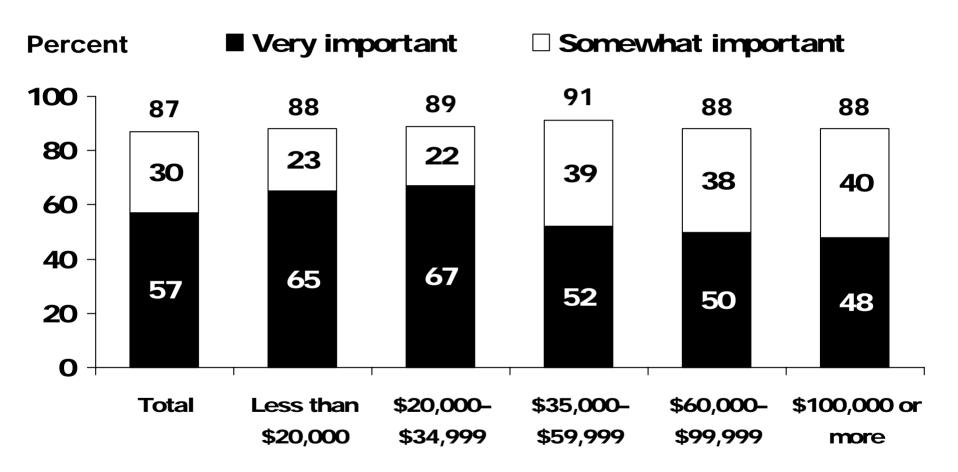
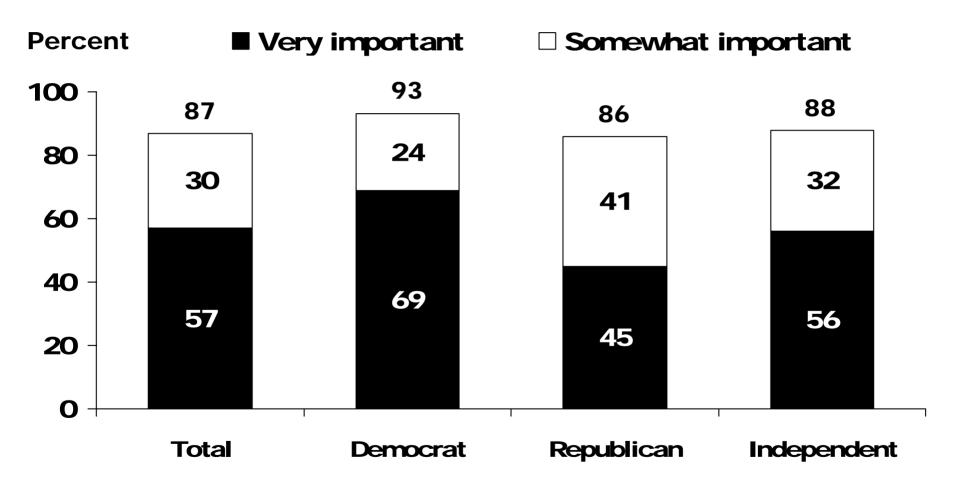
# Majorities of Americans Across Income Groups Say that Candidates' Views on Health Care Reform Will Be Important Factor in Election Decisions



Note: Income groups based on 2002 household income.

Responses include: very, somewhat, not too, not at all important, or don't plan to vote.

