



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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THE DEBATE OVER HEALTH CARE
June 12-16, 2009

A majority of Americans supports government involvement in health care, and many think the government would do a better job than the private sector providing coverage and controlling costs. Most also favor a government option that competes with private insurers.

But there are concerns to overcome. Many Americans are concerned that their own health care may be compromised if the government is involved, and while they are generally willing to pay more in taxes for universal coverage, that support drops when dollar amounts are mentioned. Few support -- and many are unsure about -- some of the specific policy options that have been proposed, including creating a government insurance pool for purchasing health coverage. By two to one, Americans disapprove of taxing employer health benefits, and many are uncertain.

Views on health care reform are highly partisan, just as they were in 1993, the last time serious reform was debated in Washington. Republicans are opposed to most government involvement.

Despite President Barack Obama's overall popularity (63% approve), 22% don't have an opinion yet about his handling of health care, but more approve than disapprove.

GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH CARE

The President has suggested establishing a public health insurance option, allowing those without insurance to purchase it from the government. Some have criticized a government-run insurance option as discouraging competition, being potentially inefficient and poorly-run. But Americans generally see government involvement in health care in a positive light, and most support it.

Many Americans think the government would do better than private insurance companies on two important measures: 50% think the government would be better at providing medical coverage (up from 30% in 2007), and 59% think the government would be at better holding down costs (up from 47% in 2007).

GOVT. VS. PRIVATE INSURERS

Table with 5 columns: Measure, Now, 2/2007, Now, 2/2007. Rows include Providing Medical Coverage and Holding Down Costs, with sub-rows for Better job, Worse job, No different, and Don't know.

More generally, 64% of Americans say the government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans. Just 30% think this is not its responsibility. Those percentages have been stable for many years.

SHOULD GOVT. GUARANTEE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL AMERICANS?

	Now	2/2007	1/2006	7/2000	8/1996
Yes	64%	64%	62%	62%	56%
No	30	27	31	29	38

The debate over government involvement in health care is highly partisan, with Democrats and Republicans on opposite sides:

-- 61% of Republicans think providing health care to Americans is not the government's job; 85% of Democrats think the government does have this responsibility.

-- 63% of Republicans think government will do a worse job providing medical coverage, and 53% think it will do worse holding down costs. Among Democrats, about seven in 10 thinks government will do a better job on both.

When presented with the option of a government-administered health insurance plan something like Medicare to compete with private health insurance companies, 72% are in favor and just 20% oppose. Even 50% of Republicans favor that.

GOVT. HEALTH PLAN TO COMPETE WITH PRIVATE INSURERS

Favor	72%
Oppose	20

But reactions are mixed as to whether the government should go as far as requiring all Americans to have health insurance, as long as it provides financial help to those who can't afford it on their own. 48% think the government should require this, while 38% think it should not.

SHOULD GOVT. REQUIRE EVERYONE TO HAVE INSURANCE?

Yes	48%
No	38
Don't know	14

Americans support government involvement in health care even though they have long been skeptical of government generally. Most think the government generally is doing too many things better left to the private sector -- as they have thought for years -- and only one in five trusts the government to do the right thing all or most of the time.

But the public has also acknowledged the need for sweeping changes to U.S. health care for many years. 51% think it needs fundamental changes, and another 34% think there is so much wrong with it that it needs to be completely rebuilt. Just 13% think only minor changes are necessary.

In addition, many Americans link problems with the health care system to broader economic problems. 61% think that the rising cost of health care presents a very serious threat to the national economy. Another 25% see that threat as somewhat serious.

THREAT TO ECONOMY FROM RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS

Very serious	61%
Somewhat serious	25
Not serious	5

However, there is no consensus on what effect a government guarantee of health care for all would have on the economy, and more think it would hurt the economy (37%) than think it would help (28%).

GOVT. GUARANTEE OF INSURANCE FOR ALL: IMPACT ON ECONOMY

Improve economy	28%
Hurt economy	37
No effect	20

LITTLE SUPPORT FOR SOME SPECIFIC HEALTH CARE PROPOSALS

One proposal would tax the health insurance benefits workers receive from their employers, with the revenues going toward providing insurance for those without it. There is significant opposition toward this proposal: 20% approve, but more than twice as many, 46%, disapprove. A sizable percentage, 31%, is unsure.

