



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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U.S. HEALTH CARE POLITICS
 February 23-27, 2007

Americans think the U.S. health care system needs major fixing, though they are generally satisfied with the quality (but not the cost) of their own health care. Most believe the government can help control costs and guarantee universal coverage and that the government should guarantee health care for all. But many are dubious the government would do a better job providing health care coverage than private companies now do.

Looking ahead to 2008, Americans would especially like to see Presidential candidates talk about coverage and cost issues. Concern about the health care system is especially high among Democrats - and the Democratic Party holds a big lead in public perception that it would do the best job. Democratic voters express confidence in Hillary Clinton's handling of the issue - but voters nationally don't.

THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Nine out of 10 Americans think the U.S. health care system needs at least fundamental changes, including 36% who think it needs a complete overhaul - and Democrats are twice as likely as Republicans to say the system needs one.

U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM NEEDS...

	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Minor changes	8%	15%	5%	7%
Fundamental changes	54	64	50	51
To be completely rebuilt	36	21	44	40

The Democratic Party has long held a significant edge on handling health care, and that remains in this poll. More than three times as many believe the Democratic Party rather than the Republican Party will best improve health care.

PARTY THAT WOULD IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

	Now	5/2006	7/2002	7/2000	1/1994	6/1991
Democrats	62%	62%	58%	51%	59%	51%
Republicans	19	19	22	28	20	22

But that advantage has not yet provided any single Democratic candidate with a large national edge on dealing with the issue of health care. More voters are confident about Hillary Clinton's

ability to make the right decisions about health care (36%) than say that about Barack Obama (25%) or John Edwards (22%) -- but slightly more than half (51%) are uneasy about Clinton's approach. Voters overall are also more uneasy than confident about either Obama's or Edwards' approach.

CONFIDENCE IN HANDLING HEALTH CARE

(Among registered voters)

	Clinton	Edwards	Obama
Confident	36%	22%	25%
Uneasy	51	50	44
Don't Know	13	28	31

More than a decade ago, Hillary Clinton was heavily involved in the failed Clinton Administration effort to reform the health care system. That record means that - unlike the other Democrats -- few now don't have an opinion about how she would handle health care -- only 13% of voters are unable to evaluate her on this issue.

Senator Clinton fares much better on health care among voters who consider themselves Democrats: by more than two to one, Democratic voters are confident in her ability to handle the issue. 60% of them are, compared to only 36% who are confident in Obama, and 32% who are confident in Edwards. For both Edwards and Obama, there are more Democrats uneasy about them on the issue. However neither of them is as well-known as Clinton on the issue: twice as many aren't able to evaluate how Edwards or Obama would handle health care than say they aren't able to evaluate Clinton.

CONFIDENCE IN HANDLING HEALTH CARE

(Among Democratic voters)

	Clinton	Edwards	Obama
Confident	60%	32%	36%
Uneasy	29	41	39
Don't Know	11	27	25

Like the views of their party, all three Democratic hopefuls rate higher than the Republican President Bush on this issue. Only 17% of Americans express confidence in President Bush's handling of health care. Most are uneasy, including about half of Republicans.

CONFIDENCE IN BUSH'S HANDLING OF HEALTH CARE

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Confident	17%	39%	7%	12%
Uneasy	77	55	89	80

The President's approval rating on health care is similarly low -- only 24% of Americans approve. Most Democrats and Independents disapprove. Just 43% of Republicans approve; 38% disapprove.

BUSH'S HANDLING OF HEALTH CARE

Approve	24%
Disapprove	60

When asked to choose from a list of health care related issues, Americans picked expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured as the health care issue they would most like to hear the 2008 presidential candidates talk about over the next two years. 34% said providing coverage for the uninsured was most important, ahead of reducing the cost of health care (28%), improving the quality of health care (18%), and improving the Medicare prescription drug benefit (18%).

