

The Commonwealth Fund/*Modern Healthcare* Health Care Opinion Leaders Survey

HEALTH REFORM AND THE ROLE OF STATES

May 2011

Introduction

The Commonwealth Fund Health Care Opinion Leaders (HCOL) Survey was conducted by Harris Interactive® on behalf of The Commonwealth Fund and *Modern Healthcare*, with responses from a broad group of 203 of innovators and opinion leaders in health policy, health care delivery, and finance. This was the 25th study in a series of surveys designed to highlight leaders' perspectives on the most timely health policy issues facing the nation. This survey focused on health reform and the role of states.

Health care opinion leaders were identified by The Commonwealth Fund, *Modern Healthcare*, and Harris Interactive as individuals who are experts and influential decision makers within their respective industries.

About the Respondents

Respondents represent a broad range of employment positions and professional settings. For analytical purposes we combined respondents into four sectors (for a more detailed description of respondents' place of employment please refer to Table 8):

- *Academic/Research Institutions* (56%)*
- *Health Care Delivery* (23%)*; including medical societies or professional associations, allied health societies or professional associations or organizations, hospital or related professional associations or organizations, hospitals, nursing homes/long-term care facilities, clinics, and physician or other clinical practices.
- *Business/Insurance/Other Health Care Industry* (22%)*; including health insurance, pharmaceutical, other industries/businesses, and health care improvement organizations.
- *Government/Labor/Consumer Advocacy* (12%)*; including government, labor, and consumer advocacy.**

* Percentages add to more than 100 as respondents were able to give more than one answer.

** Respondents in these industries were combined because of the small sample sizes of the individual groups

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TABLE 1
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE ROLE OF STATES: GENERAL

“In general, do you favor a stronger role for states or for the federal government than was incorporated in the Affordable Care Act? Please indicate the degree to which you believe states or the federal government should have more authority regarding health reform overall.”

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 203 respondents

	Total	Academic/ Research Inst.	Health Care Delivery	Business/ Insurance/ Other Health Care Industry	Government/ Labor/ Consumer Advocacy
	%	%	%	%	%
n=	202	112	46	44	24
The law got the balance about right	29%	29%	30%	16%	29%
The federal government should have somewhat more authority	27%	35%	20%	23%	17%
States should have somewhat more authority	16%	13%	22%	25%	21%
The federal government should have considerably more authority	14%	16%	7%	11%	21%
States should have considerably more authority	9%	6%	13%	18%	13%
Not sure	4%	2%	9%	7%	—

TABLE 2
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE ROLE OF STATES: INSURANCE

“Thinking about insurance coverage, do you favor a stronger role for states or for the federal government than was incorporated in the Affordable Care Act? Please indicate the degree to which you believe states or the federal government should have more authority regarding...”

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 203 respondents

		Total	Academic/ Research Inst.	Health Care Delivery	Business/ Insurance/ Other Health Care Industry	Government/ Labor/ Consumer Advocacy
		%	%	%	%	%
Health insurance exchanges	n=	202	112	46	44	24
	States should have considerably more authority	11%	10%	20%	18%	17%
	States should have somewhat more authority	17%	14%	22%	18%	21%
	The law got the balance about right	28%	25%	37%	23%	25%
	The federal government should have somewhat more authority	27%	31%	13%	25%	21%
	The federal government should have considerably more authority	15%	17%	9%	11%	17%
	Not sure	2%	3%	—	5%	—
Plans offered to Medicaid and subsidized populations (up to 4 times poverty)	n=	199	109	46	44	24
	States should have considerably more authority	15%	10%	24%	20%	21%
	States should have somewhat more authority	17%	15%	22%	18%	13%
	The law got the balance about right	31%	32%	30%	25%	42%
	The federal government should have somewhat more authority	20%	23%	15%	14%	8%
	The federal government should have considerably more authority	16%	18%	9%	20%	13%
	Not sure	2%	2%	—	2%	4%

TABLE 2 (continued)
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE ROLE OF STATES: INSURANCE

“Thinking about insurance coverage, do you favor a stronger role for states or for the federal government than was incorporated in the Affordable Care Act? Please indicate the degree to which you believe states or the federal government should have more authority regarding...”