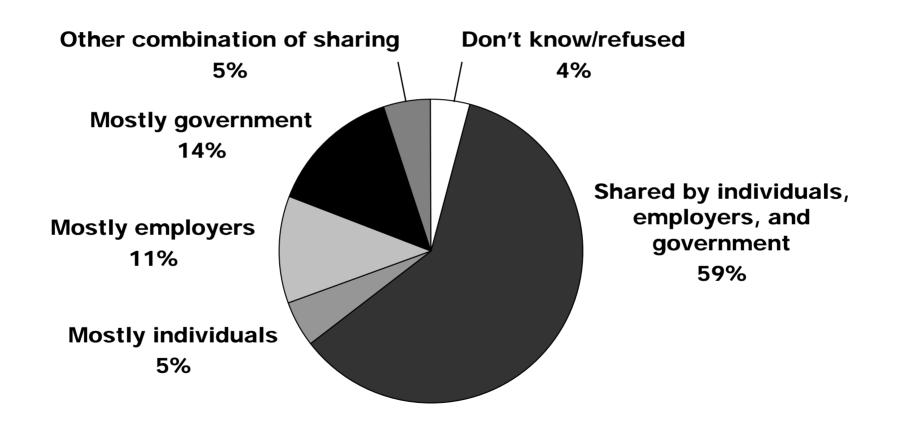
Majorities of Americans Across Political Affiliations
Say that Candidates' Views on Health Care Reform
Will Be Important Factor in Election Decisions



Responses include: very, somewhat, not too, not at all important, or don't plan to vote. Source: The Commonwealth Fund Biennial Health Insurance Survey (2003).

### Majority of Americans Believe Paying for Health Insurance Should Be a Shared Responsibility

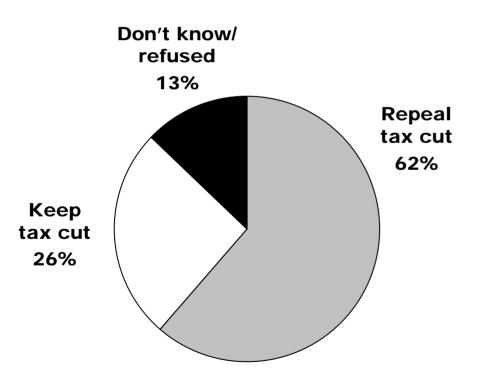
Who do you think should pay for health insurance?

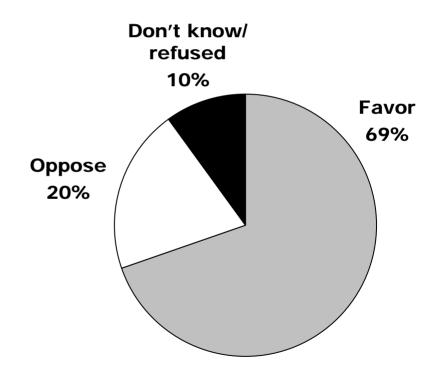


Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

#### Majority of Americans Support Repealing or Limiting Federal Tax Cut and Using These Revenues to Guarantee Health Insurance Security

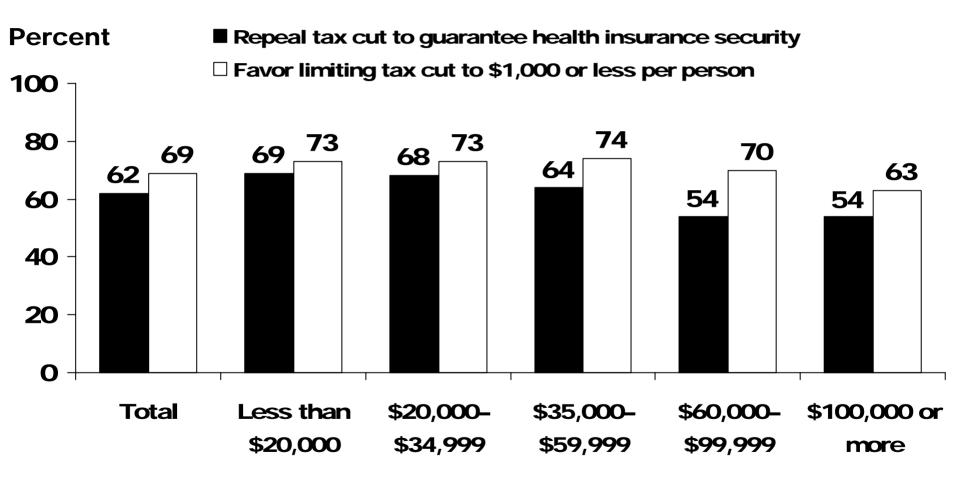
Keep the recent federal tax cut or repeal it and guarantee insurance security for all Limit the tax cut to no more than \$1,000 per person to help guarantee insurance security for all





