



CBS NEWS POLL
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HEALTH CARE REFORM

August 27-31, 2009

President Obama's approval rating on health care has dropped six points since July to 40%, and now more Americans disapprove (47%) than approve of his handling of the issue. His overall approval (56%) and handling of the economy (53%) are not much changed from last month.

The public says the President hasn't clearly explained his plans for health care reform, and 67% of Americans admit they're confused about exactly what Congress' reform plans would do. Along with that lack of clarity comes skepticism: Americans are more apt to say the middle class and small business would be hurt, not helped, by the plans.

Still, the public continues to say the health care system does need reform, and that things will worsen if nothing is done. Americans strongly support government regulations on insurance companies, including cost controls and mandates for covering all applicants.

But during the Congressional recess the President's ratings on health care have turned negative.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HANDLING OF HEALTH CARE

	Now	7/2009	6/2009
Approve	40%	46%	44%
Disapprove	47	38	34
Don't know	13	16	22

Most Americans (60%) say the President has not clearly explained his plans for health care reform. Only slightly more than half of Democrats think Mr. Obama has clearly explained health care reform, while large majorities of Republicans and independents say he hasn't.

HAS PRES. OBAMA CLEARLY EXPLAINED HIS PLANS FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	31%	12%	52%	25%
No	60	85	38	65

One-third call themselves dissatisfied with the way the Obama administration is handling health care, and another 17% describe themselves as angry about it. 34% are satisfied and just 11% are enthusiastic.

FEELINGS ON OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S HANDLING OF HEALTH CARE

Enthusiastic	11%
Satisfied	34
Dissatisfied	34
Angry	17

Nearly half of Republicans (48%) are dissatisfied with the way the administration is handling health care and another 36% are angry about it. Meanwhile, in the President's own party, Democrats are more likely to be satisfied (55%) than to be enthusiastic (21%).

HEALTH CARE REFORMS: CONFUSION, SKEPTICISM REIGN

Americans call the health care reform proposals "confusing" (two-thirds say so), and with that lack of clarity has come skepticism. Most simply don't believe they'd benefit from them.

Two in three Americans call the plans under discussion in Congress confusing; just a third feels they have a clear understanding.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND HEALTH CARE REFORM PROPOSALS?

Yes, have understanding	31%
No, they're confusing	67

The bulk of the public does not think current reform proposals would help them. 46% say they'd have no effect and another 31% thinks they'd hurt. Just one in five thinks they would help.

WOULD CONGRESS' CURRENT HEALTH REFORMS HELP OR HURT YOU PERSONALLY?

Help	18%
Hurt	31
Have no effect	46

Most Democrats say it would have no impact on them personally (54%), while most Republicans think it would hurt them (57% say so). Young people under 30 are the most likely age group to think reform would have no effect (54%), while seniors are the least likely to think they'd be helped (7%.)

Nor do Americans think other groups in society would benefit from reform. More think the current reform proposals would hurt rather than help the middle class (the class most Americans say they're part of), seniors, and a key part of the U.S. economy, small businesses.

WOULD CONGRESS' CURRENT HEALTH REFORMS HELP OR HURT...

	Help	Hurt	Have no effect
The middle class	27%	43	21
Seniors	25%	36	28
Small businesses	23%	46	21

Specifically, Americans foresee Congress' reform plans being no help or leading to detrimental, instead of beneficial, changes: costs going up, quality of care getting worse, and the availability of doctors declining as a result. No more than one in five think Congress' current plans would make any of those areas better.

WOULD CONGRESS' CURRENT HEALTH REFORM PLANS MAKE...?

	Go up	Go down	No impact
Your costs...	41%	20	33
	Better	Worse	No impact
Your quality of care...	19%	34	40
	Easier	Harder	No impact
Seeing a doctor...	13%	37	46

And there are also concerns about the financial impact of reform. While about half of Americans still feel reform is possible without increasing the deficit or raising middle-class taxes, more than four in 10 think that is not possible.

IS HEALTH CARE REFORM POSSIBLE WITHOUT...?

	Possible	Impossible
Raising middle-class taxes	51%	45
Increasing the deficit	48%	47

Despite the heated rhetoric from both sides of the aisle that has occurred over the last month, many Americans cannot volunteer anything they especially like or dislike about the proposals.

Asked if there's anything they like, 40% cannot name anything, the most-cited response; second-most is that coverage would expand.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM IDEAS?

