



Health Care Issues Iowa and Washington State Survey Comparisons

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INTRODUCTION

CodeBlueNow! commissioned the Gilmore Research Group to conduct identical telephone surveys of 600 registered voters each in Iowa and Washington State to obtain their opinions regarding health care in the United States. Both polls were conducted among randomly-selected voters with household telephones. The Iowa survey was conducted between August 23 and September 13, 2007 and the Washington State survey was conducted between November 11th and December 26, 2007. The average survey lasted just under 14 minutes. The maximum margin of error for a survey of 600 randomly selected respondents is ± 4.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence.

Results from each of these surveys have been reported in detail in separate reports. Those findings indicate that there are many common themes in the results obtained from these surveys and most differences tended to be a measure of the *degree* of difference rather than the *direction* of the opinion. This comparison report focuses on significant differences between the two states. Key findings from that analysis are summarized below.

KEY FINDINGS

- Survey respondents represent a cross-section of voters in each state. Poll respondents are similar to all state residents in terms of age, ethnicity, income, gender and political leanings. Washington has more respondents with health insurance provided through a former employer (8% v. 1% in Iowa).
- Washington residents are less satisfied with their personal access health care (75% v. 80% in Iowa). More Washington residents are more likely to be dissatisfied with the ability of Americans to get the care they need when they need it than Iowa residents (54% and 40% dissatisfied respectively).
- More Washington residents are dissatisfied with the cost of health care in the U.S. today (67% v. 61% of Iowa residents). Washington residents are especially likely to say they are *very dissatisfied* (41% v. 34% of Iowa residents).
- When asked to name the **best** thing about the current national health care system, Iowa residents were more likely than Washington residents to cite *availability of services/doctors* (7% v. 3% of Washington residents) while Washington residents were more likely to mention *quality of care* (21% v. 15% of Iowa residents), and that health care is *not government controlled* (5% v. 2% of Iowa residents).
- When asked to name the **worst** thing about the current national health care system, Iowa residents were more likely than Washington residents to say *health care costs too much* (42% v. 35% of Washington residents) and that *insurance companies are too involved* (10% v. 3% of Washington residents). Washington residents were more likely than Iowa residents to mention *lack of adequate coverage* (24% v. 16% of Iowa residents).
- Respondents were asked to rate a **series of statements about health care and related issues** on a five-point scale from 1= “strongly disagree” to 5= “strongly agree.” When the mean ratings on these statements were compared, Iowa and Washington respondents *did not differ* statistically in their level of agreement on any of these items with only one exception. The Iowa respondents were more likely than Washington respondents to agree with the statement: *health insurance should be a personal responsibility like automobile insurance* (mean ratings of 2.93 for Washington and 3.14 for Iowa).

The percentage of respondents agreeing with some of these statements varied by state:

- Washington residents were more likely than Iowa residents to disagree with the statement *we should have one set of basic health benefits for all our people* (29% disagree v. 24% of Iowa residents)
- Washington residents were more likely than Iowa residents to agree:
 - *Basic health benefits should include coverage for an licensed health care professional such as naturopaths, midwives, acupuncturists and chiropractors as long as they are certified and licensed by the state and by their profession* (75% agree v. 68% of Iowa respondents)
 - *Health insurance should be paid for by tax dollars and managed by local, state, or federal government* (31% agree v. 26% of Iowa respondents)
- When asked if they have other concerns about the health care system that had not been covered in the survey, Washington residents were more likely than Iowa residents to mention:
 - Coverage (11% v. 7% of Iowa respondents)
 - Do not need national health insurance (4% v. 1% of Iowa respondents)
- When read a list of people/organizations and asked who they would trust to create a new health care system for the nation, Washington residents exhibited more trust for nearly every entity named than did Iowa respondents. Specifically Washington respondents were more likely to say they would trust:
 - Health care professionals (63% Washington v. 51% Iowa)
 - Non-profit organizations (43% v. 35%)
 - Federal government (32% v. 22%)
 - Public/common people (50% v. 3%)
 - Business professionals (29% v. 21%)
 - Academic institutions (27% v. 17%)

- Three elements emerged as top concerns for both Washington and Iowa respondents: *coverage, cost of prescriptions* and *quality of care*.
 - While both Washington and Iowa respondents ranked coverage high on the list of most important element of an ideal health care system, there were distinct differences in what aspects of coverage were most important. Iowa respondents wanted to make sure *everyone had coverage or can get care* (51% v. 39% of Washington respondents). Washington respondents were concerned about *availability of doctors and services* (25% v. 5% of Iowa respondents) and *preventive coverage* (11% v. 4% of Iowa respondents)
 - Iowa respondents were more likely than Washington respondents to mention *cost of care and prescriptions* (63% v. 57% of Washington respondents) and *quality of care* (46% v. 33% of Washington respondents) as important elements of an ideal health care system
 - Washington respondents were more likely than those in Iowa to mention *personal accountability* (6% v. 3% of Iowa respondents) and having a system that is *not controlled by the government* (4% v. 2% of Iowa respondents)
- Washington residents were more likely than Iowa residents to think it is *very likely* the presidential election will chart a new vision for a revised health care system (16% v. 12% of Iowa residents)
- Iowa residents were more likely than Washington residents to say there has never been a time in the past 12 months when they needed medical attention but could not get care because of cost (92% v. 88% of Washington residents)
- Proportionately more Washington respondents were between the ages of 55 and 64 than Iowa respondents (27% v. 21% of Iowa respondents) and more Iowa respondents were age 75 or older (16% v. 11% of Washington respondents)
- More Washington respondents refused to answer the ethnicity question than Iowa respondents (2% v. 1% of Iowa respondents)
- More Washington respondents are college graduates (50% v. 39% of Iowa respondents) while more Iowa respondents have no more than a high school education (33% v. 20% of Washington respondents)
- More than one-third of Washington respondents have an annual income greater than \$75,000 compared with 26% of Iowa respondents
- Proportionately more Washington respondents are Democrats (44% v. 36% Iowa respondents) while proportionately more Iowa respondents are Independent voters (13% v. 8% of Washington respondents).