TAXING EMPLOYER-PROVIDED HEALTH BENEFITS

Approve	20%
Disapprove	46
Unsure	31

The public is uncertain about another proposal that would require all employers to provide health insurance or pay into a pool used to pay for coverage for the uninsured. Those without insurance would be able to buy insurance from the government insurance pool. 26% think this is a good idea, and 28% think it is a bad idea, but nearly half, 44%, are unsure.

REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE HEALTH BENEFITS OR PAY INTO A POOL

Approve	26%
Disapprove	28
Unsure	44

Americans have more defined views on whether insurers should cover anyone who applies for coverage, regardless of whether they have a pre-existing medical condition or a prior illness. 75% approve of that, and 17% disapprove. Even if the cost of their health insurance rose, 56% would still approve of this measure.

REQUIRE HEALTH INSURERS TO COVER ANYONE

Approve	75%
Disapprove	17

As the debate over health care heats up, Americans are paying attention. Nearly three quarters of Americans (including majorities of both Democrats and Republicans) have heard or read at least some about the current proposals in Washington to reform health care.

THE COSTS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

In addition to supporting a government role in providing universal health coverage, many are willing to pay higher taxes so that everyone can be covered. But when a specific dollar amount or other cost is mentioned, support drops.

57% of Americans would be willing to pay higher taxes so that all Americans would have health insurance they can't lose -- a percentage that has not changed much over the years.

WILLING TO PAY HIGHER TAXES FOR INSURANCE FOR ALL?				
	Now	4/2009	7/1994	9/1993
Yes	57%	57%	55%	61%
No	37	38	42	33

Majorities of Democrats and independents are willing to pay higher taxes, but two thirds of Republicans are not.

But when a specific dollar amount is included in the question, support drops. Just 43% of Americans would be willing to pay \$500 a year more in taxes to pay for universal health care.

WILLING TO PAY \$500 IN HIGHER TAXES FOR INSURANCE FOR ALL?	
Yes	43%
No	49

Similarly, although 64% of Americans think the government should guarantee health insurance for everyone, they are less supportive when a direct cost is mentioned. If the cost of their own insurance were to rise, support for a government guarantee of insurance for all drops to 47%.

There are other costs associated with government involvement in health care, and these also generate substantial concern.

Two thirds are concerned their own health care will get worse if the government creates a system to provide health care to all Americans. Concern is highest among Republicans.

CONCERNED OWN HEALTH CARE WILL GET WORSE IF GOVT. GETS INVOLVED?				
	All	Dems	Reps	Inds
Very concerned	28%	18%	46%	26%
Somewhat concerned	35	39	32	34
Not too/not at all concerned	36	42	21	39

Concerns are even higher when it comes to limiting access to care such as medical tests and treatment, or having to change doctors.

CONCERNED ACCESS TO CARE WILL BE LIMITED IF GOVT. GETS INVOLVED?

Very concerned	34%
Somewhat concerned	34
Not too/not at all concerned	32

CONCERNED WILL HAVE TO CHANGE DOCTORS IF GOVT. GETS INVOLVED?

Very concerned	33%
Somewhat concerned	20
Not too/not at all concerned	46

In both cases, Republicans express more concern than Democrats do.

DEFINING THE PROBLEM

Most Americans who have health insurance are fairly happy with the cost and quality of their own care, but perceptions of the country's health care in general are much more negative. For many years, polls have shown large differences in satisfaction with Americans' own health care and health care for the country at large, with the public generally negative about the system overall but positive about their own situation.

SATISFIED WITH HEALTH CARE...:

	Quality	Cost
For yourself	77%	50%
For country as a whole	48%	19%

Concern about the uninsured may explain part of the difference in health care evaluations. When asked to choose between keeping health care costs down and providing insurance for those without it, by more than two to one Americans choose providing health care coverage to those who don't have it. 73% of Americans say that uninsured Americans are a very serious problem for the country (and another 21% say that is somewhat serious).

WHICH IS MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM?