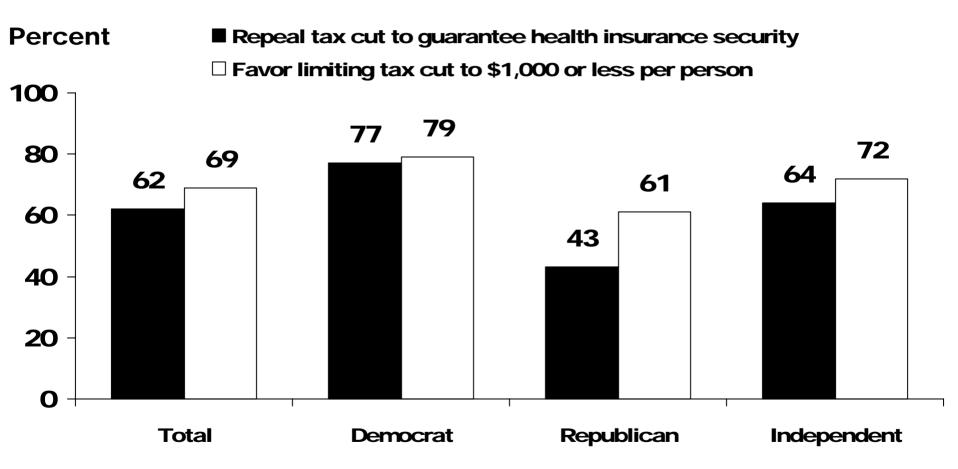
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

## Support for a Full or Partial Repeal of Tax Cut Is Strong Across Income Groups



Note: Income groups based on 2002 household income.

# Support for Repealing Tax Cut Varies by Political Affiliation, Republican Support Rises Under a Limited Repeal

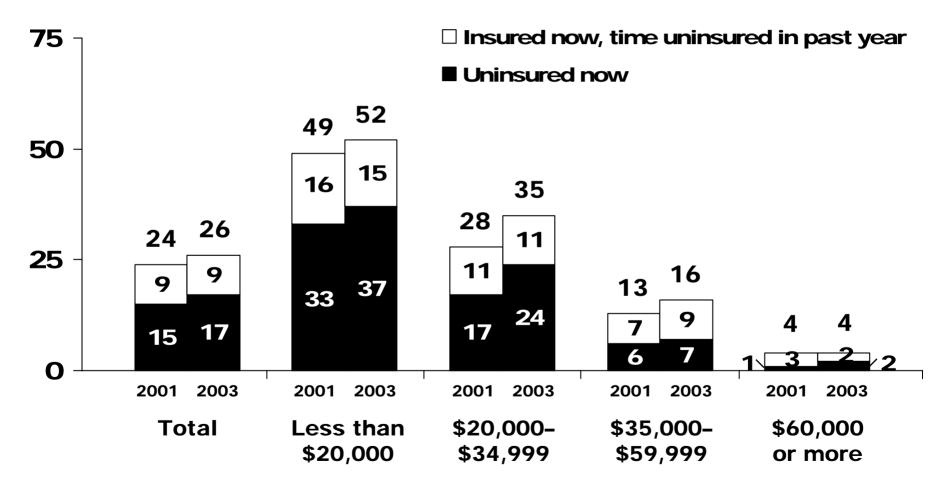


## Americans, Regardless of Political Affiliation, Support Providing Health Insurance Coverage to Uninsured Adults

Percent of adults in favor of:	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Letting uninsured adults participate in state government insurance programs like Medicaid or CHIP	77%	84%	67%	78%
Letting uninsured adults participate in Medicare	76	81	70	74
Offering tax credits/other assistance to help people buy health insurance on their own	75	77	77	79
Requiring all businesses to contribute to the cost of health insurance for their employees	79	87	70	76

