINCERELY TRYING TO FIX PLAN.....	14%	14%
JUST TRYING TO SCORE POLITICAL POINTS.....	46%	35%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION.....	40%	51%

C2. Do you think that criticism from politicians about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit plan makes other seniors less likely to sign up for the plan?

	SELF	AUTO
	3/06	3/06
YES, LESS LIKELY.....	41%	32%
NO, NO EFFECT.....	24%	23%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION.....	35%	45%

Now I have a few questions just for statistical purposes.

C3. In politics today, do you normally think of yourself as (ROTATE: a Republican, an Independent, or a Democrat)?

	SELF	SELF	AUTO
	3/06	12/05	3/06
REPUBLICAN.....	35%	29%	15%
INDEPENDENT.....	20%	21%	16%
DEMOCRAT.....	31%	37%	53%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....	13%	13%	16%

C4. What was the last year of school you completed?

	SELF	SELF	AUTO
	3/06	12/05	3/06
LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL.....	13%	12%	24%
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE.....	37%	37%	35%
SOME COLLEGE.....	20%	18%	17%
COLLEGE GRADUATE.....	19%	22%	10%
POST-COLLEGE.....	7%	6%	5%
REFUSED.....	4%	5%	9%

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C5. Would you please stop me when I read the correct category for your age?

	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05	AUTO 3/06
65 TO 69.....	23%	24%	16%
70 TO 74.....	24%	26%	20%
75 TO 79.....	21%	22%	22%
80 TO 84.....	17%	15%	22%
85 TO 89.....	10%	7%	11%
90 OR OLDER.....	4%	2%	2%
REFUSED.....	2%	4%	6%

C6. Are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

IF "NO," ASK: What would you say is your main race: white, African-American, Asian, or something else?

	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05	AUTO 3/06
YES/HISPANIC.....	2%	2%	6%
NO/WHITE.....	88%	86%	57%
NO/BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN.....	5%	7%	30%
NO/ASIAN.....	1%	1%	1%
OTHER.....	0%	0%	0%
REFUSED.....	4%	4%	7%

C7. Would you please stop me when I read the correct category for your total household income?

	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05	AUTO 3/06
\$15,000 OR LESS.....	25%	20%	46%
\$15,000 TO \$30,000.....	20%	19%	13%
\$30,000 TO \$50,000.....	11%	16%	0%
\$50,000 TO \$75,000.....	8%	7%	0%
\$75,000 OR MORE.....	6%	6%	0%
REFUSED.....	30%	33%	40%

C8. Gender (from observation)

	SELF 3/06	SELF 12/05	AUTO 3/06
MALE.....	44%	42%	40%
FEMALE.....	56%	58%	60%

Those are all the questions I have. Thank you very much for sharing your opinions with us.

C9. WRITE IN STATE FIPS CODE: _____

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