	All	Dems	Reps	Inds
Keeping health care costs down	26%	15%	52%	21%
Providing coverage for uninsured	65	78	44	65

Most Democrats see providing for the uninsured as the more serious problem, but Republicans are more divided; 52% think keeping costs down is more serious.

36% of Americans believe that over-prescribing tests and treatments for patients who don't really need them is a very serious problem -- but more, 56%, think it's very serious that some people aren't getting the tests and treatment they need.

HOW SERIOUS A PROBLEM IS...?

Drs. ordering tests/treatments patients don't need

Very serious	36%
Somewhat serious	37
Not serious	22

People not getting tests/treatments they DO need

Very serious	56%
Somewhat serious	31
Not serious	11

WHO SHOULD FIX IT?

President Obama, who receives a 63% approval rating overall in this poll, gets a lower approval rating on his handling of health care -- but many don't yet have an opinion. 44% approve, 34% disapprove and 22% are unsure.

OBAMA APPROVAL ON HEALTH CARE

	All	Dems	Reps	Inds
Approve	44%	68%	13%	38%
Disapprove	34	15	66	33
Don't know	22	17	21	29

68% of Democrats approve, but just 13% of Republicans do.

Americans are divided when it comes to who they trust more to make the right decisions about health care policy. 39% trust President Obama, while 35% trust Congress. Views on this are highly partisan: 54% of Republicans trust Congress, while 56% of Democrats trust the President.

TRUST MORE TO DECIDE HEALTH CARE POLICY?

	All	Dems	Reps	Inds
President	39%	56%	12%	39%
Congress	35	30	54	29
Both	3	5	3	1
Neither	15	4	26	20

Historically, the Democratic Party has held a large advantage over the Republican Party on dealing with health care, and that remains the case in this poll. When asked which party is more likely to improve the health care system, by three to one Americans choose the Democratic Party. Even one in four Republicans thinks the Democratic Party is better-suited to reforming health care. Democrats have maintained a large lead over Republicans since this poll began asking the question in 1991.

PERSONAL CONCERNS ABOUT HEALTH CARE

More than four out of five Americans are concerned about the health care costs they and their family might face in the coming years, including 49% who are very concerned. Those with lower incomes are

more concerned than those with higher incomes, and nearly six in 10 Americans aged 30 to 64 are very concerned. Among those without health insurance, about six in 10 are very concerned.

CONCERN ABOUT HEALTH CARE COSTS IN NEXT FEW YEARS

	Now	3/2008	2/2007
Very concerned	49%	59%	52%
Somewhat concerned	37	27	37
Not concerned	13	14	10

One in five report they or someone in their household have had to go without a test, treatment or procedure that their doctor recommended because their health insurance plan wouldn't cover it. Among those with health insurance, 15% say they have gone without medical treatment.

NOT HAD TEST, TREATMENT, PROCEDURE BECAUSE YOUR PLAN WOULDN'T PAY?

Yes	21%
No	77

Similarly, one in four has gone without medication they needed because they couldn't pay for it. 17% of those with insurance have gone without medication; that rises to six in 10 among those without insurance.

NOT TAKEN MEDICATION BECAUSE COULDN'T AFFORD IT?

Yes	25%
No	75

Uninsured Americans are generally younger and lower income, more likely to have children under 18 and to be unmarried.

And even those who have health insurance have experienced cutbacks in their coverage or higher costs. 44% of those who are covered say their employer has cut back on health benefits or made the wage earner pay more for them. And while 77% say their coverage is affordable, one in five describes their out of pocket costs as a hardship.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 895 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone June 12-16, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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The Debate Over Health Care
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q1-5 SEPARATE RELEASE

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling health care?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Approve	44	13	68	38
Disapprove	34	66	15	33
DK/NA	22	21	17	29

q7-13; q16-41 SEPARATE RELEASE

q14 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right -- just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

					Oct08b
Always	3	1	7	1	1
Most	17	9	28	11	16
Some	73	83	60	79	74
Never (vol.)	6	6	4	8	9
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	0

q15 Which comes closer to your view? Government should do more to solve national problems, or government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals?