## **Insurance Instability Is High Among Adults with Low Incomes, 2001–2003**

#### Percent of adults ages 19-64

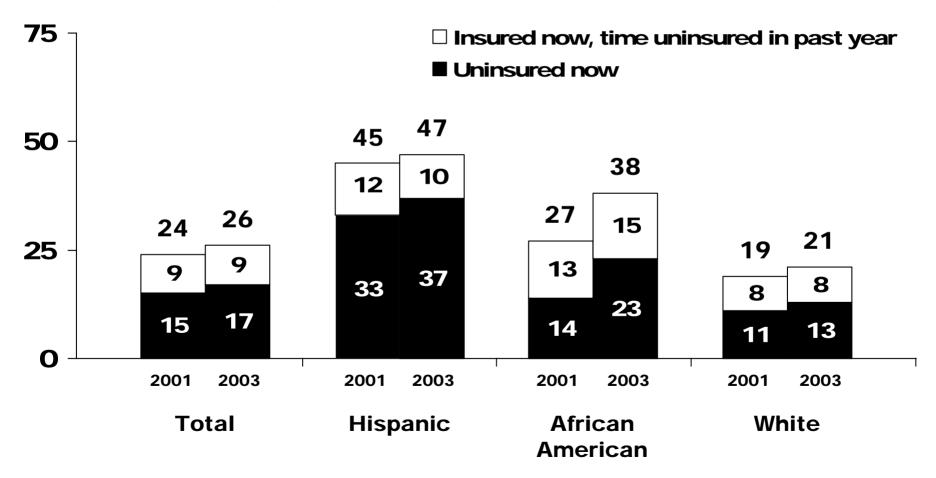


Note: Income groups based on 2002 household income.

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Health Insurance Surveys (2001 and 2003).

### Uninsured Rates Highest Among Hispanics and African Americans, 2001–2003

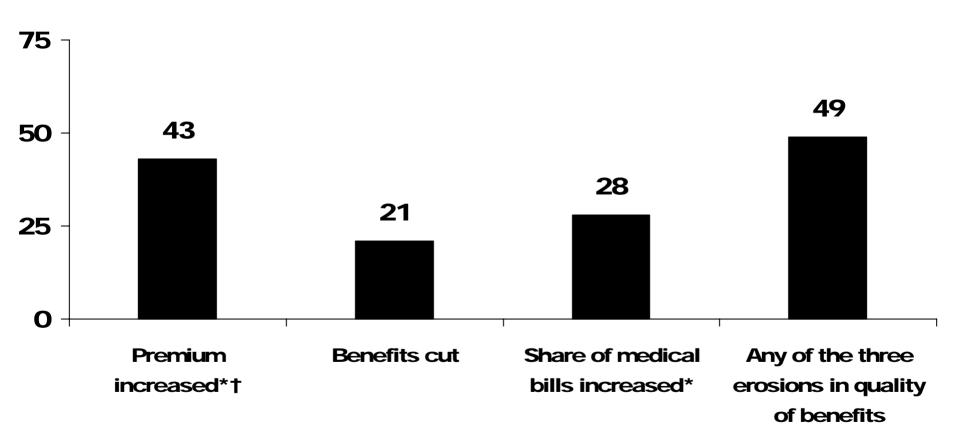
#### Percent of adults ages 19-64



Source: The Commonwealth Fund Health Insurance Surveys (2001 and 2003).