WHICH HEALTH CARE ISSUE SHOULD 2008 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TALK ABOUT MOST?

Coverage for uninsured	34%
Reducing health care costs	28
Improving health care quality	18
Improving Medicare RX drug benefit	18

For Americans with health insurance, hearing what the candidates have to say about reducing costs is nearly as important (29%) as what they have to say about covering the uninsured (31%). Among the uninsured themselves, providing health care coverage to all Americans far outstrips other problems as the health care issue they want the candidates to address.

Priorities also differ according to people's political leaning. Republicans place a clear priority on hearing about lowering costs for health care. Democrats and Independents place top priority on hearing about coverage for the uninsured.

In a CBS News Poll conducted last month, health care tied with jobs and the economy as the second most important issue facing the country, following the war in Iraq. And among Democratic primary voters it was even more important than the economy and jobs.

POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

According to the public, there is a role for government when it comes to health care: Two-thirds say it is the responsibility of the federal government to guarantee that all Americans have health insurance. This sentiment is little changed from 2000 and even higher than it was ten years ago. Most say they still believe this even if it meant the cost of their own care would go up.

SHOULD GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL?

	Now	7/2000	8/1996
Yes	64%	62%	56%
No	27	29	38

But only about half as many Americans - less than one in three - think the government can do a better job than private insurance companies at actually providing medical coverage. Many are not sure how government would fare in this role.

**WOULD GOVERNMENT DO BETTER OR WORSE AT PROVIDING COVERAGE
THAN PRIVATE COMPANIES?**

Government better	30%
Government worse	44
Don't know	23

There are partisan differences: four in ten Democrats think the government can do a better job than private companies but only two in ten Republicans agree; six in ten Republicans think the government would do worse.

However, more Americans do think the government can do a better job than the private sector at holding down health care costs.

**WOULD GOVERNMENT DO BETTER OR WORSE AT LOWERING COSTS
THAN PRIVATE COMPANIES?**

Government better	47%
Government worse	37
Don't know	14

Republicans are more likely to think the government can do better at controlling costs - four in ten say so - than to think it would do well at providing coverage. Democrats, however, think the government would do better at both.

In terms of achieving complete coverage nationwide, slightly more Americans think a government-run system run would be better for the nation than the current one. Given a choice between keeping the system as it is now, with insurance provided by private employers and some people having no insurance, or having a government-run system that provided universal coverage, 47% say the latter would be better.

WHICH WOULD BE BETTER...?

Government-run system, with universal coverage	47%
Current private system, with many uninsured	38

But Americans are split on whether it would be fair for the government in Washington to require that all Americans participate in a national health care plan of some kind.

The public is not generally worried that its own quality of health care would be diminished in order to provide insurance to everyone. In 1994, amid the debate over former President Bill Clinton's specific health care proposals, CBS News and the New York Times asked this question along with many others on that issue, and this was a concern among most Americans.

Almost all Americans say it is a serious problem that there are many Americans who do not have health insurance - including seven out of 10 who say it is a very serious problem. Even a majority of those who have health insurance themselves say non-coverage is very serious.

THE UNINSURED: HOW SERIOUS A PROBLEM?

Very serious	70%
Somewhat serious	25
Not very/at all serious	4

And when asked to choose between keeping health care costs down for average Americans or providing health insurance for Americans who do not have any insurance, 65% of Americans - whether insured or uninsured themselves -- picked providing health insurance for the uninsured as the more serious problem.

WHICH IS MORE SERIOUS?

Providing health insurance for all	65%
Keeping health care costs down	31%

As a policy choice, Americans overwhelmingly favor expanding government programs in order to give health insurance to all uninsured children.

**EXPAND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO GIVE INSURANCE
TO ALL UNINSURED CHILDREN?**

Favor	84%
Oppose	11

A large majority would still favor this even if it meant paying more taxes.

