



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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THE HEALTH CARE DEBATE CONTINUES

September 19-23, 2009

President Barack Obama's recent speeches and public appearances explaining his proposals for health care reform have made some impact -- but he still has work to do and a majority of Americans remain confused.

The public has yet to accept some of the points the president has been making about his reform ideas. Many don't believe reform can take place without an increase in the budget deficit, and aren't sure if illegal immigrants will receive coverage.

Another possible barrier for the president: most Americans are satisfied with their own coverage, and few think reform would help them personally.

THE PRESIDENT AND HEALTH CARE

Now, 47% approve of the job President Obama is doing handling health care, up seven points from last month. 45% disapprove. In a CBS News Poll conducted before the president's address to Congress on health care, just 40% approved and more, 47%, disapproved.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HANDLING OF HEALTH CARE

Table with 5 columns: Response, Now, 8/2009, 7/2009, 6/2009. Rows: Approve, Disapprove, Don't know.

When asked whether they mostly favor or oppose the changes to the health care system proposed by the president, 46% say they don't know enough about those changes to have an opinion.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROPOSED HEALTH CARE CHANGES

Table with 5 columns: Response, All, Reps, Dems, Inds. Rows: Mostly support, Mostly oppose, Don't know enough.

Views on this divide along partisan lines, with more Republicans opposing the reforms and more Democrats in support of the changes. Half of independents don't have an opinion, and the rest are divided.

There is skepticism as to whether the president is accurately describing what the results of his proposed health care reforms would be. Just 32% think he describes the results of reform accurately. 55% think that when he talks about the outcome of his proposed changes to the health care system, he makes it sound better than it will be.

More Americans think the president is describing the current state of the health care system in the U.S. accurately -- 47% say so.

#### HOW OBAMA DESCRIBES...

Health care if his reforms are adopted:

Better than it will be	55%
Worse than it will be	3
Accurate	32

Health care system now:

Better than it is	18%
Worse than it is	24
Accurate	47

Despite his recent public appearances, the percentage of Americans that says the president has explained what his plans for health care reform would mean is virtually unchanged since August. Now, 32% say the president has clearly explained things, while 62% say he has not.

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

	Now	8/2009
Yes	32%	31%
No	62	60

Most Americans still find the proposed changes confusing, although that percentage has dropped since last month, from 67% in August to 59% now. Still, just 37% say they understand them.

#### DO YOU UNDERSTAND HEALTH CARE REFORM PROPOSALS?

	Now	8/2009
Yes, understand	37%	31%
No, they're confusing	59	67

#### CONGRESS AND THE POLITICS OF REFORM

But it is not just the president who hasn't explained his health care plans. Even more Americans, 76%, say the Republicans in Congress have not explained their ideas for reform.

**HAVE THE REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS CLEARLY EXPLAINED  
THEIR PLANS FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM?**

Yes	14%
No	76

As has been the case for the past few months, the president is viewed as having better ideas about health care reform than the Republicans in Congress - by nearly two to one.

**WHO HAS BETTER IDEAS FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM?**

	9/2009	8/2009	7/2009
President Obama	52%	50%	55%
Republicans	27	23	26
Neither (vol.)	11	13	7

President Obama also receives more credit than Republicans in Congress for trying to reach across the aisle to achieve health care reform. 60% of Americans say that the president is trying to work with Republicans, but just half as many say the Republicans are trying to work with the president. 61% say the Republicans are not trying to do this, up from 51% in July.

**WHO IS TRYING FOR BIPARTISANSHIP ON HEALTH CARE?**

	Yes	No
Obama is trying	60%	32
Republicans are trying	30%	61

The public sees both parties in Congress as having political motivations for their stance on President Obama's plans for health care reform. 64% say that Republicans are opposed to these changes for political reasons, and 27% say it is because they think the proposed reforms would be bad for the country. A smaller majority, 53%, think Democrats support the president's plans for political reasons, while 36% think they do so because the reforms would be good for the country.