### Nearly Half of Adults with Private Health Insurance Report Erosions in Their Benefits

Percent of adults 19-64 with continuous coverage throughout past year

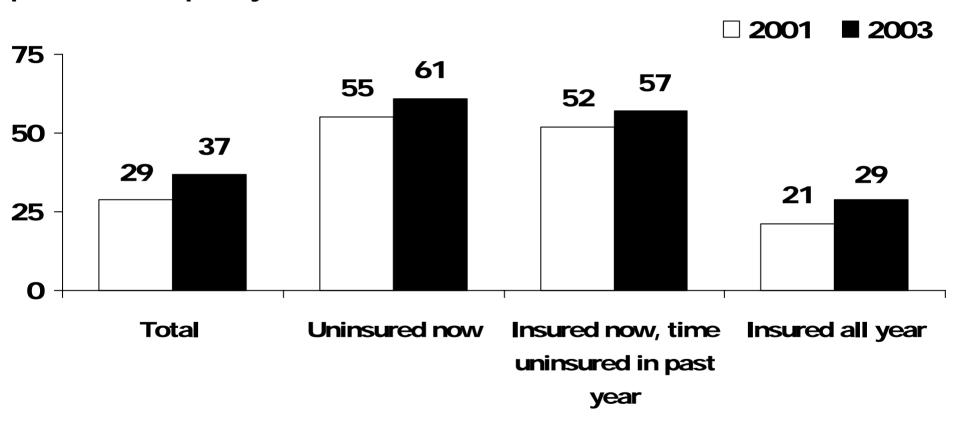


<sup>\*</sup> Increased a lot or a moderate amount.

<sup>†</sup> Among those who pay any premium.

#### Cost-Related Access Problems Have Increased, 2001–2003

Percent of adults ages 19-64 who had any of four access problems\* in past year because of cost

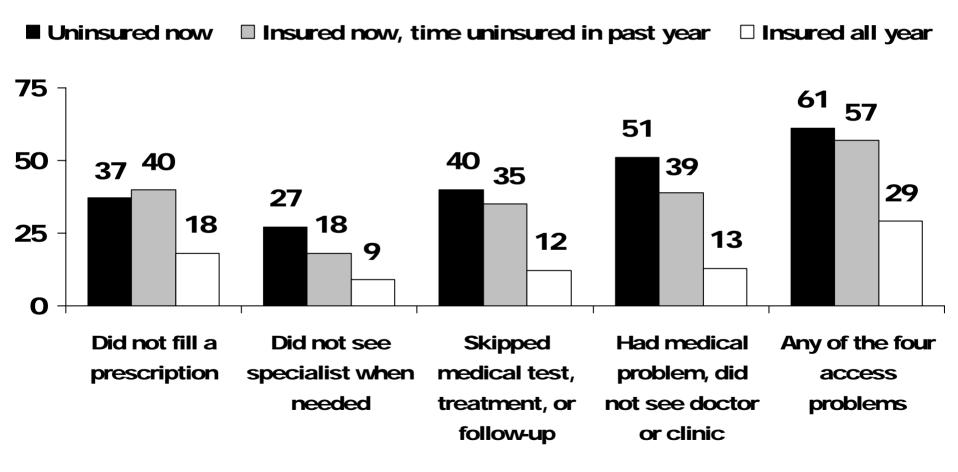


<sup>\*</sup> Did not fill a prescription; did not see a specialist when needed; skipped recommended medical test, treatment, or follow-up; had a medical problem but did not visit doctor or clinic.

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Health Insurance Surveys (2001 and 2003).

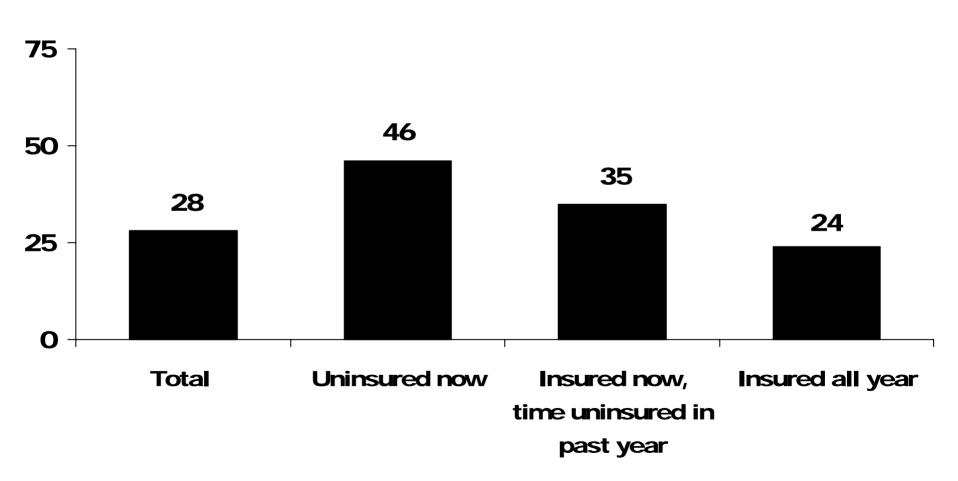
#### Lacking Health Insurance for Any Period Threatens Access to Care

