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

Who do you think should pay for health insurance?

- Shared by individuals, employers, and government: 59%
- Mostly government: 14%
- Mostly employers: 11%
- Mostly individuals: 5%
- Other combination of sharing: 5%
- Don’t know/refused: 4%

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

- Repeal tax cut: 62%
- Keep tax cut: 26%
- Don’t know/refused: 13%

Limit the tax cut to no more than $1,000 per person to help guarantee insurance security for all

- Oppose: 20%
- Don’t know/refused: 10%
- Favor: 69%

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

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

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

Percent of adults ages 19–64

- Insured now, time uninsured in past year
- Uninsured now

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>Less than $20,000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>$20,000–$34,999</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>$35,000–$59,999</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>$60,000 or more</th>
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<td>7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Income groups based on 2002 household income.
Uninsured Rates Highest Among Hispanics and African Americans, 2001–2003

Percent of adults ages 19–64

- Insured now, time uninsured in past year
- Uninsured now

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

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

- Premium increased*†: 43%
- Benefits cut: 21%
- Share of medical bills increased*: 28%
- Any of the three erosions in quality of benefits: 49%

* Increased a lot or a moderate amount.
† Among those who pay any premium.


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

* 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.

Lacking Health Insurance for Any Period Threatens Access to Care

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

- Did not fill a prescription
- Did not see specialist when needed
- Skipped medical test, treatment, or follow-up
- Had medical problem, did not see doctor or clinic
- Any of the four access problems

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

* 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:

- Not able to pay medical bills:
  - Uninsured now: 44%
  - Insured now, time uninsured in past year: 16%
  - Insured all year: 15%

- Contacted by collection agency:
  - Uninsured now: 35%
  - Insured now, time uninsured in past year: 15%
  - Insured all year: 10%

- Had to change way of life to pay medical bills:
  - Uninsured now: 28%
  - Insured now, time uninsured in past year: 26%
  - Insured all year: 22%

- Medical bills/debt being paid off over time:
  - Uninsured now: 6%
  - Insured now, time uninsured in past year: 7%
  - Insured all year: 10%

- Any medical bill problem or outstanding debt:
  - Uninsured now: 59%
  - Insured now, time uninsured in past year: 62%
  - Insured all year: 35%

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:

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