**WHY SUPPORT/OPOSE OBAMA'S HEALTH CARE REFORM?**

	Republican Opposition	Democratic Support
Better for country	27%	36%
For political reasons	64	53

Americans continue to prefer a bipartisan bill over one that is passed with Democratic support alone. Just 23% think the Democrats in Congress should try to pass a health care reform bill that they think is right, even without Republican support. 65% want the Democrats to pass a bill that receives support from Republicans, even if it means compromising on some provisions of the bill. Even a majority of Democrats want to see a bipartisan bill.

Views of the two parties in Congress are almost unchanged since July; although the public is divided in its views of the Democrats in Congress, by nearly two to one the public views the Republicans negatively.

## COVERAGE FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

During the president's Joint Address to Congress, he tried to allay concerns that health care reform would include coverage for illegal immigrants, and that the government would be making end of life decisions for seniors. But despite those assertions, many Americans are uncertain about whether those things would occur, and over a quarter think they will.

44% don't know whether the changes being proposed to the health care system will help provide health insurance to illegal immigrants, and another 30% think they will. Just 22% say they won't.

The public is more divided on whether the reforms would include creating a government entity to decide when to stop providing medical care to the elderly. Nearly half don't know enough to say. 26% think they will do so and 23% think they will not.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats and independents to say these items are included in the proposed health care reforms.

### DO YOU THINK THE HEALTH CARE REFORMS WILL...?

	Will	DK
	Will	Not enough
Provide health insurance to illegal immigrants	30%	22 44
Create gov't organization that will decide when to stop providing care to the elderly	26%	23 47

## HEALTH CARE AND THE ECONOMY

Some of the economic elements of President Obama's health care proposals have not resonated with the public either-- and in one case, there is more doubt today than before.

About half of all Americans now do NOT think it is possible to provide health care coverage to more Americans without increasing the budget deficit - something which President Obama has vowed to do. Last month Americans were evenly split. Most Republicans and independents are skeptical, and even Democrats are divided on this.

### IS IT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE WITHOUT INCREASING DEFICIT?

	Now	8/2009
Yes	42%	48%
No	51	47

President Obama has also said the health care system needs to be overhauled in order to fix the U.S. economy. While 52% of Americans agree, 42% think the U.S. cannot afford to fix its health care system now. These numbers have changed little since July.

### BECAUSE OF THE BAD ECONOMY, THE U.S.

	Now	7/2009
Must fix health care	52%	52%
Cannot afford to fix health care	42	44

**THE IMPACT OF CHANGES TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

Part of the confusion about health care may stem from Americans' uncertainty as to how health care reform would affect the health care system generally, and themselves personally. Americans are more likely to say the health care system in the U.S. would get better (37%) rather than worse (22%) if the changes being considered are implemented, but a third doesn't know enough about the proposed reforms to say what the impact would be.

Much of the public remains unconvinced that the reform proposals would benefit them personally - just 23% think they would do so. Still, that number has risen five points since August.

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

	Now	8/2009
Help	23%	18%
Hurt	26	31
Have no effect	44	46

When a "don't know enough" option is explicitly offered in this question, the percentage that thinks the reforms will help drops slightly to 21%, while 28% say they will be hurt, 35% think the changes will have no effect and 16% don't know enough to say.

Few Americans think the cost and quality of their own health care would improve as a result of the health care reform proposals; more say both would become worse or stay the same. A third think seeing a doctor will become more difficult.

As for Medicare, more think the program will get worse instead of better. Seniors are especially concerned: 38% think if the changes to the health care system are implemented, the Medicare program will become worse. Only 6% think it would improve.

But a sizeable minority of Americans admit they don't know enough about the specifics of the proposed changes to the health care system to offer their opinion.

**HEALTH CARE REFORMS WILL MAKE THE...**

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know enough
Health care system	37%	22	8	32
Cost of your health care	19%	27	22	28
Quality of your health care	14%	30	32	21
Medicare program	15%	30	19	34

  

	Easier	Harder	Same	Don't know enough
Seeing a doctor	14%	32	37	15

While Americans may be uneasy with some of the proposed changes to the health care system, they also express some concern that if the government does not create a system of providing health care to everyone, they may be without coverage themselves at some point. But that concern has dropped since July.

