Do Retirees Receive More from Medicare than They Pay In?

People who receive Medicare have paid payroll taxes for much of their working lives and pay premiums for their current Medicare coverage. Do you think most people receiving Medicare get benefits worth...?

- More money than they pay into the system: 24%
- About the same: 27%
- Less than they pay into the system: 41%
- Don’t know/Refused: 8%

The Public’s Views about Why Medicare Costs Are Rising

% saying one of the most important reasons

- Poor management by government: 30%
- Fraud and abuse by people, doctors, and hospitals: 24%
- Excessive charges by hospitals: 23%
- Excessive charges by pharmaceutical companies: 20%
- More people are going on Medicare/fewer people under 65 to pay taxes to support them: 19%
- Excessive charges by doctors: 18%
- Money that is being collected for Medicare is being spent on programs other than Medicare: 17%
- People receiving drugs and medical treatments they don’t need: 17%
- People don’t get enough preventive care: 16%
- People on Medicare are living longer so they cost the program more money: 13%
- Malpractice lawsuits and settlements: 10%
- New drugs, tests and treatments being offered to the elderly: 6%

If a candidate for Congress supports making major cuts in Medicare spending to reduce the federal budget deficit, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate specifically because of this issue, or wouldn't it make much difference in your vote?

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<th>18-29</th>
<th>30-49</th>
<th>50-64</th>
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<td>Much more likely</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td>6%</td>
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<td>Wouldn’t make much difference</td>
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Don't know/refused responses not shown.