					Mar09a*
Government should do more	34	15	55	25	41
Gov't is doing too much	56	79	37	62	51
Don't know/No answer	10	6	8	13	8

*Varied: Omits the word "national"

q42 How much have you heard or read about current proposals in Washington to reform health care -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

A lot	22	31	19	19
Some	50	44	56	47
Not much	23	20	22	25
Nothing at all	5	5	3	8
DK/NA	0	0	0	1

q43 Which of the following three statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of the health care system in the United States? 1) On the whole, the healthcare system works pretty well and only minor changes are necessary to make it work better, 2) There are some good things in our health care system, but fundamental changes are needed, 3) Our healthcare system has so much wrong with it that we need to completely rebuild it.

					Apr09a
					%
Minor changes	13	24	7	13	12
Fundamental changes	51	54	50	51	49
Rebuild	34	21	43	32	38
Don't know/No answer	2	1	0	4	1

q44 From what you know, how serious a threat is the rising cost of health care to the nation's economy? Is it very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious or not at all serious or don't you know enough to say?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very serious	61	53	72	54
Somewhat serious	25	34	19	27
Not too serious	3	3	3	3
Not at all serious	2	4	1	0
Don't know enough	8	5	5	14
DK/NA	1	1	0	2

q45 Who do you trust more to make the right decisions about health care policies--the President or Congress?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Nov93a
					%
President	39	12	56	39	40
Congress	35	54	30	29	42
Both equal (vol.)	3	3	5	1	4
Neither (vol.)	15	26	4	20	9
Don't know/No answer	8	5	5	11	5

q46 Do you think the government would do a better or worse job than private insurance companies in providing medical coverage?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb07b
					%
Better	50	25	70	46	30
Worse	34	63	19	30	44
Same (Vol.)	2	2	2	3	3
Don't know/No answer	14	10	9	21	23

q47 Do you think the government would do a better or worse job than private insurance companies in holding down health care costs?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb07b
					%
Better	59	32	76	59	47
Worse	26	53	14	22	37
Same (Vol.)	3	3	1	5	2
Don't know/No answer	12	12	9	14	14

q48 In general, do you think creating a system of health care where everyone is covered will result in doctors making more money than they do now, less money than they do now, about the same amount of money as they do now, or don't you know enough to say?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
More	8	6	10	8
Less	26	41	20	23
About the same	28	16	30	34
Don't know enough	35	35	36	33
DK/NA	3	2	4	2

q49 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to improve the health care system?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

	*** Party ID ***				Mar09a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican party	18	47	3	15	18
Democratic party	57	26	88	45	65
Both (Vol.)	2	0	3	3	1
Neither (Vol.)	8	13	2	10	8
DK/NA	15	14	4	27	8

q50 Thinking about the country as a whole, are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of health care in this country? Would you say you are very (satisfied/dissatisfied) or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?

					Sep07b
Very satisfied	14	26	6	13	11
Somewhat satisfied	34	40	36	29	21
Somewhat dissatisfied	30	15	33	37	24
Very dissatisfied	18	15	23	16	42
DK/NA	4	4	2	5	2

q51 What about the health care you receive? Are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of the health care you receive? Would you say you are very (satisfied/dissatisfied) or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?

					Feb07b
Very satisfied	47	61	42	45	41
Somewhat satisfied	30	26	36	25	36
Somewhat dissatisfied	6	3	8	7	8
Very dissatisfied	14	9	11	21	12
DK/NA	3	1	3	2	3

q52 Thinking about the country as a whole, are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the cost of health care in this country? Would you say you are very (satisfied/dissatisfied) or somewhat satisfied/dissatisfied)?

					Sep07b
Very satisfied	4	6	2	5	4
Somewhat satisfied	15	19	15	13	12
Somewhat dissatisfied	30	30	31	30	23
Very dissatisfied	47	43	52	45	58
DK/NA	4	2	0	7	3

q53 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with YOUR health care costs, both expenses not covered by insurance and the cost of your insurance if any? Would you say you are very (satisfied/dissatisfied) or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?

