



HARVARD
School of Public Health

Topline

NPR/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

Survey on the Role of Health Care Interest Groups

September 2009

Methodology

The NPR/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Survey on the Role of Health Care Interest Groups* is part of a series of projects about health-related issues by NPR (National Public Radio), the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Harvard School of Public Health.

Representatives of the three organizations worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and to analyze the results, with NPR maintaining sole editorial control over its broadcasts relating to the survey results. The survey research team included Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., Liz Hamel, and Sasha Buscho from the Kaiser Family Foundation; Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., and John Benson, M.A. of the Harvard School of Public Health; and Anne Gudenkauf, Joe Neel, Beth Donovan, Julie Rovner, and April Fulton from NPR.

The survey was conducted August 27 through September 13, 2009, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,278 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (858) and cell phone (420, including 154 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Social Science Research Solutions.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of sampling error is somewhat higher.

Please note: (1) Table percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. (2) Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (*). (3) "Vol." indicates that a response was volunteered by the respondent and not an explicitly offered choice. (4) Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

1. How closely have you been following discussions in Washington about proposed changes to the health care system? Would you say:
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

27 Very closely
39 Somewhat closely
20 Not too closely
14 Not at all
 * Don't know
 * Refused

(SCRAMBLE ITEMS)

2. Do you think members of Congress are paying too much, too little, or about the right amount of attention to what (READ FIRST ITEM) (is/are) saying about changes to the health care system? How about (READ NEXT ITEM)?

Items d,f,h,j,l based on one half of total respondents (N=637)

Items e,g,i,k based on one half of total respondents (N=641)

	Too much	Too little	About the right amount	Don't know	Refused
a. Health care interest groups	31	35	19	14	*
b. People like you	5	71	19	4	*
c. President Obama	27	38	26	9	*
d. Academic researchers and health care experts	11	49	26	13	*
e. Financial experts and economists	14	49	21	15	*
f. People who don't have health insurance	16	56	19	8	*
g. People who have health insurance	11	58	22	9	--
h. People on Medicare	9	61	21	9	*
i. State governors	9	46	21	24	*
j. Public opinion polls	16	56	18	10	*
k. The media	40	27	19	13	*
l. Religious and church groups	17	38	23	21	1

(ROTATE 1-2)

3. When it comes to designing health care legislation in Congress, which comes closer to your view: (READ ITEMS. ENTER ONE ONLY)

Based on one half of total respondents (N=637)

39 Congress should design the best health care legislation it can and not worry if health care interest groups support it or not
51 Health care interest groups will play an important role in carrying out changes to the health care system, so it's important to have them on board with the legislation
9 Don't know
2 Refused

(ROTATE 1-2)

4. When it comes to designing health care legislation in Congress, which comes closer to your view: (READ ITEMS. ENTER ONE ONLY)

Based on one half of total respondents (N=641)

- 47 Health care interest groups are too narrowly focused on their own interests and should not be part of the process
- 45 Health care interest groups add an important perspective to the debate and should be included in the process
- 8 Don't know
- * Refused

5. Do you think there is any group in Washington today that represents your OWN views on what's best for the country when it comes to health care, or not?

- 35 Yes
- 53 No
- 12 Don't know
- * Refused

6. Can you tell me the name of that group (IF NECESSARY: that you think represents your own views on health care)?

RECORD RESPONSE VERBATIM. PROBE FULLY. RECORD ALL THAT APPLY

Based on total say there is a group in Washington that represents their own views on what's best for the country when it comes to health care (N=465)

- 36 Partisan Groups (NET)
- 12 Republicans/Republican legislators
- 11 President Obama/Obama's agenda/his followers
- 11 Democrats/Democratic legislators
- 2 Conservatives/Conservative legislators
- 1 Libertarians/Libertarian party
- 1 Other partisan groups
- 15 Other specific organizations/groups (NET)
- 6 AARP
- 2 Groups representing doctors, nurses, patients
- 1 Media/commentators
- 1 Unions/worker's organizations
- 1 Veterans/VA/military groups
- 6 Other specific organizations
- 7 Congress (NET)
- 4 Congress in general
- 3 Specific members of congress
- 6 Other general mentions
- 37 Don't know/Don't recall
- 1 Refused

