



Medicare Beneficiaries on “Medicare for All”

March 2020

Study Overview

The survey results presented in this report track Medicare beneficiaries’ attitudes to proposals that would potentially expand Medicare coverage to more Americans, and the support of beneficiaries for presidential candidates who champion a “Medicare for all” reform of the program.

Highlights:

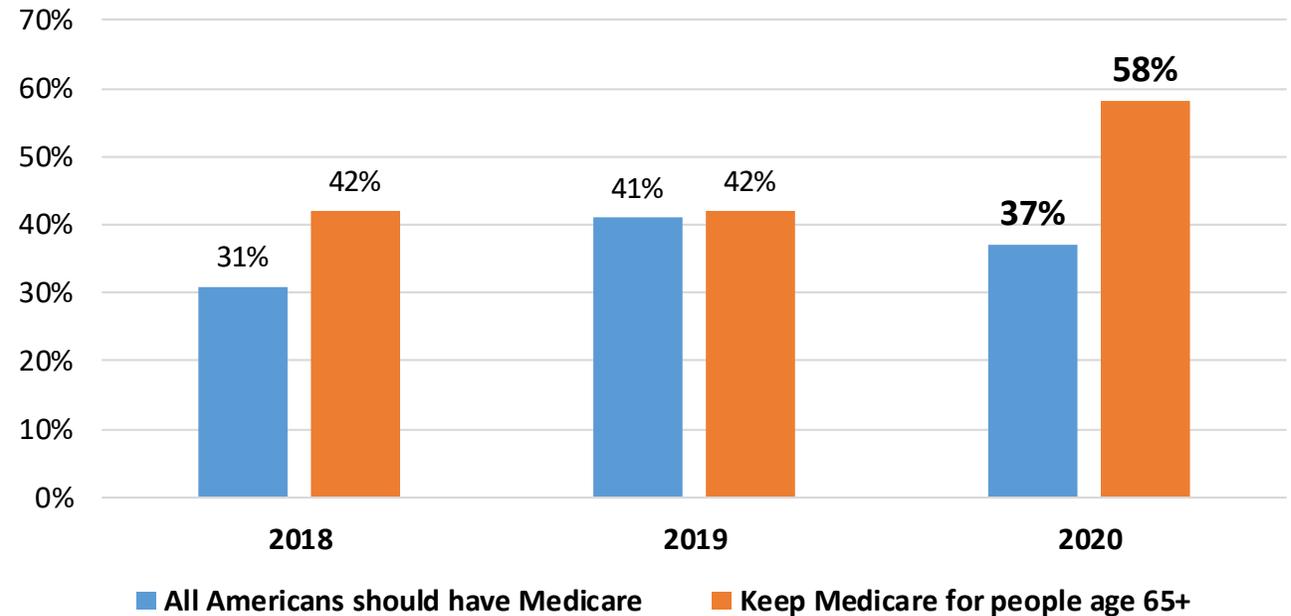
- **Support for “Medicare for all” drops among Medicare beneficiaries** – 37% of respondents say that all Americans should have access to Medicare or Medicare-like coverage, down from 41% in 2019; a majority (58%) now say that Medicare should remain primarily for people age 65 and older, up from 42% last year.
- **Fewer Medicare beneficiaries would support a “Medicare for all” candidate** – 43% say they would not consider supporting a “Medicare for all” candidate for president, up from 36% in 2019.
- **Most do not think “Medicare for all” would be implemented** – 52% say they consider it very or somewhat unlikely that a “Medicare for all” program would be implemented even if a “Medicare for all” candidate is elected president.

This report presents results from a survey of Medicare beneficiaries who purchased coverage through eHealth. The survey was conducted on a voluntary basis between January 21 and 26, 2020, and a total of 1,086 responses were received.

A majority of Medicare enrollees now say that Medicare should remain primarily for people age 65 and older

- 37% of respondents now say that all Americans should have access to Medicare or Medicare-like coverage, compared to 41% in 2019 and 31% in 2018.
- 58% now say that Medicare should remain as is (primarily for those age 65 and older), up from 42% in each of the prior two years.

Tracking Support for “Medicare for all” vs. Keeping Medicare primarily for people age 65+



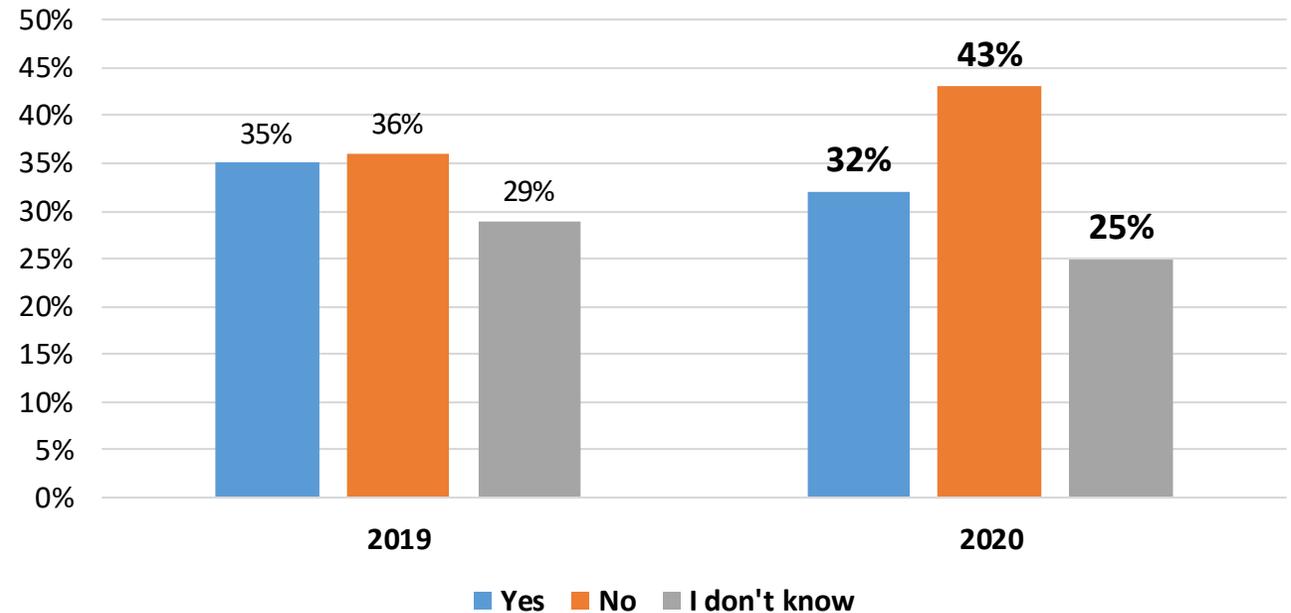
“Medicare for all” most appealing to highest-income earners: eHealth’s new survey found that 47% of those with an annual income of \$100,000 or more support “Medicare for all,” compared to 33% of those with an income between \$75,000 and \$100,000 and 42% of those with an income less than \$25,000 per year.