					Feb07b
Very satisfied	23	30	20	22	20
Somewhat satisfied	27	27	28	25	23
Not too satisfied	15	18	14	15	19
Not at all satisfied	33	23	36	35	33
DK/NA	2	2	2	3	5

q54 How serious a problem is it for the United States that many Americans do not have health insurance -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Sep07b
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Very serious	73	54	84	73	76
Somewhat serious	21	33	14	21	16
Not too serious	3	9	1	3	5
Not at all serious	2	3	0	3	3
DK/NA	1	1	1	0	0

q55 If you had to say, which do you think is a more serious problem right now -- keeping health care costs down for average Americans, OR providing health insurance for Americans who do not have any insurance?

					Apr09a
Keeping costs down	26	52	15	21	40
Providing for the uninsured	65	44	78	65	54
DK/NA	9	4	7	14	6

q56 When you think about the problems with the U.S. health care system, how serious a problem is doctors ordering medical tests and treatments their patients don't really need? Is it a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, not too serious a problem or not at all a serious problem?

Very serious	36	25	45	34
Somewhat serious	37	40	36	36
Not too serious	18	21	12	21
Not at all serious	4	7	4	3
DK/NA	5	7	3	6

q57 When you think about the problems with the U.S. health care system, how serious a problem is people NOT getting medical tests and treatments they need. Is it a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, not too serious a problem or not at all a serious problem?

Very serious	56	44	69	50
Somewhat serious	31	33	26	34
Not too serious	9	14	3	12
Not at all serious	2	5	0	2
DK/NA	2	4	2	2

q58 BLANK

q59 Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that all Americans have health insurance they can't lose, no matter what?

					Apr09a
					%
Willing	57	30	70	60	57
Not willing	37	64	24	33	38
DK/NA	6	6	6	7	5

q60 Would you be willing to pay as much as \$500 a year or more in taxes so that all Americans have health insurance they can't lose, no matter what?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Willing	43	22	60	39
Not willing	45	69	30	45
Willing but < \$500 (vol.)	4	2	3	5
DK/NA	8	7	7	6

q61 Do you think the federal government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans, or isn't this the responsibility of the federal government?

					Mar09a
					%
Should guarantee	64	30	85	62	62
Not responsibility	30	61	11	30	30
DK/NA	6	9	4	8	8

q62 What if that meant that the cost of your own health insurance would go up? Then, do you think the federal government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans, or not?

Should guarantee	47	20	69	42
Not	40	70	19	42
DK/NA	13	10	12	16

q63 If the government were to guarantee health insurance for all Americans, what effect would that have on the national economy? Would it improve the national economy, hurt the national economy, or wouldn't it affect the national economy?

					Apr09a
Improve economy	28	13	46	19	34
Hurt economy	37	64	20	36	37
No effect	20	10	19	26	16
Depends (vol.)	3	2	3	4	2
DK/NA	12	11	12	15	11

q64 How concerned are you that if the government creates a system of providing health care for all Americans, the quality of your own health care will get worse -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	28	46	18	26
Somewhat concerned	35	32	39	34
Not too concerned	21	11	26	22
Not at all concerned	15	10	16	17
DK/NA	1	1	1	1

q65 How concerned are you that if the government creates a system of providing health care for all Americans, your own access to medical tests and treatment would be more limited than it is now -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	34	51	25	32
Somewhat concerned	34	29	41	30
Not too concerned	19	15	19	20
Not at all concerned	13	3	14	18
DK/NA	0	2	1	0

q66 How concerned are you that if the government creates a system of providing health care for all Americans, you would be required to change doctors -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very concerned	33	52	25	30
Somewhat concerned	20	22	16	22
Not too concerned	27	16	37	25
Not at all concerned	19	9	21	23
DK/NA	1	1	1	0

q67 As long as the federal government provides financial help to those who cannot afford health insurance, do you think the federal government should or should not require all Americans to have health insurance?

Should	48	31	65	42
Should not	38	61	24	38
DK/NA	14	8	11	20

q68 Would you favor or oppose the government offering everyone a government administered health insurance plan -- something like the Medicare coverage that people 65 and older get -- that would compete with private health insurance plans?