(SCRAMBLE ITEMS)

8. As I read the names of some people and groups, please tell me how much confidence you have in each of them to recommend the right thing for the country when it comes to health care. How much confidence do you have in (READ FIRST ITEM) to recommend the right thing for the country on health care: a great deal, a fair amount, only a little or none? How about (READ NEXT ITEM)?
(READ STEM EVERY THIRD TIME. ENTER ONE ONLY)

Items a-k based on one half of total respondents (N=637)

Items l-z based on one half of total respondents (N=641)

	A great deal	A fair amount	Only a little	None	Never heard of group	Don't know	Refused
a. Doctors groups	24	41	25	7	--	2	--
b. Nurses groups	33	46	14	3	*	3	--
c. Groups representing the country's major corporations	9	23	39	24	1	3	*
d. Small business groups	24	36	30	8	1	2	--
e. Pharmaceutical or drug companies	10	21	38	30	*	1	*
f. Health insurance companies	9	26	39	25	--	1	--
g. Hospitals	20	41	26	10	*	2	*
h. Labor unions	17	26	30	23	1	3	*
i. Consumer groups	15	39	32	9	2	3	--
j. Groups representing senior citizens	26	38	26	7	1	2	--
k. Groups representing patients	27	43	18	5	2	4	--
l. The American Medical Association, or AMA	21	41	25	7	2	4	--
m. The American Academy of Pediatrics	25	42	19	6	2	6	*
n. The American Nurses Association	29	40	17	7	3	4	--
o. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, or PhRMA (pronounced: "FAR- muh")	11	26	31	28	2	2	--
p. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce	6	29	36	18	3	8	*
q. The National Federation of Independent Business	10	29	32	14	7	8	--
r. Wal-Mart	9	16	33	37	1	4	*
s. America's Health Insurance Plans, or AHIP	9	26	32	17	8	7	--
t. Blue Cross/Blue Shield	16	30	32	17	1	4	*
u. The American Hospital Association	16	39	27	10	4	4	--
v. The AFL-CIO	7	19	24	20	18	11	--
w. The Service Employees International Union, or SEIU	7	21	29	17	19	8	*
x. Consumers Union	10	29	30	12	9	10	1
y. AARP	19	35	28	14	2	2	--
z. The American Cancer Society	34	40	17	6	*	2	--

(SCRAMBLE ITEMS, ITEM D CANNOT BE READ FIRST)

9. For each group I name, tell me how much responsibility you think that group bears for the current problems in the health care system. First/Next, (do/does) (READ FIRST ITEM) bear a lot of responsibility, some responsibility, just a little, or no responsibility at all for the current problems in the health care system? How about (READ NEXT ITEM)? (RE-READ LIST AS NECESSARY. ENTER ONE ONLY)

	A lot of responsibility	Some responsibility	Just a little	No responsibility	Don't know	Refused
a. Doctors	30	42	19	7	2	*
b. Hospitals	36	42	16	4	2	*
c. Pharmaceutical or drug companies	54	26	13	5	2	--
d. Patients themselves	27	38	24	11	1	*
e. Health insurance companies	56	27	12	3	1	*
f. Employers	20	35	31	11	2	*
g. The federal government	52	30	10	6	2	*

10. During the past seven days, did you see, hear or read any advertisements having to do with proposed changes in the health care system?

56 Yes
43 No
1 Don't know
-- Refused

(ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENS)

11. As far as you could tell, were those ads (IN FAVOR OF) passing some sort of health care legislation this year, or (OPPOSED TO) passing some sort of health care legislation this year?

