

Numerous Public Opinion Surveys Consistently Show Americans Strongly Oppose Additional Medicare Cuts

1. If the president and Congress decide to reduce the deficit by reducing spending on federal programs and services, in which programs you would be willing to see spending reduced? (responses on Medicare spending):

- **Major reductions: 10%**
- **Minor reductions: 31%**
- **No reductions: 58% (66% of Democrats; 50% of Republicans)**

January 3-9, 2013 – Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Poll (Question 10)ⁱ

2. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of the following to reduce the federal budget deficit: Cut spending for Medicare?

- **Percentage opposing Medicare cuts:**
 - **All voters: 74%**
 - **Democrats: 85%**
 - **Republicans: 68%**

December 4-6, 2012 – McClatchy-Marist Poll (Page 17)ⁱⁱ

3. Should spending on Medicare be cut back a lot, some, or not at all to help reduce the deficit?

- **Not at all: 79%**
- **Some: 17%**
- **A lot: 3%**

November 29-December 2, 2012 – Princeton Survey Research Associates International for National Journal Poll (Question CC4)ⁱⁱⁱ

4. How much do you support or oppose reducing Medicare benefits as a means to reduce the budget deficit?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Ind</u>
Strongly support	4%	2%	5%	4%
Somewhat support	14%	11%	18%	15%
Somewhat oppose	19%	21%	17%	22%
Strongly oppose	58%	64%	53%	53%

Many candidates promised during the campaign that any proposed changes to Medicare would not affect current beneficiaries. How important is it to you that (INSERT Obama/Romney) ensures benefits are not reduced for current Medicare beneficiaries?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Ind</u>
Very important	76%	80%	70%	75%
Somewhat important	18%	16%	20%	20%
Not very important	3%	1%	5%	3%
Not at all important	2%	1%	3%	2%

November 7-8, 2012 – AARP (Questions 13 and 17)^{iv}

5. As you know, the US federal budget has a significant deficit. Here are the main expenses for the government. In your view, which of the following areas can we afford to cut back on? (Select all that apply)

- **Percentage supporting Medicare cuts:**
 - **All voters: 10%**
 - **Democrats: 5%**
 - **Republicans: 16%**

August 27-31, 2012 – Ipsos Public Affairs Poll for Reuters (Question 6)^v

6. In order to reduce the national debt, would you support or oppose cutting spending on Medicare?

- **Strongly oppose: 65%**
- **Somewhat oppose: 13%**
- **Strongly support: 8%**
- **Somewhat support: 13%**

April 14-17, 2011 – Washington Post-ABC News Poll (Question 17)^{vi}

7. Do you support decreases in federal government spending on Medicare?

- **Decrease spending: 12%**
- **Same spending: 43%**
- **Increase spending: 40%**

February 2-7, 2011 – Pew Research Center for People and the Press^{vii}

ⁱ <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/8405-T.pdf> (1,347 adults interviewed)

ⁱⁱ <http://maristpoll.marist.edu/1212-four-in-ten-with-high-expectations-for-obamas-second-termapproval-rating-at-50> (553 registered voters interviewed)

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.scribd.com/doc/115382029/NJ-CC-Poll-Topline-Results-Dec-3-2012> (1,003 adults interviewed)

^{iv} http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/surveys_statistics/general/2012/Americans-50-and-the-Future-of-Medicare-and-Social-Security-AARP.pdf (800 adults age 50+ interviewed)

^v <http://www.ipsos-na.com/download/pr.aspx?id=11913> (1,632 registered voters interviewed)

^{vi} http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/polls/postpoll_04172011.html (1,000 adults interviewed)

^{vii} <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1889/poll-federal-spending-programs-budget-cuts-raise-taxes-state-budgets> (1,385 adults interviewed)