Don't know/not sure	40%
Would expand coverage	27
Nothing	7
Would lower costs	3

Notably, few Americans volunteer some of the elements of reform that the President and his aides have tried to stress, such as ending pre-existing condition restrictions, or making Americans healthier.

At the same time, many Americans cannot name something they especially dislike about reform.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM IDEAS?

Don't know/not sure	43%
Too much gov't/ bureaucrats	12
Would increase costs	7
Increase taxes	5

Few Americans volunteer some of the phrases that have been raised by opponents at recent town halls, such as "death panels" or "socialized medicine."

Television remains the most-cited source for information about the health care debate, followed by the internet, which outdistances newspapers.

Most Americans have heard or read something about the protestors who have attended recent town hall meetings concerning health care reform. Among those who have heard about them, nearly half (49%) say the protestors do not reflect the views of most Americans, but 41% say they do.

Republicans (66%) think the protestors reflect the opinions of Americans as a whole, while Democrats do not (73%).

DO TOWN HALL PROTESTORS REFLECT VIEWS OF MOST AMERICANS?

(among those who have heard about protestors)

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	41%	66	18%	45%
No	49	23	73	44

POLICY OPTIONS

Support for the so-called "public option" -- a government-administered health insurance plan - still finds majority support, though that support has been steadily dropping since June. In this poll, 60% favor it, with 34% opposed.

GOVT. HEALTH PLAN TO COMPETE WITH PRIVATE INSURERS

	Now	7/2009	6/2009
Favor	60%	66%	72%
Oppose	34	27	20

Support has dropped among Republicans, from 49% in July to 35% now. Support has also dropped slightly among Democrats and independents.

There is widespread approval for some other policy options.

-- 72% approve of allowing the government to set limits on the amount that health insurance companies could charge people for premiums, co-pays and other out-of-pocket expenses.

-- Seven in 10 also approve of providing subsidies to low income people to help them purchase health insurance from private insurers.

-- And most Americans continue to approve of requiring insurance companies to cover anyone who applies for health insurance regardless of whether or not they have a pre-existing medical condition. 79% approve of that, 16% disapprove.

SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC POLICY REFORMS

	Approve	Disapprove
Require insurers to cover everyone	79%	16
Limit amount insurers charge patients	72%	23
Provide subsidies to low income people	71%	22

GOVERNMENT VS. PRIVATE INSURERS

Americans are now doubtful as to how the government would compare with private insurers. Just under half think the government would do a worse job on providing medical coverage, and only 36% think it would do better -- marking a change since earlier this summer.

There has also been a significant drop in the percentage that thinks government would do better than insurers keeping costs down, from 59% in June to 47% now. Still, more think the government rather than private insurers would do a better job containing costs.

GOVT. VS. PRIVATE INSURERS

	<u>Gov't Providing Medical Coverage</u>		
	Now	6/2009	2/2007
Better job	36%	50%	30%
Worse job	47	34	44
No different	5	2	3

	<u>Gov't Holding Down Costs</u>		
	Now	6/2009	2/2007
Better job	47%	59%	47%
Worse job	38	26	37
No different	4	3	2

But private insurers are not held in high esteem either. Just as they felt fifteen years ago, Americans are divided in their opinion of the health insurance industry. Now, 49% of Americans have a favorable opinion of industry, and 48% are unfavorable. In 1994, 51% were favorable and 46% unfavorable.

VIEWS OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY

	Now	2/1994
Very favorable	6%	8%
Somewhat favorable	43	43
Somewhat unfavorable	31	29
Very unfavorable	17	17

Republicans have more favorable views than Democrats.

THE NEED FOR REFORM

Despite increasing skepticism about current plans, Americans agree on the need for reform, and think that in the absence of reform the health care system will deteriorate. 54% think that if there are no government reforms, the health care system will get worse. Just 6% think it will get better on its own.

IF NO GOVT. REFORMS, HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WILL BECOME:

Better	6%
Worse	54
Same	34

And as has been the case for many years, more than four in five Americans see the U.S. health care system as needing major changes - at the least. That view is held by Americans of all demographic groups.