**CONCERNED YOU WILL SOMEDAY BE WITHOUT COVERAGE IF GOV'T DOESN'T CREATE A SYSTEM COVERING EVERYONE?**

	Now	7/2009
Very concerned	29%	37%
Somewhat concerned	27	29
Not concerned	43	33

**POLICY OPTIONS**

There is broad support for some of the specific policy proposals under discussion. Most approve of requiring insurance companies to cover anyone regardless of whether or not they have a pre-existing medical condition, and setting limits on the amount health insurance companies could charge for premiums, co-pays and other out-of-pocket expenses.

51% favor a law that limits the amount of money patients can be awarded in medical malpractice lawsuits; only 11% oppose a limit, but a third don't know enough to say.

When it comes to footing the bill for expanding health care coverage, more than half of Americans approve of raising taxes on households and businesses earning more than \$250K. Republicans oppose such a tax increase, while Democrats support it.

**SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC POLICY REFORMS**

	Approve	Disapprove
Require insurers to cover everyone even those with pre-existing condition	80%	16
Limit amount insurers charge patients	73%	20
Limit awards in malpractice suits	51%	11
Raise taxes on incomes of \$250K to help provide coverage to uninsured	55%	37

Half of the public thinks the government should require all Americans to have health insurance, as long as financial help is provided to those who cannot afford it. Most Democrats support this idea, while Republicans oppose it.

**SHOULD THE GOV'T REQUIRE ALL AMERICANS TO HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?**

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	50%	70%	32%	43%
No	43	23	59	52

And there continues to be support for a "public option" -- a health insurance plan like Medicare administered by the government.

**GOV'T HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN**

	Now	8/2009	7/2009	6/2009
Favor	65%	60%	66%	72%
Oppose	26	34	27	20

But those who favor a public option divide on whether they would support overall health care reform without the public option. 42% would, but 39% would not.

**SUPPORT HEALTH CARE REFORMS WITHOUT A PUBLIC OPTION?**

	All	View on public option:	
	All	Favor	Oppose
Favor	38%	42%	35%
Oppose	40	39	48
Don't know	22	19	17

In principal, half of all Americans think the federal government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans, the lowest number since the question was first asked in 1996. Four in 10 think this is not the responsibility of the federal government.

**SHOULD GOVT. GUARANTEE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL AMERICANS?**

	Now	7/2009	6/2009	2/2007	7/2000	8/1996
Yes	51%	55%	64%	64%	62%	56%
No	40	38	30	27	29	38

Americans under the age of 64 think the government should guarantee health care for all, while those over 65 - who are already eligible for Medicare - do not.

In addition, less than half of all Americans think the government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans if it would mean either their health insurance costs would go up, their taxes would go up, or that the budget deficit would increase.

**SHOULD GOVT. GUARANTEE HEALTH INSURANCE  
FOR ALL AMERICANS IF...?**

	Yes	No
...your health insurance costs would go up?	38%	48
...your taxes would go up?	36%	52
...the deficit would increase?	33%	55

**THE CURRENT HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

Overall, three in four Americans see the need for fundamental changes in the U.S. health care system, although the percentage who thinks it needs to be completely rebuilt has slowly dropped over the past five months, from 38% in April to 27% now. Likewise, the percentage of Americans that thinks only minor changes are needed - now nearly one in five - has risen since April.

	<b>U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM NEEDS...</b>			
	Now	8/2009	7/2009	4/2009
Minor changes	19%	17%	16%	12%
Fundamental changes	51	55	49	49
To be rebuilt	27	27	33	38

Despite their negative assessments of the health care system in general, most Americans are satisfied with the quality of their own health care. Three in four Americans say they are personally satisfied, including 41% who are very satisfied. Just 18% are dissatisfied. These numbers have changed little over the past two years.

Satisfaction is even higher among Americans covered by health insurance - 47% say they are very satisfied.

**HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF YOUR HEALTH CARE?**

	All Americans	With Insurance
Very satisfied	41%	47%
Somewhat satisfied	37	38
Dissatisfied	18	15

Higher-income Americans are more satisfied with the quality of their health care than lower-income Americans, though a majority of Americans of all income levels say they are satisfied. Seniors, those 65 and over, are particularly satisfied.