Based on total who saw, heard or read advertisements about the proposed changes in the health care system in the past seven days (N=748)

35 In favor of
37 Opposed to
25 Seen ads for BOTH sides (vol.)
4 Don't know
-- Refused

10/11. Combo Table based on total

56 Saw, heard, read ads about the proposed changes in health care system
19 Ads were in favor of passing legislation this year
20 Ads were opposed to passing legislation this year
14 Seen ads for BOTH sides (vol.)
2 DK/Ref what type of ads
43 Did not see, hear, read ads about the proposed changes in health care system
1 Don't know
-- Refused

12. Knowing that it's hard to remember these things, thinking about the ad that most sticks out in your mind, can you tell me anything about what the ad was about, or any message that you thought it was trying to convey?
 RECORD RESPONSE VERBATIM. PROBE FULLY

Based on total who saw, heard or read advertisements about the proposed changes in the health care system in the past seven days (N=748)

31	Ads opposed to passing healthcare legislation (NET)
5	Opposition to government involvement in healthcare
4	Focus on cost/costs will increase (general)
3	Opposition to changes to health care system/Obama's agenda
3	Problems with quality of care/service/access under plan
3	Benefits reduction for seniors/Medicare
3	Formation of death panel/euthanasia
2	Not to rush to pass the reform bill/not enough feedback/need to wait/think it through
2	Lack of cooperation between parties/need to get together to accomplish things
1	Patient rights/liberties/freedom being taken away
1	Fear of socialism/socialized medicine
1	Against nationalized health care/public option
1	Pro-life/anti-abortion messages against reform
1	Scare tactics opposed to passage/fear of change
*	Illegal immigrants will get care under plan
4	Other ads opposed to passing healthcare legislation
22	Ads in favor of passing healthcare legislation (NET)
8	Important to pass healthcare reform legislation
5	Healthcare for everyone/need to insure everyone
2	People/groups trying to put up roadblocks to proposed plan
1	Scare tactics/propaganda to pass healthcare legislation
6	Other ads in favor of passing healthcare legislation
18	Other (NET)
3	Both pros and cons on healthcare reform
2	Ads pointing out or trying to correct misinformation
1	Discussions at town hall meetings
12	Other
4	Nothing/got little info
24	Don't know/Don't recall/no comment
1	Refused

13. Has any doctor you have come in contact with during the past 12 months talked to you about proposed changes in the health care system?

- 12 Yes
- 86 No
- 1 Have not come in contact with a doctor (vol.)
- * Don't know
- Refused

14. Did your conversations with this doctor make you more likely or less likely to believe that major changes are needed in the health care system, or did they not have much effect either way?

13/14. Combo Table based on total

- 12 Have talked with a doctor during the past 12 months about proposed changes in the health care system
- 6 More likely to believe major changes are needed
- 2 Less likely to believe major changes are needed
- 4 Not much effect either way that major changes are needed
- * DK/Ref impact of conversation
- 86 Have not talked with a doctor during the past 12 months about proposed changes in the health care system
- 1 Have not come in contact with a doctor during the past 12 months (vol.)
- * Don't know
- Refused

15. Have you seen, read, or heard the news coverage about people protesting against the health care plan at town hall meetings with members of Congress?

- 79 Yes
- 20 No
- 1 Don't know
- Refused

(ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENS)

16. And do you think that these protests are doing (more harm than good), or (more good than harm)?

Based on total who saw, heard or read coverage of town hall protests (N=1073)

- 47 More good than harm
- 44 More harm than good
- 2 Both
- 4 Neither
- 3 Don't know
- * Refused

(ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENS)

17. Do you think the protests at the town hall meetings were mainly the result of (individual citizens coming together to express their views), or do you think they were mainly the result of (coordination by health care interest groups)?