Percent of adults ages 19-64 reporting the following problems because of cost:



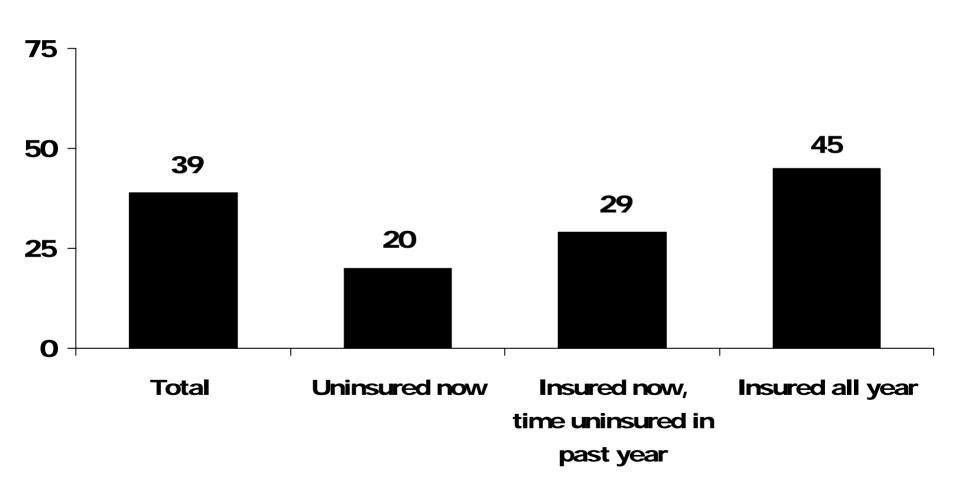
## Many Americans Express a Lack of Confidence in Ability to Get High-Quality Care, 2003

Percent of adults ages 19-64 who are NOT too/NOT at all confident



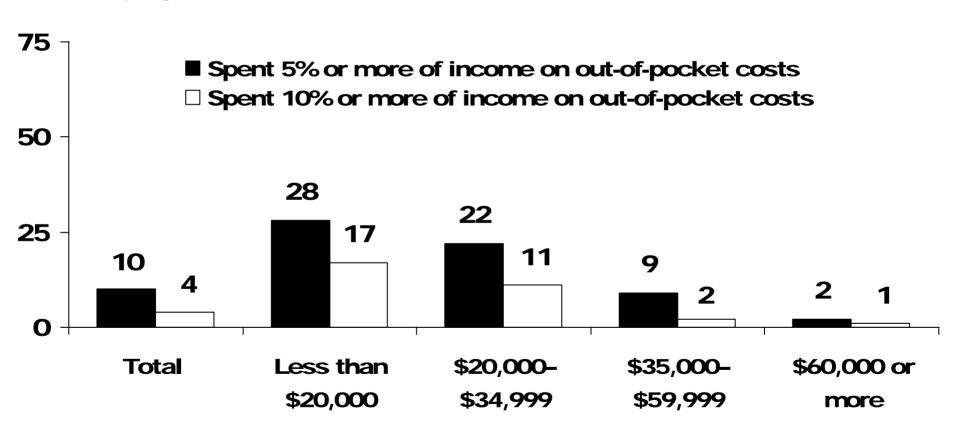
## Just Two of Five Americans Are Very Satisfied with the Quality of Health Care, 2003