In addition, three in four Americans with health insurance say they are confident that their insurance would pay for everything they needed if they were to become seriously injured or ill, and the percentage who say they are very confident - 37% - has risen nine points since last month.

**CONFIDENT YOUR INSURANCE WOULD  
COVER EVERYTHING IF YOU BECOME SERIOUSLY ILL?**  
(Among those with insurance)

	Now	8/2009
Very	37%	28%
Somewhat	41	48
Not	21	22

Americans who report having at least one large health insurance claim in their household within the past few years also seem satisfied with the coverage they received. 85% said their insurance paid for most of their costs, and 80% said their insurance covered as much or more than they expected.

Still, Americans are less satisfied with the cost of their health care than the quality - just 48% say they are satisfied with their health care costs, while 47% say they are not. Those with insurance are only slightly more satisfied than Americans overall.

**HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE COST OF YOUR HEALTH CARE?**

	All Americans	With Insurance
Very satisfied	22%	25%
Somewhat satisfied	26	30
Dissatisfied	47	42

Despite their dissatisfaction with the cost of care, six in 10 Americans think providing coverage for the uninsured is a more serious problem right now than keeping costs down. This number rises to eight in 10 among uninsured Americans.

**WHICH IS MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM?**

	Now	7/2009
Keeping health care costs down	35%	43%
Providing coverage for uninsured	59	53

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1042 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone September 19-23, 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/NEW YORK TIMES POLL**  
**The Health Care Debate Continues**  
**September 19-23, 2009**

q1-q6 SEPARATE RELEASE

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling health care?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Aug09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	47	12	73	42	40
Disapprove	45	80	22	47	47
DK/NA	8	8	5	11	13

q8 In general, is your opinion of the Democrats in Congress favorable or not favorable?

					Jul09b
Favorable	47	19	81	33	47
Not favorable	41	75	13	48	42
DK/NA	12	6	6	19	11

q9 In general, is your opinion of the Republicans in Congress favorable or not favorable?

Favorable	30	51	22	25	28
Not favorable	57	38	72	52	61
DK/NA	13	11	6	23	11

q10-q18 SEPARATE RELEASE

q19 BLANK

q20 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.

					Aug09a
Minor changes	19	31	9	22	17
Fundamental changes	51	53	54	49	55
Rebuild	27	14	36	27	27
DK/NA	3	2	1	2	1

q21 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)?

					Jun09a*
Very satisfied	41	55	35	38	47
Somewhat satisfied	37	30	35	43	30
Somewhat dissatisfied	10	6	16	7	6
Very dissatisfied	8	8	8	7	14
DK/NA	4	1	6	5	3

\*Asked with intro: What about the health care you receive?

q22 Are you generally 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)?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jun09a**
	%	%	%	%	%
Very satisfied	22	32	19	19	23**
Somewhat satisfied	26	28	29	23	27
Somewhat dissatisfied	24	21	21	27	15
Very dissatisfied	23	18	24	25	33
DK/NA	5	1	7	6	2

\*\*Wording change: "What about the health care you receive? Are you satisfied..."

q23 Which comes closest to your view? 1. The U.S. needs to fix its health care system now as part of fixing the overall economy. OR 2. Because of the state of the economy, the U.S. cannot afford to fix its health care system right now.

					Jul09b
Need to fix now	52	35	72	44	52
Can't afford to fix now	42	54	25	49	44
Don't know/No answer	6	11	3	7	4

q24 Do you think it's possible or not possible to provide health care coverage to more Americans without increasing the budget deficit?

					Aug09a
Possible	42	35	49	41	48
Not possible	51	60	45	52	47
DK/NA	7	5	6	7	5

q25 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?

					Jul09b
Keeping down costs	35	51	22	38	43
Providing for the uninsured	59	41	73	56	53
DK/NA	6	8	5	6	4

q26 Do you think the federal government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans, or isn't this the responsibility of the federal government?

Should guarantee	51	23	75	45	55
Not responsibility	40	69	17	46	38
DK/NA	9	8	8	9	7

q27 What if that meant that about 46 million people will continue to be without health insurance? Then do you think the federal government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans, or not?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Should guarantee	58	34	81	51
Should not	29	52	10	34
DK/NA	13	14	9	15

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?

