



Iowa Health Care Issues Survey Results

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

CodeBlueNow! commissioned The Gilmore Research Group to conduct a telephone survey of 601 registered voters in Iowa to obtain their opinions regarding health care in the United States. The poll was conducted among randomly selected voters with household telephones between August 23 and September 13, 2007. The average survey lasted just under 14 minutes. The maximum margin of error for a survey of this size is ± 4.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. Key findings from the survey are summarized below.

KEY FINDINGS

- Survey respondents represent a cross-section of Iowa residents. Poll respondents are very similar to all Iowa residents in terms of age, ethnicity, income, gender and political leanings. The poll slightly over-represents Iowans age 75 and older while under-representing Iowans age 18 to 24. Eight percent of respondents (8%) are employed by, or related to someone employed by, a health care organization or health insurance company.
- Virtually all respondents (96%) have health insurance compared with 89% of all Iowa residents and 84% of all Americans.¹ Nearly nine in ten respondents (88%) have a personal doctor or primary care provider. The vast majority of Iowa voters are satisfied with their access to health care (80%) and the quality of care their family receives (85%). However, just 41% say they are satisfied with the cost of their health care.
- Iowans are less satisfied with the state of health care nationally than they are with their personal health care situation. Fewer than three in ten (26%) are satisfied with Americans' access to health care, 43% are satisfied with the quality of care available to Americans and just 14% are satisfied with the cost of health care.
- Satisfaction with the health care system tends to split along party and economic lines with Democrats being generally less satisfied than Republicans. Those dissatisfied with cost tend to be those with children at home and annual incomes below \$75,000.
- One in five Iowa voters (20%) think today's health care system is better than it was ten years ago, but a strong plurality (43%) think the system is getting worse.
- When asked to name the **best thing** about today's health care system, one in three respondents (33%) was unable to think of anything. Those who did name a positive quality most commonly cited access to care (18%).

¹ Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

- When asked to name the **worst thing** about the current national health care system, 86% of voters had something to contribute. Not surprisingly, comments focused on cost (43%) and coverage (30%).
- At least two-thirds of respondents agreed:
 - Health care professionals should provide information on treatment costs and benefits to allow patients to make good choices (84%)
 - Like public utilities, there should be public reporting and accountability for where money comes from as well as how and why it is spent (75%)
 - There needs to be uniform standards or guidelines for health care that professionals should use (74%)
 - Every American should have affordable access to health care services they need (71%)
 - Health care services should stress prevention over high-tech cures (69%)
 - Basic health care benefits should include coverage for any licensed health care professional (68%) like naturopathic physicians, acupuncturists, chiropractors, midwives and massage therapists.
- A significant number of voters were undecided on several issues:
 - Health care is a community responsibility for public safety like the fire department or police (47% agree, 25% neutral, 24% disagree)
 - There should be one organization that oversees the nation's health care and evaluates the effectiveness of all health care services (42% agree, 24% neutral, 30% disagree)
 - Health insurance should be a personal responsibility like automobile insurance (41% agree, 22% neutral, 35% disagree)
 - I would be willing to pay more for health care if I knew what was being covered and where the money was going (38% agree, 27% neutral, 32% disagree)
 - I would be willing to pay more for health care if I was sure it would help my neighbors get the care they need (35% agree, 28% neutral, 34% disagree)
 - Health insurance should be paid for by tax dollars and managed by local, state, or federal government (26% agree, 27% neutral, 42% disagree).
- When asked who they would trust to create a new health care system, a majority of Iowans (51%) said they would trust health care professionals followed by non-profit organizations (35%). About one in five Iowa voters would trust the federal

government (22%) or business professionals (21%) and 17% said they would trust academic institutions to come up with a new system and 3% said there was no one they could trust.