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 203 respondents

		Total	Academic/ Research Inst.	Health Care Delivery	Business/ Insurance/ Other Health Care Industry	Government/ Labor/ Consumer Advocacy
		%	%	%	%	%
Health insurance market rules	n=	199	110	46	43	24
	States should have considerably more authority	15%	12%	24%	19%	21%
	States should have somewhat more authority	12%	5%	15%	21%	17%
	The law got the balance about right	23%	27%	13%	19%	33%
	The federal government should have somewhat more authority	28%	32%	26%	23%	17%
	The federal government should have considerably more authority	22%	24%	20%	16%	13%
	Not sure	1%	—	2%	2%	—
Review of health insurance premium increases	n=	201	111	46	44	24
	States should have considerably more authority	19%	14%	26%	32%	29%
	States should have somewhat more authority	19%	18%	22%	23%	25%
	The law got the balance about right	28%	28%	28%	25%	21%
	The federal government should have somewhat more authority	16%	20%	13%	11%	8%
	The federal government should have considerably more authority	13%	15%	7%	7%	13%
	Not sure	4%	5%	4%	2%	4%

TABLE 2 (continued)
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE ROLE OF STATES: INSURANCE

“Thinking about insurance coverage, do you favor a stronger role for states or for the federal government than was incorporated in the Affordable Care Act? Please indicate the degree to which you believe states or the federal government should have more authority regarding...”

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 203 respondents

		Total	Academic/ Research Inst.	Health Care Delivery	Business/ Insurance/ Other Health Care Industry	Government/ Labor/ Consumer Advocacy
		%	%	%	%	%
The individual mandate	n=	198	110	45	42	23
	States should have considerably more authority	10%	9%	9%	14%	4%
	States should have somewhat more authority	10%	10%	13%	14%	13%
	The law got the balance about right	36%	35%	36%	38%	30%
	The federal government should have somewhat more authority	16%	19%	11%	12%	13%
	The federal government should have considerably more authority	25%	25%	27%	19%	35%
	Not sure	4%	2%	4%	2%	4%

TABLE 3
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE ROLE OF STATES: PAYMENT AND DELIVERY

“Thinking about payment and delivery system reform, do you favor a stronger role for states or for the federal government than was incorporated in the Affordable Care Act? Please indicate the degree to which you believe states or the federal government should have more authority regarding:

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 203 respondents

		Total	Academic/ Research Inst.	Health Care Delivery	Business/ Insurance/ Other Health Care Industry	Government/ Labor/ Consumer Advocacy
		%	%	%	%	%
Provider payment methods	n=	199	110	46	43	24
	States should have considerably more authority	12%	9%	20%	19%	8%
	States should have somewhat more authority	9%	9%	7%	5%	13%
	The law got the balance about right	27%	28%	28%	30%	25%
	The federal government should have somewhat more authority	29%	27%	28%	30%	25%
	The federal government should have considerably more authority	21%	24%	15%	14%	21%
	Not sure	4%	3%	2%	2%	8%
Medical malpractice	n=	200	111	46	43	24
	States should have considerably more authority	15%	9%	28%	19%	8%
	States should have somewhat more authority	16%	17%	15%	19%	17%
	The law got the balance about right	21%	27%	7%	12%	21%
	The federal government should have somewhat more authority	18%	16%	20%	14%	25%
	The federal government should have considerably more authority	22%	19%	28%	28%	17%
	Not sure	10%	12%	2%	9%	13%

**TABLE 4
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW AT THE STATE LEVEL**

“How concerned are you with the following barriers to successful implementation of the law
at the state level?”

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 203 respondents

		Total %	Academic/ Research Inst. %	Health Care Delivery %	Business/ Insurance/ Other Health Care Industry %	Government/ Labor/ Consumer Advocacy %
Technical knowledge and capacity of state agencies	n=	202	112	46	44	24
	Very concerned/ Concerned	70%	71%	74%	68%	75%
	Very concerned	36%	34%	37%	43%	38%
	Concerned	35%	37%	37%	25%	38%
	Somewhat concerned/ Not at all concerned	28%	29%	22%	32%	21%
	Somewhat concerned	24%	27%	20%	23%	13%
	Not at all concerned	4%	3%	2%	9%	8%
	Not sure	1%	—	4%	—	4%
Staffing levels at state agencies	n=	202	112	46	44	24
	Very concerned/ Concerned	69%	69%	63%	70%	58%
	Very concerned	39%	39%	28%	39%	42%
	Concerned	30%	29%	35%	32%	17%
	Somewhat concerned/ Not at all concerned	29%	29%	35%	27%	42%
	Somewhat concerned	21%	23%	22%	14%	38%
	Not at all concerned	8%	6%	13%	14%	4%
	Not sure	2%	2%	2%	2%	—
The current fiscal situation and budgetary pressures in many states	n=	201	111	45	43	23
	Very concerned/ Concerned	89%	86%	93%	86%	91%
	Very concerned	78%	76%	84%	72%	78%
	Concerned	11%	11%	9%	14%	13%
	Somewhat concerned/ Not at all concerned	11%	14%	7%	14%	9%
	Somewhat concerned	8%	10%	7%	12%	4%
	Not at all concerned	3%	4%	—	2%	4%
	Not sure	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 4 (continued)
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW AT THE STATE LEVEL

“How concerned are you with the following barriers to successful implementation of the law
at the state level?”