					Jul09b
Should guarantee	38	15	59	32	43
Not	48	75	26	55	48
DK/NA	14	10	15	13	9

q29 What if that meant that your taxes would go up? Then, do you think the federal government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans, or not?

Should guarantee	36	15	58	29
Not	52	75	30	60
DK/NA	12	10	12	11

q30 What if that meant that the federal budget deficit would increase? Then, do you think the federal government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans, or not?

Should guarantee	33	13	53	25
Not	55	76	35	62
DK/NA	12	11	12	13

q31 Do you think Barack Obama has clearly explained his plans for changing the health care system, or hasn't he clearly explained his plans?

\*\*\* HALF SAMPLE A \*\*\*

Has explained	37	23	49	35
Hasn't explained	55	72	48	52
Don't know/No answer	8	5	3	13

q32 Do you think Barack Obama has clearly explained what his plans for health care reform would mean, or hasn't he clearly explained that?

\*\*\* HALF SAMPLE B \*\*\*

					Aug09a
Has explained	32	18	43	28	31
Hasn't explained	62	75	54	64	60
Don't know/No answer	6	7	3	8	9

q33 Do you think the Republicans in Congress have clearly explained their plans for changing the health care system, or haven't they clearly explained their plans?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Have explained	14	17	10	15
Haven't explained	76	73	83	72
Don't know/No answer	10	10	7	13

q34 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?

					Aug09a
Barack Obama	52	19	85	40	50
Republicans	27	60	4	29	23
Both (vol.)	2	2	1	2	1
Neither (vol.)	11	10	5	16	13
DK/NA	8	9	5	13	13

q35 Do you think Barack Obama is trying to work with Republicans in Congress in order to reform the health care system, or isn't he?

					Jul09b
Work with Republicans	60	35	84	52	59
Not work with Republicans	32	58	11	38	30
DK/NA	8	7	5	10	11

q36 Do you think Republicans in Congress are trying to work with Barack Obama in order to reform the health care system, or aren't they?

Work with Obama	30	41	17	35	33
Not work with Obama	61	50	78	51	51
DK/NA	9	9	5	14	16

q37 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?

					Aug09a
A lot	33	41	31	31	33
Some	43	39	46	43	45
Not much	19	16	17	22	17
Nothing at all	5	3	6	4	4
DK/NA	0	1	0	0	1

q38 Do you think you understand the health care reforms under consideration in Congress, or are they confusing to you?

Understand	37	31	43	34	31
Confusing	59	66	55	60	67
Don't know/No answer	4	3	2	6	2

q39 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	Aug09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Expand coverage	26	16	39	19	27
Nothing	8	13	3	9	7
Will decrease costs	6	7	6	5	3
Public option	4	2	5	3	2
Cover pre-existing condition	2	2	2	3	2
Good for the country	2	2	2	3	3
Other	11	15	13	8	16
DK/NA	41	43	30	50	40

q40 From what you've heard or read, what do you like LEAST about the current plans to reform the U.S. health care system?

Increase costs	11	13	9	12	7
Too much gov't	6	10	2	8	12
Gov't compete w/insurers	4	6	4	3	2
Increase taxes	3	3	3	4	5
Cover illegal immigrants	3	6	3	3	2
Cuts to Medicare	2	1	3	2	2
Mandatory coverage/fine	2	2	1	3	--
Nothing	2	1	4	2	2
Other	30	28	30	25	25
DK/NA	37	30	41	38	43

q41 Do you mostly support or mostly oppose the changes to the health care system proposed by Barack Obama, or don't you know enough about them yet to say?

Mostly support	30	11	50	22
Mostly oppose	23	44	7	25
Don't know enough	46	42	41	52
DK/NA	1	3	2	1

q42 When Barack Obama talks about the state of the health care system today, do you think he makes things sound better than they really are, worse than they really are, or does he describe the state of the U.S. health care system accurately?