- Compared to the items listed above, a strong majority of Iowa voters (66%) said they would be inclined to trust a non-partisan, non-profit group of citizens and professionals to frame a new national health care system.
- Iowa voters identified the three most important elements of a national health care system as affordability, coverage/access for all Americans and quality of care.
- Respondents were divided when it came to expectations that the 2008 Presidential election will chart a new vision for a revised health care system with 49% saying it is “likely” and 45% saying it is “not likely.”
- When asked which party has the most meaningful health care proposal, approximately three in ten respondents (29%) said they “don’t know.” Independent voters (37%) and Republicans (28%) were significantly more likely than Democrats (20%) to say “don’t know” in response to this question.² Given the bias in “don’t know” responses it is not surprising that Democrats emerged as the party with the “most meaningful proposal” (38%). Sixteen percent of respondents (16%) favored Republican plans and 16% did not like proposals from either party.

CONCLUSIONS

While it appears that Iowa voters are in a good situation personally with respect to health insurance, access to health care, and quality of care, they believe the national health care system is in need of improvement. Iowa voters value having enough information to be active participants in health care decisions. They also want accountability for health care spending, high quality health care standards, and affordable access for all Americans.

Although they see the need for reform, there is no clear consensus about who should lead the charge, who should oversee a national health care system if one emerges, or how it should be paid for. Most voters find the idea of a non-partisan, non-profit organization of citizens and professionals appealing for this role but many want assurances about the expertise of the people within the organization, its goals and how it will be funded. While they do not trust government to solve the problem, they may not embrace a completely private-sector organization either. The only clear agreement is that whatever group tackles the problem needs to rely heavily on health care professionals for advice and counsel.

² Differences between Republicans and Democrats on this question are significant at the 90% level of confidence.

DETAILED FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

CodeBlueNow! commissioned The Gilmore Research Group to conduct a telephone survey of 601 voters in Iowa to obtain their opinions regarding health care in the United States. The poll was conducted among randomly selected voters with household telephones between August 23 and September 13, 2007. The average survey lasted just under 14 minutes. The maximum margin of error for a survey of this size is ± 4.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. All statistically significant differences are reported at the 95% level of confidence unless stated otherwise.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

Poll respondents represent a cross-section of Iowa residents. As Table 1 shows, poll respondents are very similar to all Iowa residents in terms of age, ethnicity, income, gender and political leanings. The poll slightly over-represents Iowans age 75 and older while under-representing Iowans age 18 to 24. Eight percent of respondents (8%) are employed by, or related to someone employed by a health care organization or health insurance company.

	Survey Respondents	2005 ACS		Survey Respondents	2005 ACS
Age			Education¹		
18 to 24	1%	8%	Less than high school	3%	14%
25 to 34	7	13	High school graduate/GED	30	36
35 to 44	16	14	Some college/technical	28	29
45 to 54	24	15	College graduate	25	15
55 to 64	21	11	Beyond college graduate	14	7
65 to 74	15	7			
75+	16	7	Income		
			Under \$25,000	16%	27%
Hispanic			\$25,000 to \$35,000	11	12
Yes	2%	4%	\$35,000 to \$50,000	20	17
No	98	96	\$50,000 to \$75,000	24	21
			\$75,000 to \$100,000	16	11
Race/Ethnicity			\$100,000 or more	13	11
Caucasian	98%	95%			
Black/African American	1	3	Gender		
Asian	0	2	Male	43%	49%
Native Hawaiian	0	0	Female	57	51
Am. Indian/Alaska Native	1	1			
Other	1	2	Political Leanings/Registration²		
			Republican	33%	30%
Minor Children at Home			Democrat	39	31
Yes	29%	30%	Independent	14	39
No	71	70	Varies/Depends	14	N/A

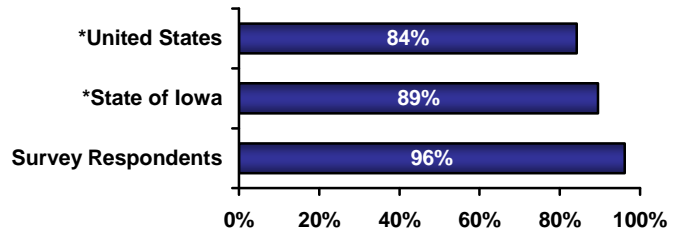
¹ Comparison data for education taken from the 2000 U.S. Census.
² Voter Registration data provided by the office of the Iowa Secretary of State. August 1, 2007
 Note: "Don't know & Refused" responses were removed from the base of survey responses to allow comparability with ACS, Census and data from the State of Iowa. May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

PERSONAL HEALTH CARE

Virtually all respondents (96%) have health insurance either through an employer, Medicare, Medicaid or a policy they purchase compared to 89% of all Iowa residents and 84% of Americans. Survey respondents who do not have health insurance (4%) most commonly say the reason they don't have insurance is they are unemployed and/or insurance costs too much. Eight percent of all respondents (8%) said there was a time in the past year when they needed medical attention but could not get it because of cost.

