

APPENDIX A. METHODOLOGY

This survey was conducted online by Harris Interactive on behalf of The Commonwealth Fund among 221 opinion leaders in health policy and innovators in health care delivery and finance within the United States between November 29, 2007, and December 31, 2007. No weighting was applied to these results.

The initial sample for this survey was developed using a two-step process. Initially, The Commonwealth Fund and Harris Interactive jointly identified a number of experts across different sectors and professional sectors with a range of perspectives, based on their affiliations and involvement in various organizations and institutions. 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 people. Then in 2006, The Commonwealth Fund and Harris Interactive joined forces with *Modern Healthcare* to add new members to the panel. The Fund and Harris were able to gain access to *Modern Healthcare*'s database of readers. The Fund, Harris, and *Modern Healthcare* identified readers in the database considered opinion leaders and invited them to participate in the survey. This list included 1,467 people. At the end of 2007, The Commonwealth Fund and Harris removed those respondents who did not respond to any previous surveys. In 2008, *Modern Healthcare* recruited nominees through their *Daily Dose* newsletter. Harris Interactive continued to recruit leaders by asking currently health care opinion leaders who take the survey to nominate other leaders. The final panel size for the Presidential Candidates' Proposal survey included 1,080 people.

Harris Interactive sent out individual e-mail invitations containing a password-protected link to the entire sample. Data collection took place between November 29, 2007, and December 31, 2007. A total of four reminder emails was sent to anyone who had not responded. A total of 221 respondents completed the survey.

With a pure probability sample of 221 adults one could say with a 95 percent probability that the overall results have a sampling error of +/- 6.6 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 not projectable to the universe of health care opinion leaders.

About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is the 13th largest and one of the fastest-growing market research firms in the world. The company provides innovative research, insights and strategic advice to help its clients make more confident decisions which lead to measurable and enduring improvements in performance. Harris Interactive is widely known for The Harris Poll, one of the longest running, independent opinion polls and for pioneering online market research methods. The company has built what it believes to be the world's largest panel of survey respondents, the Harris Poll Online. Harris Interactive serves clients worldwide through its North American, European and Asian offices, and through a global network of independent market research firms. More information about Harris Interactive may be obtained at www.harrisinteractive.com.

To become a member of the Harris Poll Online and be invited to participate in online surveys, register at www.harrispollonline.com.