U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM NEEDS:

	Now	7/2007	7/2003	7/1998	1/1994
Minor changes	17%	11%	13%	13%	9%
Fundamental changes	55	50	56	55	52
To be rebuilt	27	38	30	30	38

Fewer, but still a majority, view the Medicare program as needing such widespread change. Two in three think that program needs to be fundamentally changed or rebuilt. Not surprisingly, views of Medicare are much more positive among seniors, with half saying it needs only minor changes.

MEDICARE PROGRAM NEEDS:

	All	Age 65+
Minor changes	25%	49%
Fundamental changes	52	41
To be rebuilt	16	5

THE POLITICS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

Even though the president's approval rating on health care has taken a hit, he continues to be seen as having better ideas than Republicans on reforming the nation's health care system. But while that number has slipped, the number who volunteer that neither side has better ideas is up.

WHO HAS BETTER IDEAS FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM?

	Now	7/2009
President Obama	50%	55%
Republicans	23	26
Neither (vol.)	13	7

Congress' overall job rating remains low: 26% approve, while 58% disapprove.

Looking ahead to the potential impact of health care reform on the 2010 mid-term elections, there are indications that a vote by a member of Congress in support of current proposals could end up being slightly more of a negative than a positive.

33% of registered voters say they would be less likely to vote for their member of Congress if he or she supported the health care reforms now being proposed, 29% would be more likely to vote for their representative if he or she supported the reforms. One-third say the issue of health care would have no effect.

VOTE FOR YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IF THEY SUPPORTED HEALTH CARE REFORM

(among registered voters)

More likely	29%
Less likely	33
No effect	29

MORE EVALUATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT

President Obama's overall approval rating is largely the same, at 56%. Though a majority approve, that rating is his lowest yet.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S OVERALL JOB RATING

	Now	7/2009	6/2009	4/2009	2/2009
Approve	56%	58%	63%	68%	62%
Disapprove	35	30	26	23	15

This poll also finds that the president's rating on handling Afghanistan has dropped since the spring, while his economy rating is about the same as in July.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S APPROVAL RATINGS

	Now	7/2009	4/2009
Overall	56%	58%	68%
Economy	53%	51%	61%
Afghanistan	48%	--	56%
Health Care	40%	46%	--

The president continues to be seen by Americans as having strong qualities of leadership, but that percentage has dropped 12 points since February of this year.

DOES BARACK OBAMA HAVE STRONG QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP?

	Now	2/2009
Yes	73%	85%
No	25	10

Mr. Obama is also viewed as caring at least some about people's needs and problems, though the number saying he cares "a lot" is down 9 points since April.

DOES OBAMA CARE ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU?

	Now	4/2009	2/2009
A lot	45%	54%	53%
Some	27	26	30
Not much/none	26	16	14

THE PERSONAL SIDE: AMERICANS' VIEWS OF THEIR OWN COVERAGE

A majority of Americans - and nearly eight in ten of those with health insurance -- find the affordability of their basic medical coverage to be manageable. And a quarter says it is easy to afford. But more than a third of those without health insurance say affording basic health care is beyond their financial means.

AFFORDING BASIC MEDICAL CARE

	All	Have Insurance	Don't have Insurance
Easy	25%	28%	10%
Not easy, but manageable	48	51	31
Hard	15	14	17
Beyond financial means	10	5	38

A majority (69%) say their insurance company now covers all or most of their medical treatments and medicines. However, just 12% say their plan covers everything.

HOW MUCH OF YOUR MEDICAL TREATMENT DOES YOUR INSURANCE COVER?

(Among those with insurance)

All	12%
Most	57
Some	24
None	4

Americans with health insurance are somewhat confident - but few are very confident - that their insurance would pay for everything they needed if they were to become seriously injured or ill.

CONFIDENT YOUR INSURANCE WOULD COVER EVERYTHING IF YOU BECOME SERIOUSLY ILL?

(Among those with insurance)

Very	28%
Somewhat	48
Not	22

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1097 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone August 27-31, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line 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.

CBS NEWS POLL
Health Care Reform
August 27-31, 2009

q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	56	19	86	50	58
Disapprove	35	69	8	39	30
DK/NA	9	12	6	11	12

q2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

Jul09a					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Approve	53	23	82	47	51
Disapprove	41	73	12	47	41
DK/NA	6	4	6	6	8

q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling health care?

Jul09b					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Approve	40	6	70	35	46
Disapprove	47	84	19	50	38
DK/NA	13	10	11	15	16

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation in Afghanistan?