Figure 1
Percentage of Population with Health Insurance in Iowa and the U.S.
 All respondents

(Base = 601)



Question 1: Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMO's or government plans such as Medicare?

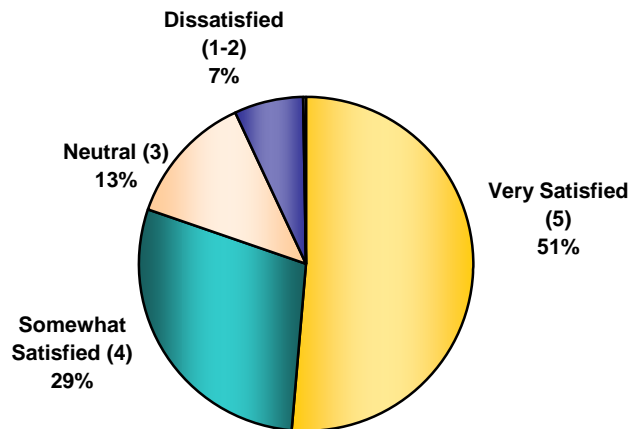
*Source: U.S. Census Bureau

May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Nearly nine in ten respondents (88%) have a personal doctor or a primary health care provider. Eight in ten respondents (80%) indicated they are satisfied with their access to health care (Figure 2). Those most likely to be dissatisfied with their personal experience accessing health care were those with incomes below \$50,000 (10%).

Figure 2
Satisfaction with Access to Health Care
 All respondents

(Base = 601)



Question 4a: Thinking of your own and your family's experience with the health care system, how satisfied are you with your access to health care? Use a rating scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is "very dissatisfied" and 5 is "very satisfied".

"Don't know/Refused" responses were less than 1%.

May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Similarly, the vast majority of respondents (85%) said they are satisfied with the quality of care their family receives. Those who expressed dissatisfaction were more likely than others to:

- Have health insurance through an employer (7% were dissatisfied v. 2% of those who purchase their own health insurance)

- Usually vote with the Democrats (8% were dissatisfied v. 3% of those who usually vote Republican)
- Have an annual income below \$50,000 (9% v. 4% of those in higher income brackets).

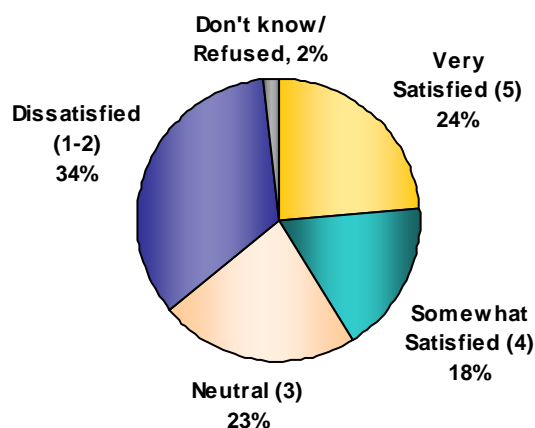
Despite the fact that most Iowans have health insurance, are satisfied with their access to health care and are satisfied with the quality of care they receive, just 41% expressed satisfaction with the cost of their health care (Figure 3).

Respondents most likely to be dissatisfied with the cost of their health care include:

- Those who purchase their own insurance (43%)
- Those who usually vote Democrat or Independent (38% v. 27% of those who vote Republican)
- Those younger than 65 (41% v. 21% of those age 65+).

Figure 3
Satisfaction with the Cost of Health Care
All respondents

(Base = 601)



Question 4c: And how satisfied are you with the cost of your health care?

Scale: 5 = Very satisfied, 1 = Very dissatisfied.