Based on total who saw, heard or read coverage of town hall protests (N=1073)

- 61** Mainly individual citizens coming together to express their views
- 28** Mainly coordination by healthcare interest group
- 5** Both
- 1** Neither
- 4** Don't know
- Refused

(SCRAMBLE)

18. Do you think each of the following groups was very successful, somewhat successful, not too successful, or not at all successful in getting their message heard at the town hall meetings. How about:

[IF NECESSARY: WERE [INSERT] very successful, somewhat successful, not too successful, or not at all successful in getting their message heard at the town hall meetings.]

Based on total who saw, heard or read coverage of town hall protests (N=1073)

	Very successful	Somewhat successful	Not too successful	Not at all successful	Don't know	Refused
a. groups in favor of a single-payer health system	5	32	27	18	17	*
b. groups supporting the plans currently being discussed in Congress	10	43	27	12	8	*
c. groups opposed to the plans currently being discussed in Congress	24	43	15	10	8	--
d. seniors' groups	15	42	23	11	10	*

Demographics

E. RESPONDENT GENDER

- 48** Male
- 52** Female

D1/D1a. What is your age?

- 22** 18-29
- 37** 30-49
- 24** 50-64
- 16** 65+
- *** Refused

D2. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? (READ IF NECESSARY: A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or [Medicaid/Medi-CAL])?

- 82** Covered by health insurance or health plan
- 18** Not covered by health insurance or health plan at this time
- * Don't know
- Refused

D2a. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your employer or your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself, are you covered by Medicare or (Medicaid/Medi-CAL), some other government program, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else? (SINGLE RESPONSE ONLY) (PROBE FOR "MAIN" SOURCE OF HEALTH INSURANCE IF RESPONDENT MENTIONS MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF INSURANCE)

Based on total who are insured (N=1122)

- 56** Plan through you/your spouse's employer
- 9** Plan you purchased yourself
- 18** Medicare
- 5** Medicaid/Medi-CAL
- 5** Some other government program
- 4** Plan through parent's insurance
- 2** Somewhere else
- 1** Don't know
- * Refused

D2/D2a. Combo Table based on total

- 82** Insured - Covered by health insurance
- 45** Insured through employer
- 7** Insured through plan you purchased yourself
- 15** Insured through Medicare
- 4** Insured through Medicaid/Medi-CAL
- 4** Insured through some other government plan
- 3** Plan through parent's insurance
- 2** Insured through somewhere else
- 1** DK/Ref type of insurance
- 18** Uninsured – Not covered by health insurance
- * Don't know
- Refused

D2b. Was there any time in the past 12 months when you were without health insurance?

Based on total who are insured (N=1122)

- 11** Yes
- 89** No
- * Don't know
- Refused

D2/D2b. Combo Table based on total

- 82** Insured - Covered by health insurance
- 9** Went without health insurance sometime in past 12 months
- 73** Always covered by health insurance in past 12 months
- *** DK/Ref if uninsured in past 12 months
- 18** Uninsured – Not covered by health insurance
- *** Don't know
- Refused

D2/D2b. Combo Table 2 based on total

- 73** Insured continuously for past 12 months
- 27** Uninsured at any time in past 12 months
- *** Don't know/Refused

(ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENS)

D3. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

INTERVIEWER IF REFUSED READ: We understand and respect that this information is private, we ask only for research purposes, and all your answers are confidential.

- 34** Democrat
- 26** Republican
- 31** Independent
- 3** None/no party affiliation
- 3** Something else
- 2** Don't know
- 2** Refused

(ROTATE SCALE 1-3/ 3-1)

D4. Would you say your views on most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative...?