Apr09b					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Approve	48	31	64	43	56
Disapprove	30	47	17	31	21
DK/NA	22	22	19	26	23

q5 BLANK

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Jul09a					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Approve	26	16	36	24	22
Disapprove	58	72	46	60	65
DK/NA	16	12	18	16	13

q7-9 SEPARATE RELEASE

q10 BLANK

q11 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?

Jun09a					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Always	2	0	4	2	3
Most	21	12	30	19	17
Some	68	79	58	71	73
Never (vol.)	7	9	6	6	6
Don't know/No answer	2	0	2	2	1

q12 Do you think Barack Obama has strong qualities of leadership, or not?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Has	73	45	93	72	85
Does not have	25	52	5	25	10
DK/NA	2	3	2	3	5

q13 How much do you think Barack Obama cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself--a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr09b
A lot	45	14	73	40	54
Some	27	29	20	32	26
Not much	13	30	3	12	8
Not at all	13	27	3	13	8
Don't know/No answer	2	0	1	3	4

q14 In general, which describes your feelings about how the Obama Administration is handling health care reform -- enthusiastic, or satisfied but not enthusiastic, or dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

Enthusiastic	11	2	21	7
Satisfied, not enthusiastic	34	11	55	31
Dissatisfied but not angry	34	48	19	39
Angry	17	36	2	19
Don't know/No answer	4	3	3	4

q15 Do you think Barack Obama has clearly explained what his plans for health care reform would mean, or hasn't he clearly explained that?

Has explained	31	12	52	25
Hasn't explained	60	85	38	65
Don't know/No answer	9	3	10	10

q16, q19 SEPARATE RELEASE

q17, q18, q20, q21 BLANK

q22 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.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09b
Minor changes	17	30	7	18	16
Fundamental changes	55	54	56	53	49
Rebuild	27	15	36	28	33
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	2

q23 Which of the following three statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of Medicare? 1. On the whole, Medicare works pretty well and only minor changes are necessary to make it work better, 2. There are some good things about Medicare, but fundamental changes are needed, 3. Medicare has so much wrong with it that we need to completely rebuild it.

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Minor changes	25	29	23	23
Fundamental changes	52	51	56	48
Rebuild	16	11	15	20
No changes (Vol.)	1	0	1	0
DK/NA	6	9	5	9

q24 BLANK

q25 Do you think the government would do a better or worse job than private insurance companies in holding down health care costs?

					Jun09a
Better	47	23	66	44	59
Worse	38	63	14	44	26
Same (Vol.)	4	6	2	4	3
Don't know/No answer	11	8	18	8	12

q26 Do you think the government would do a better or worse job than private insurance companies in providing medical coverage?

Better	36	12	60	29	50
Worse	47	72	18	57	34
Same (Vol.)	5	7	3	5	2
Don't know/No answer	12	9	19	9	14

q27 Is your opinion of the health insurance industry very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

					Feb94b
Very favorable	6	7	5	6	8
Somewhat favorable	43	53	40	40	43
Somewhat unfavorable	31	30	32	32	29
Very unfavorable	17	9	21	19	17
Don't know/No answer	3	1	2	3	3

q28 BLANK

q29 Do you think it's possible or not possible to expand health care coverage to more Americans without increasing the budget deficit?

Possible	48	40	53	48
Not possible	47	55	41	46
DK/NA	5	5	6	6

q30 Do you think it's possible or not possible to expand health care coverage to more Americans without raising taxes on the middle class?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Possible	51	44	56	51
Not possible	45	54	41	43
DK/NA	4	2	3	6

q31, q32 BLANK

q33 Regardless of how you usually vote, who do you think has better ideas about reforming the health care system -- Barack Obama, or the Republicans in Congress?

					Jul09b
					%
Barack Obama	50	12	83	45	55
Republicans	23	60	4	17	26
Both (vol.)	1	1	1	2	1
Neither (vol.)	13	17	3	20	7
DK/NA	13	10	9	16	11

q34 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	33	40	28	34	32
Some	45	43	50	43	37
Not much	17	15	16	20	23
Nothing at all	4	1	6	3	8
DK/NA	1	1	0	0	

q35 Do you think you understand the health care reforms under consideration in Congress, or are they confusing to you?