May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE

While Iowa voters may be generally pleased with their personal health care, they are keenly aware that health care is an issue on a national level. Fewer than one in three Iowa voters (26%) said they are satisfied with Americans' ability to get the care they need when they need it. Just under half (43%) expressed some degree of satisfaction with the quality of health care in the United States and only 14% said they are satisfied with the cost of health care while 61% expressed dissatisfaction. (Figure 4).

Democrats (53%) and Independent voters (50%) were significantly more likely than those who usually vote Republican (18%) to be dissatisfied with Americans' access to health care. Women were also more likely than men to be dissatisfied with health care access (45% and 35% respectively).

Those dissatisfied with the quality of health care in the U.S. tended to be those who:

- Were dissatisfied with their personal access to health care (72%)

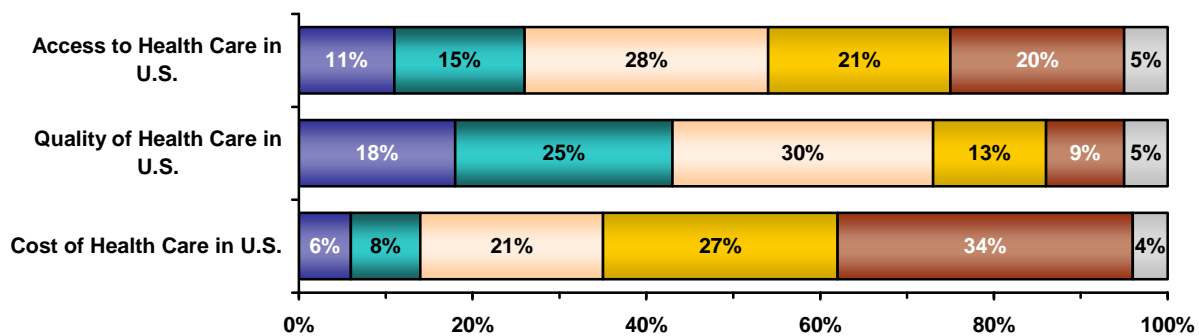
- Were dissatisfied with access to health care in general (46%)
- Vote like the Democrats (31%) or Independent voters (25%) compared with just 10% of those who vote Republican
- Have incomes below \$50,000 (28%) or above \$75,000 (24%) compared with 12% of those in the \$50,000 to \$75,000 income bracket.

Figure 4
Satisfaction with U.S. Health Care System Today

All respondents

(Base = 601)

■ Very Satisfied (5) ■ Satisfied (4) ■ Neutral (3) ■ Dissatisfied (2) ■ Very Dissatisfied (1) ■ Don't Know/Refused



Question 5A: Please think of what you know or hear about the national health care system today. How satisfied are you with the access to health care, meaning the ability of Americans to get the care they need when they need it? Use a rating scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is "very dissatisfied" and 5 is "very satisfied".

Question 5B: How satisfied are you with the quality of the care in the U.S. today?

Question 5C: And how satisfied are you with the cost of health care in the U.S. today?

May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Significant differences between respondent subgroups with respect to dissatisfaction with the cost of health care include:

- Iowa voters who get health insurance through an employer (63% dissatisfied) versus those whose health care is paid for with public dollars (53%) and those who buy their own insurance (56%)
- Democrats (70%) and Independent voters (71%) compared with 44% of Republicans
- Voters ages 35 to 64 (68%) compared with older voters (49%)
- Those with children at home (70%) versus 58% of those without children at home.

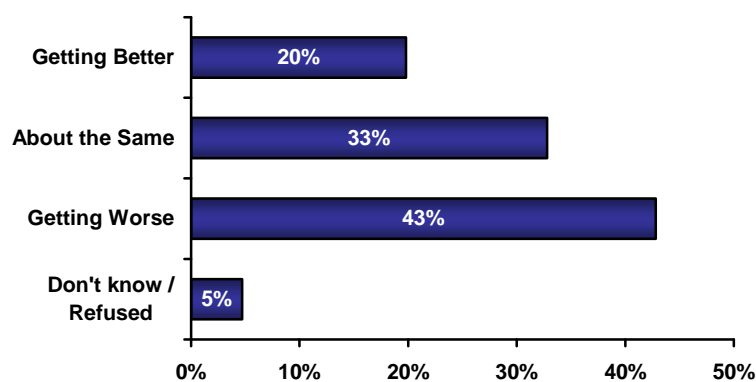
When asked to compare today's health care system with health care in the U.S. ten years ago, one in five respondents (20%) said it was getting better, one in three (33%) thought it was about the same and 43% said today's health care system is worse than it was ten years ago (Figure 5).