PAYING FOR HEALTH CARE

A plan that would require employers to either provide insurance or contribute to a general fund for the uninsured finds more favor than opposition among Americans -- but nearly half aren't yet sure if such a plan would be a good or bad idea.

REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE OR FUND HEALTH COVERAGE?

Good idea	36%
Bad idea	17
Not sure	46

Americans are more apt to say this would be a bad idea if it meant that employers would cut jobs in order to pay for the insurance.

On one specific health care cost - prescription drugs - Americans overwhelmingly want a change. They would like more access to prescription drugs from north of the border. A majority of the public

favours having Congress change the law to allow Americans to buy lower cost prescription drugs imported from Canada. The idea gets support from Americans of all demographic - and all income and party - groups.

SHOULD AMERICANS BE ALLOWED TO BUY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FROM CANADA?

Yes	77%
No	16

HEALTH CARE AND YOU: QUALITY AND COST

Most Americans are dissatisfied with the quality of health care in the country as a whole, but they are satisfied with the quality of the health care they are receiving personally, including 41% who are very satisfied.

SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE

	<u>In the Country</u>	<u>Own Health Care</u>
Very satisfied	11%	41%
Somewhat satisfied	27	36
Somewhat dissatisfied	29	8
Very dissatisfied	28	12

Cost, however, is another matter. Just one in five Americans are very satisfied with their own health care cost. A majority - 52% - are dissatisfied, including a third who is very dissatisfied. Thinking about the country as a whole, Americans are even more critical: 59% say they are very dissatisfied with the cost of health care in the U.S. overall and another 22% are somewhat dissatisfied.

SATISFACTION WITH COST OF HEALTH CARE

	<u>In the Country</u>	<u>Own Health Care</u>
Very satisfied	3%	20%
Somewhat satisfied	11	23
Somewhat dissatisfied	22	19
Very dissatisfied	59	33

Having health insurance coverage significantly impacts views of health care quality and cost. Those with insurance are twice as likely as those without to be satisfied with the quality of health care they receive. Those with health insurance are also more likely to be satisfied than those without insurance about the cost of their health care, but 51% of Americans with health insurance admit say they are dissatisfied with their health care costs.

In addition, nearly all Americans are concerned about the health care costs they may face in the coming years. Those without health insurance are even more likely to be very concerned.

CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE HEALTH CARE COSTS

Very	52%
Somewhat	37
Not at all	10

While those without insurance are more likely to be concerned about health care costs, there are concerns among those with insurance. About four in 10 insured Americans are concerned that in the next five years someone in their household might lose their insurance. In fact, one in five says that at some point over the past year someone in their household has been without health insurance.

CONCERNED SOMEONE IN HOUSEHOLD MAY LOSE HEALTH INSURANCE

(Among insured Americans)

Yes	38%
No	59

The Uninsured

According to this poll 11% of American adults report being uninsured. Most of them volunteer cost as the main reason. Many also mention job-related causes (i.e. not working, only working part-time, job does not offer insurance).

MAIN REASON DO NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE

(Among Uninsured Americans)

Can't afford it	52%
Don't have a job	14
Work part-time only	8
Job does not offer insurance	5
Don't need health insurance	2
Can't get insurance due to health problems	2

Men are more likely than women to have no health insurance, as are younger Americans. Education and income play a role too: those with higher levels of education (as well as higher incomes) are more likely to be insured. In this poll, those residing in the South are more likely than those in other regions to be without health insurance.

A majority of those without health insurance say they have gone without medical treatment or care because they could not afford it. On the other hand, only a quarter of insured Americans have decided not to undergo medical test or treatment because their health plan did not cover it. Most have not done that.

Financially, majorities of those without insurance are very concerned about having enough money for health care costs as well as for retirement. And uninsured Americans are less likely than those with insurance to say they expect to live to the age of 80 or longer.