Sound better	18	19	18	18
Sound worse	24	42	7	29
Describing accurately	47	27	70	37
Don't know/No answer	11	12	5	16

q43 When Barack Obama talks about how the health care system WILL BE if his proposed changes are adopted, do you think he makes things sound better than they really will be, worse than they really will be, or do you think he accurately describes how the health care system will be if his proposed changes are adopted?

Sound better	55	78	37	60
Sound worse	3	4	1	5
Describing accurately	32	12	53	24
Don't know/No answer	10	6	9	11

q44 In the next few years, if many of the changes to the health care system under consideration are adopted, do you think the health care system will be better, will be worse, won't change one way or the other, or don't you know enough about the changes yet to say?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Better	37	15	57	30
Worse	22	48	6	23
No change	8	4	5	12
Don't know enough	32	30	31	34
DK/NA	1	3	1	1

q45 Do you think the changes to the health care system under consideration go too far in trying to provide health insurance to as many Americans as possible, don't go far enough, are about right, or don't you know enough about the changes yet to say?

Go too far	24	42	8	28
Don't go far enough	15	7	21	15
About right	24	15	32	22
Don't know enough	34	32	36	33
DK/NA	3	4	3	2

q46 Do you think the changes to the health care system under consideration will mostly help you personally, will mostly hurt you personally, will not have much of an effect on you personally, or don't you know enough about the changes yet to say?

	** HALF SAMPLE C **			
Help	21	8	35	15
Hurt	28	49	10	32
No effect	35	27	39	36
Don't know enough	16	16	15	16
DK/NA	0	0	1	1

q47 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?

	** HALF SAMPLE D **				Aug09a
					%
Help	23	3	37	21	18
Hurt	26	53	11	25	31
No effect	44	35	49	45	46
DK/NA	7	9	3	9	5

q48 How do you think the changes to the health care system under consideration would affect the COST of the health care you receive -- would those changes make it better, make it worse, keep it the same, or don't you know enough about the changes yet to say?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Make it better	19	7	28	17
Make it worse	27	44	15	29
Keep it the same	22	17	25	22
Don't know enough	28	27	29	27
DK/NA	4	5	3	5

q49 How do you think the changes to the health care system being under consideration would affect the QUALITY of the health care you receive -- would those changes make it better, make it worse, keep it the same, or don't you know enough about the changes yet to say?

Make it better	14	7	25	9
Make it worse	30	55	12	34
Keep it the same	32	18	39	35
Don't know enough	21	19	23	20
DK/NA	3	1	1	2

q50 How do you think the changes to the health care system under consideration would affect your ability to see a doctor -- would those changes make it easier, make it harder, keep it the same, or don't you know enough about the changes yet to say?

Make it easier	14	5	21	11
Make it harder	32	55	15	34
Keep it the same	37	22	51	33
Don't know enough	15	16	11	19
DK/NA	2	2	2	3

q51 How do you think the changes to the health care system under consideration would affect the Medicare program for seniors -- would those changes make it better, make it worse, keep it the same, or don't you know enough about the changes yet to say?

Make it better	15	4	25	11
Make it worse	30	49	13	35
Keep it the same	19	11	27	17
Don't know enough	34	32	33	36
DK/NA	2	4	2	1

q52 Do you think the changes to the health care system under consideration will or will not allow taxpayer dollars to be used to help illegal immigrants receive health insurance, or don't you know enough about the changes yet to say?

Will	30	51	13	34
Will not	22	12	34	17
Don't know enough	44	33	49	45
DK/NA	4	4	4	4

q53 Do you think the changes to the health care system under consideration will or will not create government organizations that will make decisions about when to stop providing medical care to the elderly, or don't you know enough about the changes yet to say?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Will	26	43	10	32
Will not	23	11	32	21
Don't know enough	47	45	54	43
DK/NA	4	1	4	4

q54 How concerned are you that if the government does NOT create a system of providing health care for all Americans, that you personally might be without health coverage at some point -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

	Jul09b				
	%				
Very concerned	29	23	35	27	37
Somewhat concerned	27	18	28	32	29
Not too concerned	24	33	20	22	18
Not at all concerned	19	25	16	18	15
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1

q55 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	50	32	70	43	53
Should not	43	59	23	52	43
DK/NA	7	9	7	5	4

q56 BLANK

q57 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?