Those most likely to believe health care is getting worse tend to be:

- Dissatisfied with Americans' access to health care (59%)
- Dissatisfied with the cost of health care nationwide (55%)
- Democrats (54%) or Independent (47%) voters
- Ages 35 to 64 (48%).

Figure 5
Comparison of Today's Health Care System to Ten Years Ago
All respondents

(Base = 601)



Question 9: Overall, would you say the health care system in the U.S. is getting better, getting worse or is about the same as ten years ago?

May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

When asked to name the **best thing** about the national health care system, one in three respondents (33%) were unable to think of anything. Those who did have something to offer most commonly cited the ability to receive care (18%):

"Accessibility. You can get in and see the doctor without waiting a long time."

"The fact that they can't actually turn people away."

"Health care as a whole is available to most people."

Respondents also mentioned having a choice of doctors and services (8%), the quality of care (7%) and the quality of advances in research (4%).

Considerably more respondents (86%) were able to name the **worst thing** about the current national health care system. Not surprisingly, comments were focused on cost (43%) and coverage (30%).

"The cost. Either you can get adequate care, but it costs too much if you don't have insurance. Insurance itself is very expensive and if you don't have it, it's practically impossible."

"Too many people that cannot afford health care."

"I still don't think it covers all the people that should be covered."

“Not enough health care for the elderly.”

“People that need it don’t get it. My husband’s mom has no insurance so she doesn’t get it. She does have Medicare. My nephew was diagnosed with cancer of the neck and he’s going to have to pay for his own health care.”

“A lot of people who can’t afford it are being left out and suffering, like kids and single parents. The people who have money have their health care.”

“They can’t get the health care they need. Some companies don’t carry policies.”

In addition to these issues, a handful of Iowans mentioned people taking advantage of the system, malpractice lawsuits, fraud, and low reimbursement rates.

HEALTH CARE RELATED ISSUES

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with a series of statements about health care and related issues using a five-point scale where 1 meant “strongly disagree” and 5 meant “strongly agree”. Their responses, in descending order of mean scores are shown in Table 2. Altogether, Iowans voiced strong agreement (mean score of 4 or higher) for five of the 17 statements tested in the survey. Confirming a desire to be actively involved in their own health care, the statement that garnered the highest level of agreement was “*Health care professionals should be required to give patients information about the costs and benefits of treatments and services so people can make good choices*” (84% agreed including 58% who *strongly agreed*). Iowa voters also voiced strong agreement with statements calling for accountability in health care (75%) and having uniform standards and guidelines to ensure effective care (74%).

A majority of respondents agreed that all Americans should have affordable access to health care services (71%), that health care services should focus on prevention over high tech cures (69%), and that basic health benefits should include coverage by any licensed professional (68%). Iowans believe there is already enough money going into health care to provide quality care for all Americans (62%). They want employers to continue playing a role in providing health insurance (58%) and believe insurance should be the shared responsibility of individuals, employers, and government (63%) rather than a personal responsibility like auto insurance (41%).

Iowa voters are divided on the issue of whether there should be one organization to oversee and evaluate health care services on a national level (42% agree, 30% disagree). Voters who agree with this concept are more likely than average to:

- Be dissatisfied with the cost of their personal health care and with the cost of health care in the United States
- Believe the U.S. health care system is getting worse
- Have an annual income below \$75,000
- Be high school graduates or have attended some college
- Be Democratic in their voting.

Those who disagree with the concept of one organization to oversee health care on a national level tend to be those who:

- Vote Republican or Independent
- Have an annual income greater than \$75,000
- Are satisfied with Americans’ current access to health care
- Are satisfied with the cost of health care services both personally and on a national level
- Believe health care services are better now than they were ten years ago.