IRAQ, IRAN AND THE PRESIDENT

Americans' views of the war in Iraq may have made them cautious about involvement in Iran. Only 15% think Iran is a threat to the U.S. that requires military action now, down from 21% last month. 57% believe it is a threat, but one that can be contained. 20% think it is not a threat now.

IRAN IS...

	Now	2/2007	6/2006
A threat requiring military action now	15%	21%	21%
A threat that can be contained now	57	57	55
Not a threat to the U.S. now	20	14	19

The U.S. has agreed to talk with Iran and Syria to try and solve its difficulties in Iraq. Americans are now extremely negative about the Iraq War. Just 38% think taking military action against Iraq was the right thing to do, matching the lowest level since the war began. 55% think the U.S. ought to have stayed out of Iraq.

U.S. MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRAQ

Right thing	38%
U.S. should have stayed out	55

Republicans still support the war; 67% say the U.S. did the right thing there. But 78% of Democrats, and a majority of Independents, think the U.S. should have stayed out.

Only 23% think the war in Iraq is going well for the U.S., while 74% think it is going badly. Many question how effective the U.S. can be in Iraq; just 20% think the U.S. can do something to stop the violence and fighting between Iraqis, while 70% think there isn't much the U.S. can do to stop the violence.

CAN U.S. MILITARY BE EFFECTIVE IN LESSENING FIGHTING BETWEEN IRAQIS?

	Now	2/12/2007
Yes	20%	25%
No	70	67

The problems in Iraq continue to affect the President's job ratings. After a slight uptick in February, President Bush's job approval rating is now 29%, just above where it was in January. 61% now disapprove of the job he is doing as president. And one in ten says they aren't sure whether they approve or disapprove.

BUSH'S JOB APPROVAL

	Now	2/2007	1/2007
Approve	29%	32%	28%
Disapprove	61	59	64
Don't Know	10	9	8

The uptick last month was due to an increase in the President's approval rating among Republicans to 71%; now, 65% of Republicans approve (the same percentage as in January).

Positive assessment of the President's handling of Iraq has also fallen. Just 23% approve of the way he is handling the situation in Iraq, only two points higher than his all-time low in December. Other issue assessments have also dropped. And even as the Administration begins several foreign policy initiatives, the percentages that approve of his handling of foreign policy and terrorism are now at the lowest levels ever measured in this poll.

BUSH JOB APPROVALS

	Now	2/2007	1/2007
Terrorism	40%	44%	42%
Economy	35%	38%	37%
Foreign policy	25%	28%	26%
Iraq	23%	27%	24%

Views of the Republican Party are dismal; just 34% views it favorably, while 56% views it unfavorably. This is the lowest rating the Republican Party has received since this poll began asking the question in 1984.

Just under half of Americans have a favorable view of the Democratic Party, but 41% have a negative opinion of it.

VIEWS OF THE PARTIES

	Favorable	Unfavorable
Republicans	34%	56
Democrats	48%	41

33% of Americans approve of the way Congress is handling its job, while 50% disapprove. That has not changed much since the new Congress took office earlier this year.

TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION

By a large margin, most Americans think that trade with other countries is good rather than bad for the U.S. economy. That perception has remained steady since the question was first asked in 1993. But views of the impact of globalization on the U.S. economy are more mixed. 36% think the U.S. has gained more because of globalization (defined as the increase of trade, communication, travel and other things among countries around the world), but even more, 51%, think the U.S. has lost more as a result of globalization.

AS A RESULT OF GLOBALIZATION, U.S. HAS...

	All	Reps	Dems
Gained more	36%	47%	33%
Lost more	51	46	54

Republicans are more positive than Democrats. But fewer than half of both Republicans and Democrats see gains from globalization. 47% of Republicans, and just 33% of Democrats, think the U.S. has mostly gained from it.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,281 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone February 23-27, 2007. 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.