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 203 respondents

		Total	Academic/ Research Inst.	Health Care Delivery	Business/ Insurance/ Other Health Care Industry	Government/ Labor/ Consumer Advocacy
		%	%	%	%	%
State political resistance and pending legal challenges	n=	202	112	46	44	24
	Very concerned/ Concerned	78%	80%	74%	64%	71%
	Very concerned	56%	58%	52%	41%	50%
	Concerned	22%	22%	22%	23%	21%
	Somewhat concerned/ Not at all concerned	21%	20%	26%	36%	25%
	Somewhat concerned	14%	14%	15%	25%	17%
	Not at all concerned	7%	5%	11%	11%	8%
	Not sure	*	—	—	—	4%
Organization and performance of health care delivery systems in states	n=	200	110	46	44	24
	Very concerned/ Concerned	67%	70%	72%	64%	75%
	Very concerned	33%	35%	37%	32%	50%
	Concerned	34%	35%	35%	32%	25%
	Somewhat concerned/ Not at all concerned	31%	27%	26%	36%	21%
	Somewhat concerned	22%	18%	17%	20%	21%
	Not at all concerned	9%	9%	9%	16%	—
	Not sure	3%	3%	2%	—	4%

**TABLE 5
FEDERAL HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE**

“Some policymakers have argued that a federal health insurance exchange should be created as a complement or alternative to state exchanges for enrollees of, for example, multi-state firms or people with family members in different states. Please indicate the degree to which you support the creation of a federal health insurance exchange in addition to operable state health insurance exchanges.”

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 203 respondents

	Total	Academic/ Research Inst.	Health Care Delivery	Business/ Insurance/ Other Health Care Industry	Government/ Labor/ Consumer Advocacy	
						%
	n= 202	112	46	44	24	
Please indicate the degree to which you support the creation of a federal health insurance exchange in addition to operable state health insurance exchanges	Strongly support/ Support	61%	64%	65%	48%	54%
	Strongly support	26%	31%	17%	20%	13%
	Support	36%	33%	48%	27%	42%
	Neither support nor oppose	17%	16%	22%	16%	13%
	Oppose/ Strongly oppose	17%	18%	11%	32%	21%
	Oppose	8%	12%	4%	11%	8%
	Strongly oppose	8%	6%	7%	20%	13%
	Not sure	4%	2%	2%	5%	13%

**TABLE 6
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT SUBSTITUTES**

“Recently, several policymakers have proposed legislation allowing states to opt out of certain Affordable Care Act provisions and devise their own insurance coverage systems as early as 2014, provided they meet certain requirements. These include providing "coverage that is at least as comprehensive," "cost sharing protections ... that are at least as affordable," and "coverage to at least a comparable number of residents" as would have occurred under the law. State-initiated reforms also may not add to the federal budget deficit.

Please indicate the degree to which you support such state reform substitutes.”

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 203 respondents

		Academic/ Research Inst.	Health Care Delivery	Business/ Insurance/ Other Health Care Industry	Government / Labor/ Consumer Advocacy	
	Total %	%	%	%	%	
Please indicate the degree to which you support such state reform substitutes	n=	200	110	46	44	24
	Strongly support/ Support	48%	43%	57%	55%	50%
	Strongly support	14%	14%	15%	16%	8%
	Support	35%	29%	41%	39%	42%
	Neither support nor oppose	18%	19%	15%	20%	13%
	Oppose/ Strongly oppose	32%	36%	26%	25%	33%
	Oppose	17%	20%	17%	11%	21%
	Strongly oppose	15%	16%	9%	14%	13%
	Not sure	3%	2%	2%	—	4%

**TABLE 7
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT EARLY IMPLEMENTATION**

“Some states have indicated a capacity and willingness to implement key provisions of the Affordable Care Act such as expansion of Medicaid eligibility and creation of insurance exchanges with premium subsidies ahead of the original timelines outlined in the law. Please indicate the degree to which you support allowing states to accelerate implementation of the law with full federal support (e.g., accelerated funding for insurance premium subsidies).”

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 203 respondents

	Total %	Academic/ Research Inst. %	Health Care Delivery %	Business/ Insurance/ Other Health Care Industry %	Government / Labor/ Consumer Advocacy %	
	n= 202	113	46	44	24	
	Strongly support/ Support	82%	86%	74%	73%	71%
Please indicate the degree to which you support allowing states to accelerate implementation of the law with full federal support	Strongly support	35%	41%	41%	30%	29%
	Support	47%	45%	33%	43%	42%
	Neither support nor oppose	8%	6%	15%	16%	21%
	Oppose/ Strongly oppose	8%	6%	11%	11%	4%
	Oppose	5%	4%	7%	7%	4%
	Strongly oppose	3%	3%	4%	5%	—
	Not sure	1%	2%	—	—	4%

TABLE 8
TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

"How would you describe your current employment position?"
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 201 respondents

	%
Researcher/Professor/Teacher	31%
CEO/President	25%
Physician	19%
Policy analyst	17%
Management/Administration	12%
Consultant	9%
Health care purchaser	7%
Dean or department head	6%
Foundation officer	5%
Policymaker or policy staff (state)	3%
Consumer advocate	3%
Policymaker or policy staff (federal)	2%
Lobbyist	2%
Regulator	*
Investment analyst	—
Retired	7%
Other health care provider (not physician)	2%
Other	3%

**TABLE 9
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT**

"Which of the following best describes the place or institution for which you work or if retired last worked?"