Table 2					
Agreement with Health Care Issue Statements					
All respondents					
Read Across	Agree (4-5)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (1-2)	Don't Know	Mean*
Health care professionals should be required to give patients information about the costs and benefits of treatments and services so people can make good choices.	84%	12%	3%	1%	4.38
We need the same kind of public reporting and accountability in health care that we have in public companies, such as water and power companies, so we know where the money comes from, how the money is spent, and why.	75%	14%	9%	2%	4.15
We need to have uniform standards and guidelines that health care professionals can use to make sure we receive the most effective care.	74%	16%	7%	3%	4.15
Health care services should stress preventing disease rather than relying on high technology cures.	69%	20%	8%	3%	4.05
We must make sure every person in America has health coverage to assure affordable access to the health care services they need.	71%	14%	14%	2%	4.00
Basic health benefits should include coverage for any licensed health care professional, such as naturopaths, acupuncturists and chiropractors, as long as they are certified and licensed by the state and by their profession.	68%	19%	11%	1%	3.97
There is enough money already going into U.S. health care to provide quality care for all our people. We just need to make sure the money is used more effectively and efficiently.	62%	17%	16%	5%	3.82
Health insurance should be a shared responsibility of individuals, employers and government.	63%	19%	16%	2%	3.77
We must let the public have a larger role in designing and managing their new health care system.	61%	25%	13%	2%	3.75
Employers should continue to play the major role in providing health insurance for their employees.	58%	24%	15%	3%	3.75
We should have one set of basic health benefits for all our people.	52%	21%	24%	4%	3.48
Health care is a community responsibility for public safety, like the fire department or police.	47%	25%	24%	4%	3.40
There should be one organization that oversees all our nation's health care and evaluates the effectiveness of all health care services, rather than having the numerous agencies that now exist.	42%	24%	30%	4%	3.17
Health insurance should be a personal responsibility like automobile insurance.	41%	22%	35%	2%	3.14
I would be willing to pay more for health care if I knew what was being covered and where the money was going.	38%	27%	32%	3%	3.06
I would be willing to pay more for health care if I was sure that it would help my neighbors get the care they need.	35%	28%	34%	3%	2.98
Health insurance should be paid for by tax dollars and managed by local, state or federal government.	26%	27%	42%	5%	2.68
Question 7-01 thru 7-19: I am going to read a series of statements about health care and related issues. For each statement, please tell me if you agree or disagree, using the 5-point scale again where 1 means "strongly disagree" and 5 means "strongly agree".					
* Don't know responses were excluded from the mean calculation. May not sum to 100% due to rounding.					

Iowa voters are also divided on questions of who should pay for health insurance. Those who agree it should be a personal responsibility, like automobile insurance, are more likely than others to:

- Be satisfied with Americans' access to health care
- Be satisfied with the cost of health care both personally and on a national level
- Believe health care services are better now than they were ten years ago
- Currently have public insurance (Medicare/Medicaid/VA) or are self-insured
- Vote Republican
- Are over age 65
- Have no more than a high school education.

Iowans who disagree with the idea of paying for their own health insurance are more likely than others to:

- Get insurance through their employer
- Vote with the Democrats
- Be younger than 65
- Have children at home
- Be dissatisfied with access to health care and health care costs personally and on a national level
- Believe the health care system in America today is worse than it was ten years ago.

Respondents who agree that health insurance should be paid for with tax dollars and managed by the government tend to be those who:

- Are dissatisfied with access to health care both on a personal level and a national level
- Believe the health care system in America is worse than it was ten years ago
- Currently have some form of public health insurance (Medicare, Medicaid, etc.)
- Vote with the Democrats
- Have an annual income of less than \$50,000.

Those who disagree with the idea of tax-funded, government-managed health care were more likely than others to:

- Be satisfied with access to health care personally and on a national level
- Be satisfied with the cost of health care on a national level

- Think the health care system in the U.S. today is better than it was ten years ago
- Vote Republican
- Be over age 35
- Have an income greater than \$50,000
- Be male.