- 19** Liberal
- 38** Moderate
- 37** Conservative
- 2** Don't think in those terms
- 3** Don't know
- *** Refused

D5. Would you say that your health in general is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

- 20** Excellent
- 31** Very good
- 26** Good
- 18** Fair
- 5** Poor
- Don't know
- Refused

D6. Does any disability, handicap, or chronic disease keep you from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

19 Yes
81 No
1 Don't know
-- Refused

D7. Are you NOW self-employed, working full-time for an employer, working part-time for an employer, are you retired, or are you not employed for pay?
(ENTER ONE ONLY)

7 Self-employed
35 Working full-time
13 Working part-time
20 Retired
24 Not employed for pay
1 Don't know
* Refused

D8. Including all its locations and worksites, not just your own, about how many people are employed by the company or organization you work for? Just stop me when I get to the right category. Are there...fewer than 25 employees, 25 to under 100 employees, 100 to under 1,000 employees, or 1,000 or more employees?
(INTERVIEWER NOTE, IF MULTIPLE JOBS, READ: at the job where you work the most hours)

Based on total who are employed by someone else (N=586)

18 Fewer than 25 employees
16 25 to under 100 employees
25 100 to under 1,000 employees
41 1,000 or more employees
1 Don't know
-- Refused

D9. Are you, or is any other adult in your household a member of a labor union, or not?

13 Yes
86 No
1 Don't know
* Refused

D10. Is that you, or someone else in your household?

Based on total with an adult in the household who is a member of a labor union (N=174)

46 You
43 Someone else
9 Both you and someone else
-- Don't know
2 Refused

D9/D10. Combo Table based on total

- 13 Have an adult in the household who is a member of a labor union
- 6 Respondent is a member of a labor union
- 6 Someone else in household is a member of a labor union
- 1 Both the respondent and someone else in household are members of a labor union
- 86 No adult in the household is a member of a labor union
- 1 Don't know
- * Refused

D11. Do you or any other adult in your household currently work in the health care field, for example as a physician, nurse, pharmacist, or hospital worker?

- 15 Yes
- 85 No
- * Don't know
- Refused

D12. Is that you, or someone else in your household?

Based on total with an adult in the household who currently works in the health care field (N=195)

- 44 You
- 51 Someone else
- 5 Both you and someone else
- Don't know
- Refused

D11/D12. Combo Table based on total

- 15 Have an adult in the household who currently works in the health care field
- 7 Respondent works in the health care field
- 8 Someone else in household works in the health care field
- 1 Both the respondent and someone else in household work in the health care field
- 85 No adult in the household works in the health care field
- * Don't know
- Refused

D13. Are you:
(READ LIST)

- 52 Married and living with your spouse
- 9 Living with a partner but not married
- 3 Separated
- 9 Divorced
- 6 Widowed
- 20 Never married
- 1 Refused

D14. What is the last grade of school you completed?

D15. Was that an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, or what?

Education Summary Table

45	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR LESS (NET)
3	8 th grade or less
12	Some high school
31	High school graduate or equivalent
55	SOME COLLEGE OR MORE (net)
28	Some college no degree
27	College graduate + (SUBNET)
18	College graduate
9	Post graduate training
*	Don't know
*	Refused

D16. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?

D17. Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?

D18. Are you white, black, or some other race?

Race Summary Table

68	White (non-Hispanic)
11	Black (non-Hispanic)
1	Asian (non-Hispanic)
13	Hispanic
5	Some other race
--	Don't know
1	Refused

D19/D20. Last year, that is in 2008, what was your total family income from all sources, BEFORE taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.
(READ LIST)

15	Less than \$20K
10	\$20K but less than \$30K
10	\$30K but less than \$40K
7	\$40K but less than \$50K
13	\$50K but less than \$75K
9	\$75K but less than \$90K
4	\$90K but less than \$100K
15	\$100K or more (NET)
10	\$100 to under \$150K
2	\$150K to under \$200K
3	\$200K or more
5	Don't know
11	Refused

D23. REGION

18	Northeast
22	North central
37	South
23	West

D24. METRO STATUS FROM SAMPLE:

53	Urban
30	Suburban
17	Rural

D25. Language interview conducted in.

96	English
4	Spanish



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