Percent of adults ages 19-64 who are very satisfied



#### Adults with Low and Moderate Incomes Spend Greatest Share of Income on Out-of-Pocket Costs

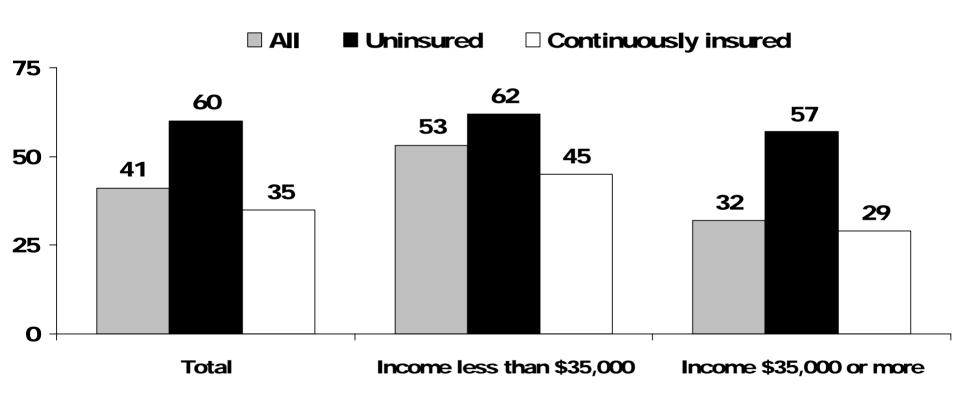
Percent of adults ages 19-64 insured all year with employer-based insurance



Note: Income groups based on 2002 household income.

## Two of Five Adults Have Medical Bill Problems or Accrued Medical Debt:\* Uninsured and Low Income Most at Risk

Percent of adults ages 19-64 with any medical bill problem or outstanding debt

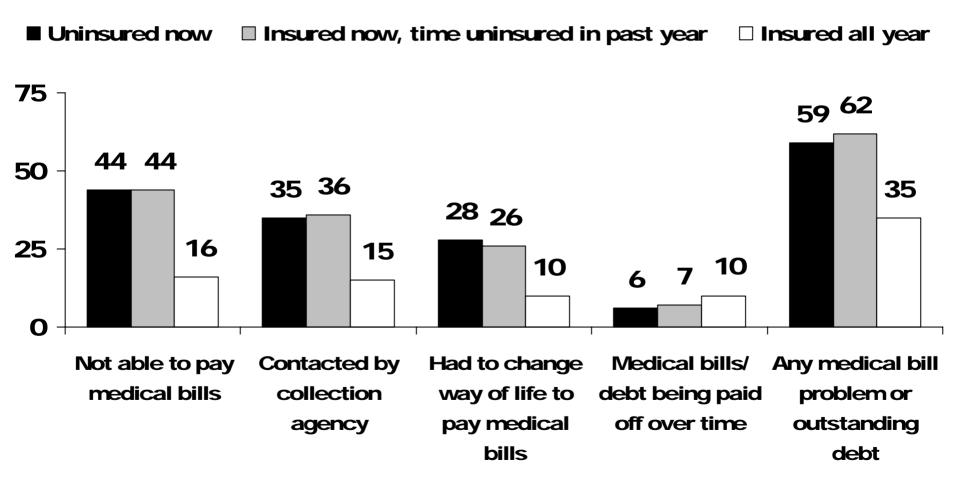


<sup>\*</sup> Problems paying/not able to pay medical bills, contacted by a collection agency for medical bills, had to change way of life to pay bills, or has medical debt being paid off over time.

Note: Income groups based on 2002 household income.

#### Adults with Any Time Uninsured Have High Rates of Medical Bill Problems

Percent of adults ages 19-64 who had the following problems in past year:



# More than Two of Five Adults with Medical Bill Burdens Used All or Most of Their Savings on Medical Bills

Percent of adults ages 19-64 with medical bill problems or accrued medical debt:

Percent of adults reporting:	Total	Uninsured now	Insured now, time uninsured during year	Insured all year
Unable to pay for basic necessities, such as food, heat, or rent	27%	39%	41%	18%
Used all or most of savings	44	53	46	39
Had large credit card debt, or had to take loan against home	20	21	30	18