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q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	29	65	6	27	32
Disapprove	61	27	88	59	59
DK/NA	10	8	6	14	9

q2 Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	23	48	8	21	26
Wrong track	68	42	85	69	68
DK/NA	9	10	7	10	6

q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy?

Approve	25	54	7	21	28
Disapprove	66	40	86	66	61
DK/NA	9	6	7	13	11

q4 How about the economy? Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

Approve	35	67	14	33	38
Disapprove	56	26	77	56	55
DK/NA	9	7	9	11	7

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	23	50	4	22	27
Disapprove	71	44	89	73	68
DK/NA	6	6	7	5	5

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	40	73	20	37	44
Disapprove	53	23	71	55	49
DK/NA	7	4	9	8	7

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling health care?

Approve	24	43	14	20
Disapprove	60	38	75	60
DK/NA	16	19	11	20

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	33	29	44	25	32
Disapprove	50	59	41	53	52
DK/NA	17	12	15	22	16

q10 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	7	19	0	5	8
Fairly good	55	62	50	54	52
Fairly bad	25	14	33	26	27
Very bad	10	4	12	12	12
DK/NA	3	1	5	3	1

q11 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	11	21	8	8	15
Worse	35	22	44	36	34
Same	51	57	45	54	49
DK/NA	3	0	3	2	2

q12 In general, is your opinion of the Republican party favorable or not favorable?

					Oct06d
Favorable	34	74	13	28	36
Not favorable	56	23	84	52	56
DK/NA	10	3	3	20	8

q13 In general, is your opinion of the Democratic party favorable or not favorable?

Favorable	48	14	85	36	49
Not favorable	41	79	10	43	40
DK/NA	11	7	5	21	11

q14 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?

					May06a
Republican	19	42	3	18	19
Democratic	62	37	91	52	62
Both (vol.)	1	2	0	2	2
Neither (vol.)	8	10	2	13	6
DK/NA	10	9	4	15	11

q15 and q16 BLANK

q17 On balance, do you think trade with other countries--both buying and selling products--is good for the U.S. economy, or is it bad for the U.S. economy, or does it have no effect?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan06b
	%	%	%	%	%
Good	65	71	64	61	67
Bad	23	22	21	27	20
No effect	7	4	10	7	7
DK/NA	5	3	5	5	6

q18 Which of the following three statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of the healthcare 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 OR 2) There are some good things in our health care system, but fundamental changes are needed OR 3) Our healthcare system has so much wrong with it that we need to completely rebuild it.

Minor changes	8	15	5	7	8
Fundamental changes	54	64	50	51	56
Completely rebuild	36	21	44	40	34
DK/NA	2	0	1	2	2

q19 Globalization is the increase of trade, communication, travel and other things among countries around the world. In general, has the United States gained more or lost more because of globalization?

Gained	36	47	33	31
Lost	51	46	54	52
Both equal (vol.)	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	12	6	12	16

q20 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)?

Very satisfied	11	22	5	10
Somewhat satisfied	27	40	23	21
Somewhat dissatisfied	29	20	35	31
Very dissatisfied	28	17	35	30
DK/NA	5	1	2	8

q21 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)?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very satisfied	41	55	35	39
Somewhat satisfied	36	35	39	34
Somewhat dissatisfied	8	4	10	9
Very dissatisfied	12	6	13	16
DK/NA	3	0	3	2

q22 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)?

Very satisfied	3	5	2	3
Somewhat satisfied	11	26	7	6
Somewhat dissatisfied	22	24	19	24
Very dissatisfied	59	44	69	60
DK/NA	5	1	3	7

q23 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)?

Very satisfied	20	29	18	16
Somewhat satisfied	23	30	19	22
Some dissatisfied	19	15	20	22
Very dissatisfied	33	24	41	33
DK/NA	5	2	2	7

q24 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?

Keeping costs down	31	45	27	26
Providing for the uninsured	65	52	70	69
DK/NA	4	3	3	5

q25 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?