Understand	31	30	39	25
Confusing	67	69	58	74
Don't know/No answer	2	1	3	1

q36 From what you've heard or read, what do you like MOST about the current plans to reform the U.S. health care system?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Expand coverage	27	19	30	29
Nothing	7	17	2	7
Good for the country	3	1	4	3
Will decrease costs	3	3	3	3
Help the poor	3	1	4	2
Public option	2	0	3	2
Cover pre-existing condition	2	1	2	2
Need reform	1	2	1	2
More regulations of private	1	0	1	1
More gov't involvement	1	1	2	0
More efficient	1	1	1	1
Americans will be healthier	1	1	2	0
Help senior citizens	1	3	0	0
Lower personal costs	1	1	2	0
Other	6	4	6	7
DK/NA	40	45	37	41

q37 From what you've heard or read, what do you like LEAST about the current plans to reform the U.S. health care system?

Too much gov't/bureaucrats	12	22	3	12
Increase costs	7	6	8	6
Increase taxes	5	4	3	6
Nothing	2	1	3	2
Cuts to Medicare	2	6	1	1
Gov't compete w/ private ins.	2	2	1	3
Socialized medicine	2	3	1	2
Cover illegal immigrants	2	1	1	3
Bad for the country	1	0	1	1
Hurt middle class	1	1	0	1
Hurt senior citizens	1	1	0	2
Hurt private insurers	1	1	1	1
Pay for abortions	1	1	1	0
Death panels/End of life care	1	1	0	1
Happening too fast	1	0	1	1
Access limited	1	1	1	1
Long time to enact	1	1	2	0
Not enough reform	1	1	1	0
Everything	1	2	1	1
Other	12	15	14	16
DK/NA	43	30	56	40

q38 BLANK

q39 In general, where have you been getting MOST of your information about current legislation concerning health care reform --from the newspapers, television, Internet web sites, radio, emails and online discussions or communicating with friends?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Newspapers	10	6	11	12
Television	35	34	38	34
Web sites	14	14	12	17
Radio	4	5	3	4
Emails	1	1	0	1
Friends	4	3	5	2
Someplace else (vol.)	1	4	0	1
Combination (Vol.)	31	32	30	30
Don't know/No answer	0	1	1	0

q40 From what you've heard or read, do you think the health care reforms under consideration in Congress will mostly help middle class Americans, will mostly hurt middle class Americans, or don't you think they will have much of an effect on middle class Americans?

Help	27	6	48	21
Hurt	43	68	19	50
No effect	21	21	25	17
DK/NA	9	5	8	12

q41 From what you've heard or read, do you think the health care reforms under consideration in Congress will mostly help senior citizens, will mostly hurt senior citizens, or don't you think they will have much of an effect on senior citizens?

Help	25	14	45	13
Hurt	36	64	13	40
No effect	28	15	30	34
DK/NA	11	7	12	13

q42 From what you've heard or read, do you think the health care reforms under consideration in Congress will mostly help small businesses, will mostly hurt small businesses, or don't you think they will have much of an effect on small businesses?

Help	23	9	35	21
Hurt	46	72	21	51
No effect	21	10	33	16
DK/NA	10	9	11	12

q43, q44 BLANK

q45 From what you've heard or read, do you think the health care reforms under consideration in Congress will mostly help you personally, will mostly hurt you personally, or don't you think they will have much of an effect on you personally?

Help	18	4	30	16
Hurt	31	57	9	33
No effect	46	36	54	45
DK/NA	5	3	7	6

q46 From what you've heard or read, do you think the health care reforms under consideration in Congress will eventually increase your own health care costs, will eventually lower your own health care costs, or don't you think they will have much effect on your own health care costs?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Increase	41	60	23	44
Decrease	20	9	31	17
No effect	33	25	40	31
DK/NA	6	6	6	8

q47 From what you've heard or read, do you think the health care reforms under consideration in Congress will make the quality of health care you receive better, will make the quality of health care you receive worse, or don't you think they will have much effect on the quality of your health care?

Better	19	5	33	14
Worse	34	59	14	36
No effect	40	27	47	42
DK/NA	7	9	6	8

q48 From what you've heard or read, do you think the health care reforms under consideration in Congress will make it easier for you to see a doctor, harder for you to see a doctor, or don't you think they will have much effect on your ability to see a doctor?