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding or no response

Base: 202 respondents

	%
Academic and Research Institutions	56%
Medical, public health, nursing, or other health professional school	27%
Think tank/Health care institute/Policy research institution	17%
Foundation	7%
University setting not in a medical, public health, nursing, or other health professional school	9%
Medical publisher	—
Professional, Trade, Consumer Organizations	22%
Medical society or professional association or organization	7%
Health insurance and business association or organization	6%
Hospital or related professional association or organization	5%
Labor/Consumer/Seniors' advocacy group	3%
Allied health society or professional association or organization	1%
Pharmaceutical/Medical device trade association organization	*
Financial services industry	—
Health Care Delivery	15%
Physician practice/Other clinical practice (patient care)	7%
Hospital	5%
Health insurance/Managed care industry	4%
Clinic	3%
Nursing home/Long-term care facility	*
Government	4%
Non-elected state executive-branch official	*
Staff for a state elected official or state legislative committee	1%
Staff for non-elected federal executive-branch official	1%
Non-elected federal executive-branch official	1%
Staff for a federal elected official or federal legislative committee	—
Staff for non-elected state executive-branch official	—
Pharmaceutical Industry	*
Drug manufacturer	*
Device company	—
Biotech company	—
Other Industry/Business Settings	16%
Health care consulting firm	7%
Health care improvement organization	4%
CEO, CFO, Benefits Manager	4%
Accrediting body and organization (non-governmental)	1%
Polling organization	*

Please note that respondents may fall into more than one of these categories.

Methodology

This survey was conducted online by Harris Interactive on behalf of The Commonwealth Fund among 203 opinion leaders in health policy and innovators in health care delivery and finance within the United States from April 6 to May 3, 2011. Harris Interactive sent out individual e-mail invitations to the entire panel containing a password-protected link, and a total of five reminder emails were sent to those that had not responded. No weighting was applied to these results.

The initial sample for this survey was developed using a two-step process. The Commonwealth Fund and Harris Interactive jointly identified a number of experts across different professional sectors with a range of perspectives based on their affiliations and involvement in various organizations. Harris Interactive then conducted an online survey with these experts asking them to nominate others within and outside their own fields whom they consider to be leaders and innovators in health care. Based on the result of the survey and after careful review by Harris Interactive, The Commonwealth Fund, and a selected group of health care experts, the sample for this poll was created. The final list included 1,246 individuals.

In 2006, The Commonwealth Fund and Harris Interactive joined forces with *Modern Healthcare* to add new members to the panel. The Commonwealth Fund and Harris Interactive were able to gain access to *Modern Healthcare*'s database of readers. The Commonwealth Fund, Harris Interactive, and *Modern Healthcare* identified readers in the database that were considered to be opinion leaders and invited them to participate in the survey. This list included 1,467 people. At the end of 2006, The Commonwealth Fund and Harris Interactive removed those panelists who did not respond to any previous surveys. In 2007 recruitment for the panel continued with *Modern Healthcare* recruiting individuals through their *Daily Dose* newsletter. In addition, Harris Interactive continued to recruit leaders by asking current panelists to nominate other leaders. The final panel size for the Affordable Care Act and state role survey included 1,302 leaders. With this survey, we are using a new definition of the panel. Two hundred three of these panelists completed the survey, for a 15.6% response rate.

With a pure probability sample of 203 adults one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results have a sampling error of +/- 6.88 percentage points. However, that does not take other sources of error into account. This online survey is not based on a probability sample, and therefore, no theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

The data in this brief are descriptive in nature. It represents the opinions of the health care opinion leaders interviewed and is not projectable to the universe of health care opinion leaders.

About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is one of the world's leading custom market research firms, leveraging research, technology, and business acumen to transform relevant insight into actionable foresight. Known widely for the Harris Poll and for pioneering innovative research methodologies, Harris offers expertise in a wide range of industries including health care, technology, public affairs, energy, telecommunications, financial services, insurance, media, retail, restaurant, and consumer package goods. Serving clients in over 215 countries and territories through our North American, European, and Asian offices and a network of independent market research firms, Harris specializes in delivering research solutions that help us—and our clients—stay ahead of what's next. For more information, please visit www.harrisinteractive.com.