Very serious	70	57	83	67
Somewhat serious	25	36	16	26
Not too serious	3	7	0	3
Not at all serious	1	0	0	2
DK/NA	1	0	1	2

q26 How serious a problem is it for the United States that many American children do not have health insurance -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very serious	78	66	89	75
Somewhat serious	16	25	9	17
Not too serious	4	7	1	4
Not at all serious	1	1	0	1
DK/NA	1	1	1	3

q27 Do you think the federal government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans, or isn't this the responsibility of the federal government?

					Jan06b
Should guarantee	64	41	79	65	62
Not responsibility	27	51	13	23	31
DK/NA	9	8	8	12	7

q28 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?

THOSE WHO SAID "SHOULD GUARANTEE" IN Q27

Should guarantee	76	75	79	72
Not	18	22	15	19
DK/NA	6	3	6	9

q29 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?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

Very	52	38	62	51
Somewhat	37	47	29	38
Not at all	10	14	9	8
DK/NA	1	1	0	3

q30 If you had to choose, which do you think is more important for the country to do right now, maintain the tax cuts enacted in recent years or make sure all Americans have access to health care?

Cutting taxes	18	39	7	15
Access to health insurance	76	55	90	76
Neither (vol.)	1	1	0	1
Both (vol.)	2	2	2	2
DK/NA	3	3	1	6

q31 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?

					Jul94c
Willing	60	46	74	58	55
Not willing	34	49	22	35	42
DK/NA	6	5	4	7	3

q32 Would you be willing or not willing to pay \$500 a year more in taxes so that all Americans have health insurance they can't lose, no matter what?

THOSE WHO WERE WILLING TO PAY HIGHER TAXES IN Q31

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Willing	82	73	86	82
Not willing	16	21	14	16
DK/NA	2	6	0	2

q33 Do you worry that, in order to provide health care for everyone, the quality of your own health care will be diminished, or don't you?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Sep94a
	%	%	%	%	%
Worry	40	48	38	38	55
Don't worry	55	46	57	59	41
DK/NA	5	6	5	4	4

q34 Currently, a government program provides health insurance for some children in low and moderate income families. Would you favor or oppose expanding this program to include ALL uninsured children?

Favor	84	72	93	82
Oppose	11	21	5	11
DK/NA	5	7	2	7

q35 What if that meant you would have to pay more in taxes? Then, would you favor or oppose expanding the government program to include all uninsured children?

	THOSE WHO SAID "FAVOR" IN Q34			
Favor	80	79	82	80
Oppose	15	17	14	15
DK/NA	5	4	4	5

q36 What if that meant the cost of your own medical insurance would be increased? Then, would you favor or oppose expanding the government program to include all uninsured children?

Favor	71	68	71	71
Oppose	24	26	23	23
DK/NA	5	6	6	6

q37 Do you think it would be fair or unfair for the government in Washington to require all Americans to participate in a national health care plan, funded by taxpayers?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
Fair	43	30	54	43
Unfair	48	61	37	49
DK/NA	9	9	9	8

q38 Which do you think would be better for the country: 1. having one health insurance program covering all Americans that would be administered by the government and paid for by taxpayers, OR 2. Keeping the current system where many people get their insurance from private employers and some have no insurance?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
One program for all	47	27	62	48
Current system	38	62	26	33
Combination (Vol.)	4	3	3	6
Neither (Vol.)	2	2	2	3
DK/NA	9	6	7	10

q39 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 fund that would be used to buy insurance for people who do not have it. Does this sound like a good idea to you, a bad idea, or are you unsure?

Good idea	36	31	43	32
Bad idea	17	24	10	18
Unsure	46	44	45	48
DK/NA	1	1	2	2

q40 What if that meant employers would have to cut some jobs in order to provide health insurance for other employees? Then, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea, or are you unsure?