2019 survey figures cited above were *first published by eHealth* in February 2019; 2018 figures were *first published by eHealth* in October 2018.

Support for “Medicare for all” candidates decreases among Medicare beneficiaries

- 32% of respondents now say they would support a “Medicare for all” presidential candidate, down from 35% in 2019.
- 43% now say they would not support a “Medicare for all” candidate, compared to 36% in 2019.
- 25% now say they are undecided on whether they would support a “Medicare for all” candidate, compared to 29% in 2019.

Would you support a “Medicare for all” candidate in the 2020 presidential election?



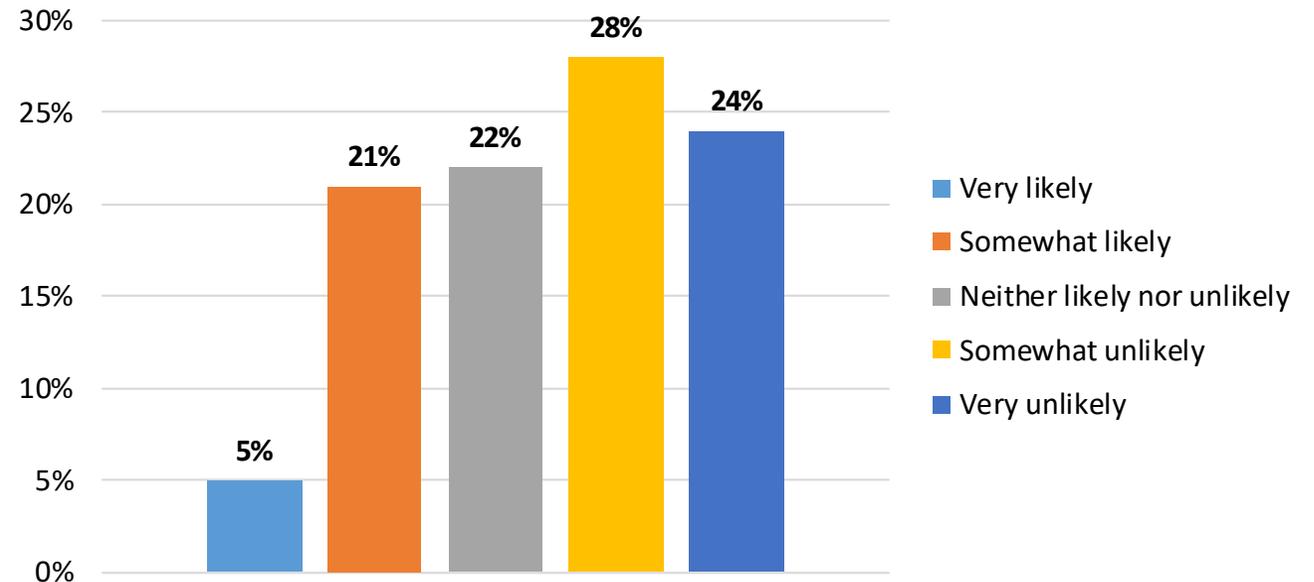
Support for “Medicare for all” candidates drops among both men and women: 48% of men and 38% of women now say they would not support a “Medicare for all candidate” for president, up from 44% of men and 31% of women in 2019.

2019 survey figures cited above were [first published by eHealth](#) in November 2019.

More than half think it unlikely a “Medicare for all” program would be implemented if a candidate supporting it became president

- Overall, 26% of respondents consider it very or somewhat likely the program would be successfully implemented, compared to 31% in 2019.
- 52% consider it very or somewhat unlikely the program would be successfully implemented, compared to 48% of respondents in 2019.

If a “Medicare for all” candidate wins in 2020, do you think such a program would be successfully implemented?



Youngest Medicare beneficiaries more likely than older ones to consider “Medicare for all” possible: 38% of respondents younger than age 65 consider it very or somewhat likely that a “Medicare for all” program would be successfully implemented if a candidate supporting it were elected, compared to 19% of those age 80 and older.

* 2019 survey figures cited above were [first published by eHealth](#) in November 2019.

Methodology Note

This report’s findings are based on a voluntary survey of consumers who purchased Medicare insurance plans through eHealth. The survey was conducted in January 2020 and a total of 1,086 responses were collected. All figures were rounded to the nearest full percentage point. Total percentages may add to slightly more or less than 100 due to rounding.

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