	Aug09a				
Favor	65	47	81	61	60
Oppose	26	42	12	30	34
DK/NA	9	11	7	9	6

q58 What if changes to the health care system do not include the option of a government administered health insurance plan? In that case, would you favor or oppose the changes under consideration?

Favor	38	30	40	41
Oppose	40	51	40	33
DK/NA	22	19	20	26

q59 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?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Aug09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	73	66	82	69	72
Disapprove	20	30	11	23	23
DK/NA	7	4	7	8	5

q60 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?

Approve	80	72	86	79	79
Disapprove	16	25	11	17	16
Don't know/No answer	4	3	3	4	5

q61 Would you favor or oppose a law that limits the amount of money patients can be awarded in medical malpractice lawsuits, or don't you know enough about it yet to say?

Favor	51	63	41	55
Oppose	11	11	12	11
Don't know enough	36	26	44	34
DK/NA	2	0	3	0

q62 Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to raise income taxes on households and businesses that make more than \$250,000 a year in order to help provide health insurance for people who are not covered by health insurance?

Good idea	55	31	74	51
Bad idea	37	65	17	40
DK/NA	8	4	9	9

q63-64 BLANK

q65 Do you think the federal government has a moral responsibility to guarantee health insurance for all Americans, or is that not the federal government's moral responsibility?

Moral responsibility	47	27	65	42
Not moral responsibility	48	69	30	53
DK/NA	5	4	5	5

q66 Looking ahead, which comes closer to your view? 1. The Democrats won a majority in Congress and should try to pass a health care reform bill that they think is right for the country, even if many Republicans don't support it. OR 2. The Democrats should try to pass a health care reform bill that receives support from Republicans in Congress, even if it means compromising on some provisions of the bill.

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09b
	%	%	%	%	%
Pass own legislation	23	11	38	15	17
Pass legislation with Reps	65	77	54	69	73
Should not pass legislation	4	4	2	5	3
DK/NA	8	8	6	11	7

q67 Many Republican members of Congress oppose the Obama Administration's plans for changing the health care system. Do you think they oppose these plans mostly because they think they are bad for the country or mostly for political reasons?

Bad for the country	27	49	12	28
Political reasons	64	43	80	61
Both (Vol.)	4	4	2	5
Don't know/No answer	5	4	6	6

q68 Many Democratic members of Congress support the Obama Administration's plans for changing the health care system. Do you think they support these plans mostly because they think they are good for the country or mostly for political reasons?

Good for the country	36	17	58	28
Political reasons	53	73	34	59
Both (Vol.)	5	5	3	7
Don't know/No answer	6	5	5	6

q69-70 BLANK

q71-q72 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q73 Do you know how much you personally contribute each year for health insurance premiums for your family, or are you not sure?

\*\* AMONG THOSE WITH INSURANCE \*\*

Yes	49	49	44	55
No	42	44	42	40
DK/NA	9	7	14	5

q74 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?

					Aug09a
					%
Very	37	45	33	36	28
Somewhat	41	39	48	36	48
Not too	14	11	9	20	14
Not at all	7	4	9	7	8
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	2

q75 In the past few years, have you or has someone in your household had any large health insurance claims resulting from injury or illness?

\*\* AMONG THOSE WITH INSURANCE \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	45	36	37
No	61	54	64	63
DK/NA	0	1	0	0

q76 Would you say your insurance paid for all of those costs, most of those costs, some of those costs, or almost none of those costs?

\*\* AMONG INSURED WITH A LARGE CLAIM \*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
All	34	35	33	34
Most	51	53	51	49
Some	13	10	13	15
Almost none	2	1	3	2
DK/NA	0	1	0	0

q77 Was the amount your insurance paid more than you expected, less than you expected, or about what you expected it to pay?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
More	21	17	26	19
Less	18	11	18	22
About what expected	59	70	54	57
DK/NA	2	2	2	2

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>	
Total Respondents	1042		
Total Republicans	289	234	(22%)
Total Democrats	357	385	(37%)
Total Independents	396	423	(41%)
Half Sample A	537	529	
Half Sample B	505	513	
Half Sample C	543	522	
Half Sample D	499	520	