	THOSE WHO SAID "GOOD IDEA" IN Q39			
Good idea	23	23	19	29
Bad idea	31	35	38	21
Unsure	44	39	41	49
DK/NA	2	3	2	1

q41-q45 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q48 Do you favor or oppose Congress changing the law to allow Americans to buy lower cost prescription drugs imported from Canada?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
Favor	77	78	79	76
Oppose	16	17	15	17
DK/NA	7	5	6	7

q49 Do you think the government would do a better or worse job than private insurance companies in providing medical coverage?

Better	30	21	41	26
Worse	44	60	36	42
Same (vol.)	3	2	3	4
DK/NA	23	17	20	28

q50 Do you think the government would do a better or worse job than private insurance companies in holding down health care costs?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Better	47	42	56	42
Worse	37	48	29	36
Same (vol.)	2	2	3	2
DK/NA	14	8	12	20

q51 Which one of the following health care issues would you most like to hear the 2008 presidential candidates talk about over the next two years: 1. reducing health care costs, 2. expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured, 3. improving the overall quality of care or 4. improving the Medicare prescription drug benefit for seniors?
[ITEMS WERE ROTATED]

Reducing costs	28	35	23	27
Coverage for uninsured	34	22	35	40
Improving quality of care	18	17	21	16
Improving Medicare Rx benefit	18	24	19	13
None (vol.)	0	0	0	1
DK/NA	2	2	2	3

Q52, Q53, Q53 WERE ROTATED

q52 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, do you have confidence in Hillary Rodham Clinton's ability to make the right decisions about health care or are you uneasy about her approach?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **			
Confident	36	12	60	32
Uneasy	51	80	29	49
DK/NA	13	8	11	19

q53 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, do you have confidence in John Edward's ability to make the right decisions about health care or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	22	12	32	22
Uneasy	50	64	41	47
DK/NA	28	24	27	31

q54 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, do you have confidence in Barack Obama's ability to make the right decisions about health care or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	25	13	36	23
Uneasy	44	57	39	38
DK/NA	31	30	25	39

q55 Do you have confidence in George W. Bush's ability to make the right decisions about health care or are you uneasy about his approach?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
Confident	17	39	7	12
Uneasy	77	55	89	80
DK/NA	6	6	4	8

q57 Do you have some form of health insurance or health care coverage, or not?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	89	90	91	86
No	11	10	9	14
DK/NA	0	0	0	0

q58 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?

	AMONG THOSE WITH HEALTH INSURANCE			
Employer/Union/Self	72	73	69	75
Medicare/Medicaid	16	15	18	14
Both private and Medicare	11	11	11	10
DK/NA	1	1	2	1

q59 What type of health insurance plan do you have -- 1. a traditional insurance plan where you use any doctor and the plan reimburses all or part of your costs, or 2. a health maintenance organization, or HMO, where you only use the HMO doctors and almost all of your costs are covered, sometimes with a small fee, or 3. a preferred provider organization, or PPO, where certain doctors belong to the plan and you get reimbursed according to whether or not a doctor is a member of the plan?

Traditional	30	26	28	33
HMO	30	31	30	29
PPO	36	39	36	34
Other (vol.)	2	2	3	2
DK/NA	2	2	3	2

q60 Does your health care coverage give you access to good medical care at an affordable cost, or not?

Yes	87	91	84	88
No	11	8	15	10
DK/NA	2	1	1	2

q62 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q63 Have you or has anyone in your household ever decided not to have a medical test, treatment or care because your health plan would not cover it?

Yes	24	16	29	25
No	75	84	70	74
DK/NA	1	0	1	1

q64 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	49	50	50	47
No	46	46	42	49
Not employed (Vol.)	3	3	4	2
DK/NA	2	1	4	2

q65 What is the main reason you do not currently have health insurance?

