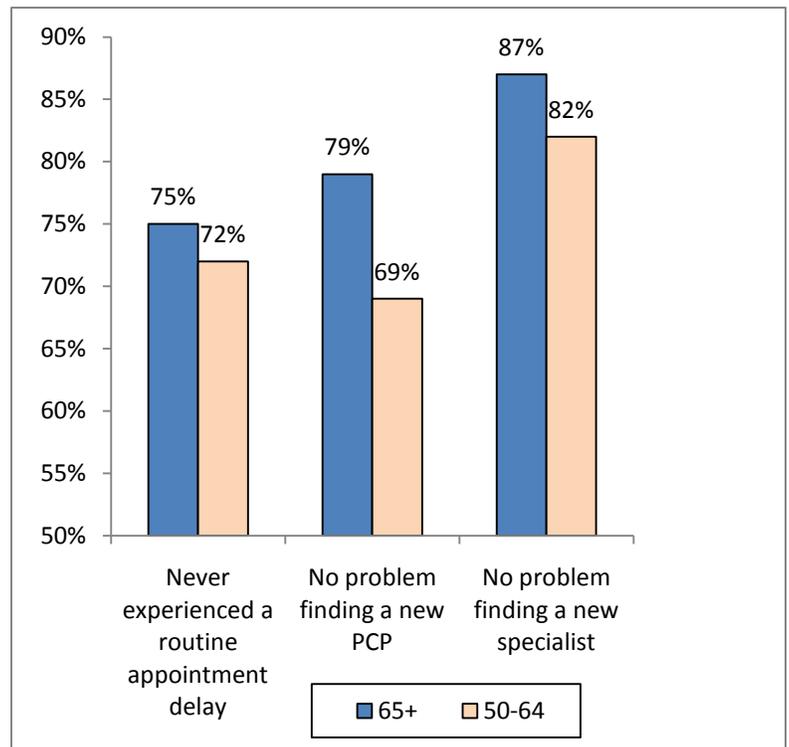


## Medicare Beneficiaries Report Reliable Access to Physician Services

### What MedPAC says...

- Medicare beneficiaries (65+) report fewer delays getting a routine appointment than individuals with private insurance (aged 50-64).
- Medicare beneficiaries report fewer difficulties finding a new primary care physician than individuals with private insurance.
- Medicare beneficiaries report fewer difficulties finding a specialist than individuals with private insurance.



Source: MedPAC 2010 Beneficiary Access Survey

- Access to physician services in Medicare continued to be stable in 2010 despite limited anecdotal reports of physicians leaving the program.

### What other surveys say...

- Physician participation in Medicare is higher than ever before, with 96 percent of physicians signing participation agreements with Medicare in 2010 (CMS).
- 88 percent of beneficiaries are “always” or “usually” able to schedule timely appointments for routine care (CAHPS Fee-For-Service Survey, 2010).
- 95 percent of beneficiaries who are not in an institutional setting have a usual source of care – like a doctor’s office or doctor’s clinic (Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, 2008).
- Medicare beneficiaries are less likely to report going without care or delaying care than privately insured individuals (Center for Studying Health System Change, 2007).
- 90 percent of physicians accepted (at least some) new Medicare patients (NAMCS, 2008).