Easier	13	3	23	11
Harder	37	59	18	39
No effect	46	34	55	44
DK/NA	4	4	4	6

q49 If your own Representative in Congress supported the health care reforms that are now being proposed, would that make you more likely to vote for him or her in the next election in 2010, would it make you less likely, or would your representative's stance on the health care reforms not make much difference in your 2010 vote?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

More likely	29	10	47	26
Less likely	33	64	7	37
No difference	29	23	35	28
DK/NA	9	3	11	9

q50 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?

** HALF SAMPLE A **					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09b
	%	%	%	%	%
Favor	60	35	81	57	66
Oppose	34	57	16	34	27
DK/NA	6	8	3	9	7

q51 Would you favor or oppose the government offering everyone a government administered health insurance plan that would compete with private health insurance plans?

** HALF SAMPLE B **					
	%	%	%	%	
Favor	53	36	66	52	
Oppose	36	52	25	35	
DK/NA	11	12	9	13	

q52 Some lawmakers have proposed allowing groups of individuals to form nationwide health care co-ops, in which people get together to form and manage their own health insurance plans. Some people say co-ops could be effective at lowering costs and expanding coverage by using their size to negotiate lower prices for members. Other people say co-ops would not be effective, because they are too hard to organize and still too small to compete on price. From what you've seen or heard, do co-ops sound like they would be effective at solving the nation's health care problems, or not effective, or haven't you heard enough yet to say?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **					
Effective	18	16	13	24	
Not Effective	25	29	24	23	
Haven't heard enough	52	45	60	48	
DK/NA	5	10	3	5	

q53 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?

					Jul09b
					%
Approve	79	73	88	75	76
Disapprove	16	23	8	19	19
Don't know/No answer	5	4	4	6	5

q54 Would you approve or disapprove of the government setting limits on the amount that health insurance companies can charge people for insurance premiums, co-pays, and out-of-pocket expenses?

Approve	72	64	83	67
Disapprove	23	31	12	27
DK/NA	5	5	5	6

q55 Would you approve or disapprove of the government providing subsidies to help low-income people buy their own health insurance from private insurance companies?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Approve	71	61	84	65
Disapprove	22	32	10	25
DK/NA	7	7	6	10

q56 What do you think will eventually happen to the nation's health care system if there are NO government reforms right now -- will the health care system get better on its own, get worse on its own, or will the health care system stay the same as it is now?

Better	6	9	3	8
Worse	54	42	67	50
Same	34	44	23	37
DK/NA	6	5	7	5

q57 BLANK

q58 How much have you heard or read about the protestors who have come to recent town hall meetings with the President and members of Congress on the current efforts to reform health care -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

A lot	28	32	27	27
Some	32	34	30	32
Not much	24	20	26	26
Nothing at all	15	13	17	14
DK/NA	1	1	0	1

q59 Regardless of your own stance on health care, do you think the protestors at the town hall meetings generally reflect the views of most Americans, or not?

**AMONG THOSE WHO HEARD ABOUT PROTESTORS IN Q58 **

Reflect most Americans	41	66	18	45
Do not reflect most Americans	49	23	73	44
Both/Some do (Vol.)	3	2	3	4
DK/NA	7	9	6	7

q60, q61-62 BLANK

q63 How would you describe the affordability of basic medical care for you and your family -- would you say basic medical care is easy to afford, not easy to afford but manageable, hard to afford, or is basic medical care beyond your financial means right now?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

Easy to afford	25	30	25	23
Not easy but manageable	48	51	42	51
Hard to afford	15	10	21	11
Beyond financial means	10	7	9	12
No medical costs (Vol.)	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	1	1	2	2

q64, q65 FUTURE RELEASE

q66 Thinking about the medical treatments and medicines that you currently need, would you say your own health insurance company currently pays for all of those costs, most of those costs, some of those costs, or almost none of those costs?

** AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE INSURANCE **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
All	12	12	12	11
Most	57	61	53	60
Some	24	22	27	23
None	4	3	5	4
DK/NA	3	2	3	2

q67 If you were to become seriously injured or seriously ill, how confident are you that your own insurance would pay for everything you needed to get better -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident that your insurance would pay for everything you needed?

Very	28	36	18	33
Somewhat	48	45	52	46
Not too	14	12	17	12
Not at all	8	7	9	8
DK/NA	2	0	4	1

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1097	
Total Republicans	296	276 (25%)
Total Democrats	375	394 (36%)
Total Independents	426	427 (39%)
Half Sample A	557	554
Half Sample B	540	543