AMONG THOSE WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

	%
Can't afford it/no money	52
Don't have a job/just lost my job	14
Only work part time/no full-time job	8
Job does not offer insurance	5
Don't need any health insurance	2
Can't get ins. b/c of health problems	2
Other	11
DK/NA	6

q66 How concerned are you about the possibility that you will have major health care bills in the next few years -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

Very concerned	36	35	43	31
Somewhat concerned	43	44	41	43
Not at all concerned	20	21	16	22
DK/NA	1	0	0	4

q67 In your household, who is the best informed about health-related issues in general -- is it you or someone else?

Respondent	60	57	65	58
Someone else	33	34	30	35
Both (vol.)	6	7	5	7
DK/NA	1	2	0	0

q68 Have you or has anyone in your household ever gone without medical treatment or care because of the cost of that treatment?

AMONG THOSE WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

Yes	61
No	39

q69 In the past 12 months have you put off any major purchases because of the cost of healthcare?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	24	17	29	23
No	76	82	70	76
DK/NA	0	1	1	1

q72 In the last 12 months, was there any time when you or anyone in your household had no health insurance of any kind?

AMONG THOSE WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

Yes	20	12	22	24
No	79	89	77	75
DK/NA	1	0	1	1

q73 Are you concerned that in the next five years, you or anyone in your household might lose your health insurance for any reason such as changing jobs or developing a serious illness?

AMONG THOSE WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	38	31	49	33
No	59	68	49	62
DK/NA	3	1	2	5

q74 In general, how concerned are you about not having enough money to pay for your current health care costs -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very concerned	26	22	32	25
Somewhat concerned	38	36	40	38
Not at all concerned	35	42	28	36
DK/NA	1	0	0	1

q75 How concerned are you about not having enough money for retirement -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	38	29	42	40
Somewhat concerned	37	38	37	36
Not at all concerned	24	31	20	24
DK/NA	1	2	1	0

q76 How concerned are you about not having enough money to pay for your healthcare costs as you AGE -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	40	30	47	40
Somewhat concerned	41	43	36	44
Not at all concerned	19	27	17	16
DK/NA	0	0	0	0

q83 Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the US have stayed out?

					Jan07c
Right thing	38	67	18	39	39
Stayed out	55	27	78	52	56
Don't know/No answer	7	6	4	9	5

q84 How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

					Feb07a
Very well	3	5	1	3	1
Somewhat well	20	42	7	17	24
Somewhat badly	31	34	28	32	32
Very badly	43	18	60	44	40
Don't know/No answer	3	1	4	4	3

q85 Can the U.S. military be effective now in lessening the fighting between groups of Iraqis, or is that something the U.S. military cannot do much about?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Can be effective	20	35	9	20	25
Cannot do much about	70	52	83	70	67
DK/NA	10	13	8	10	8

q86 Which comes closer to your opinion: Iran is a threat to the United States that requires military action now, Iran is a threat that can be contained with diplomacy now, or Iran is not a threat to the United States at this time?

Threat requiring action now	15	19	9	17	21
Threat that can be contained	57	59	62	51	57
Not a threat at this time	20	17	21	20	14
DK/NA	8	5	8	12	8

q91 These last few questions are for background only.

Think about your household income, would say that it is more than enough so that you can save and buy some extras, just enough to meet your bills and obligations, or it is not enough to meet your bills and obligations?

					Oct06d
More than enough	37	49	33	33	38
Just enough	49	42	54	49	44
Not enough	13	9	13	17	17
DK/NA	1	0	0	1	1

q92 When you plan for the future, what do you think your life expectancy will be --less than 70 years, or into your 70's, into your 80's, into your 90's, or older than that?

Less than 70	8	6	10	9
70's	30	27	31	32
80's	39	49	33	37
90's	11	10	12	9
Older than 90	7	4	8	7
DK/NA	5	4	6	6

UNWEIGHTED

WEIGHTED

Total Respondents	1281	
Total Republicans	357	326
Total Democrats	440	453
Total Independents	484	502
Total Registered Voters	1130	1061