Favor	72	50	87	71
Oppose	20	39	9	21
DK/NA	8	11	4	8

q69 Some people have suggested requiring all Americans to have health insurance. Under this plan, employers would be required to provide insurance for all their workers or pay into a government pool that would be used to buy coverage for the uninsured. People who do not get insurance from an employer would have to buy their coverage on their own or from the government insurance pool. Does this sound like a good idea to you, a bad idea or are you unsure?

Good idea	26	17	36	22
Bad idea	28	37	18	31
Unsure	44	42	45	45
DK/NA	2	4	1	2

q70 Currently, workers do not pay taxes on health insurance benefits they receive from their employers. Lawmakers have proposed taxing some employees on some of the money that their employers pay toward their health insurance. The tax money would then be used to help provide health insurance to people who do not have it. In general, would you approve or disapprove of taxing employer paid health insurance benefits, or are you unsure?

Approve	20	10	30	18
Disapprove	46	72	30	46
Unsure	31	17	40	32
DK/NA	3	1	0	4

q71 Some lawmakers have proposed requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies for health insurance regardless of whether or not they have an existing medical condition or a prior illness. Do you approve or disapprove of requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Approve	75	64	88	70
Disapprove	17	27	9	18
DK/NA	8	9	3	12

q72 What if that meant that the cost of your health insurance would go up, then would you approve or disapprove of requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies?

Approve	56	39	74	50
Disapprove	32	47	20	33
DK/NA	12	14	6	17

q73 How concerned are you about the health care costs you and your family might face in the coming years -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

					Apr09a
					%
Very	49	57	47	47	57
Somewhat	37	30	40	38	32
Not at all	13	13	13	13	11
DK/NA	1	0	0	2	0

q74 BLANK

q75 In the last 12 months, have you, or someone in your household, not gotten a test, treatment or procedure that your doctor recommended because your health plan wouldn't cover it?

Yes	21	18	21	23
No	77	81	77	76
DK/NA	2	1	2	1

q76 In the last 12 months, have you, or someone in your household, had to cut back on or stopped taking medication because you could not afford to pay for it?

Yes	25	15	23	32
No	75	85	77	67
DK/NA	0	0	0	1

q77 Do you have some form of health insurance or health care coverage, or not?

					May09a**
Yes	82	90	85	74	87
No	18	10	15	26	13
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	0

Varied wording: Do you **currently have...

q78 Are you covered by health insurance through an employer, a union, or through a plan you got on your own, or are you covered by Medicare or Medicaid?

** THOSE WITH HEALTH COVERAGE **

	*** Party ID ***				Feb07b
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Employer/Union/Self	72	76	71	71	72
Medicare/Medicaid	17	13	19	17	16
Both private and Medicare	10	10	10	11	11
DK/NA	1	1	0	1	1

q79 In recent years, has the employer of you or anyone in your household cut back on health care benefits or made the wage earner pay more for those benefits?

Yes	44	47	39	47	49
No	50	50	56	44	46
Not employed (Vol.)	--	--	--	--	3
DK/NA	6	3	5	9	2

q80 How would you describe the affordability of basic medical care for you and your family under your current health insurance plan --- would you say basic medical care is affordable or is it a hardship?

Affordable	77	76	79	76
Hardship	22	23	20	23
DK/NA	1	1	1	1

q81 BLANK

q82 What is the main reason you do not currently have health insurance?

	** THOSE WITHOUT HEALTH COVERAGE **				Feb07a
Can't afford it	55	46	54	58	52
No job	16	21	36	3	14
Part-time work	3	7	6	0	8
Job does not offer insurance	9	0	2	15	5
Don't qualify Medicare/Medicaid	3	0	0	5	--
Don't need insurance	1	8	0	0	2
Can't get it/Pre-existing cond.	2	17	1	0	2
Other	5	1	1	9	11
DK/NA	6	0	0	10	6

q83 Would you describe your health as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb07b
	%	%	%	%	%
Excellent	27	32	26	26	26
Good	43	49	38	43	56
Only fair	23	16	27	24	15
Poor	7	4	9	7	3
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	0

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>	
Total Respondents	895		
Total Republicans	284	211	(24%)
Total Democrats	301	339	(38%)
Total Independents	310	345	(38%)
Those with health coverage	821	735	