For most respondents (71%), the statements shown in Table 2 addressed their issues and concerns about the health care system. Those who had further comment most often reiterated concerns about the cost of care and medications and coverage. A handful of respondents took the opportunity to say they are opposed to any type of national health care or socialized medicine and a few talked about malpractice and fraud.

CHARTING A NEW COURSE

Who Would You Trust?

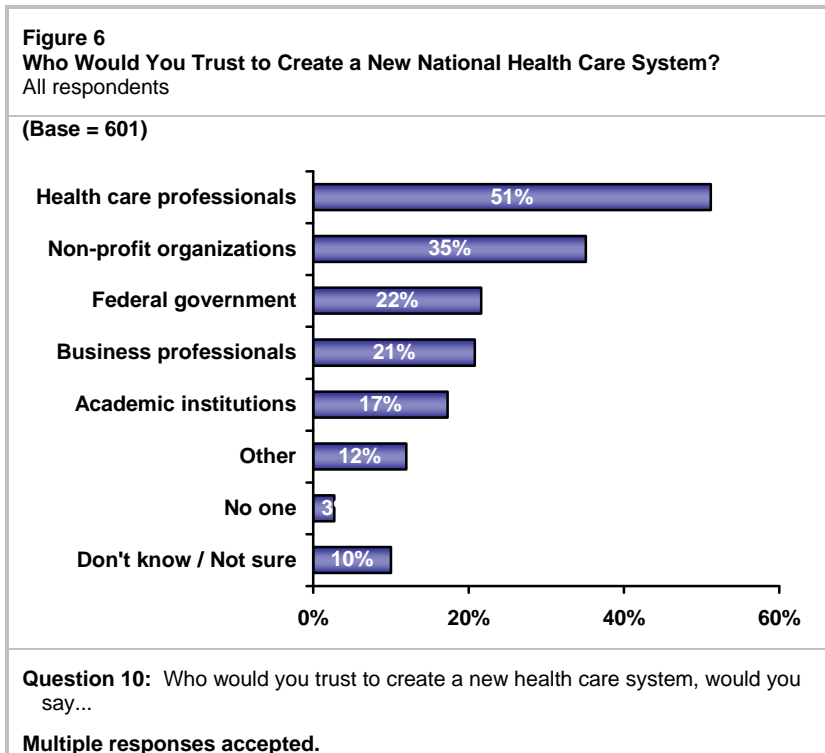
After assessing opinions about the current health care system, respondents were asked a series of questions regarding what a new health care system might look.

When asked who they would trust to create a new health care system, a majority of Iowans (51%) said they would trust health care professionals with non-profit organizations coming in second (Figure 6).

About one in five Iowa voters would trust the federal government or business institutions to come up with a new system and 3% said there was no one they could trust.

Interestingly, those who put their trust in health care professionals tend to:

- Be at least somewhat satisfied with Americans' current access to health care
- Believe the current health care system is better than it was ten years ago.



- Be college-educated
- Be 55 to 64 years old
- Vote Republican.

Respondents who put their trust in non-profit organizations are more likely than others to:

- Be dissatisfied with both access to health care and the cost of health care both personally and on a national level
- Think the current health care system is worse than it was ten years ago
- To have insurance through their employer
- Be younger than 65
- Have children living at home
- Be college graduates
- Have an annual income of \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Respondents who would trust the federal government to create a new health care system are more likely than others to:

- Be dissatisfied with access to health care and the cost of health care on a national level
- Be 35 to 64 years old.

Iowa voters were read a description of an organization not included in the list and asked if they would trust this type of an organization to shape a new national health care system. The description provided is as follows:

“I’m going to describe an organization that is working with the American public to design a new national health care system. This organization is non-profit and non-partisan, meaning it is not affiliated with any political party, any government agency or any medical or insurance group. It is made up entirely of citizens like you and experienced professionals.”

As Figure 7 shows, two-thirds of respondents said they would trust an organization like the one described above to design a new health care system, 11% would not trust this type of organization and 14% indicated they would need to know more before deciding.

Those most likely to say they would trust an organization like the one described are:

- Dissatisfied with the cost of health care in the United States
- Not educated beyond high school
- Have an annual income of less than \$75,000
- Usually vote with the Democrats.

Those most likely to say they would not trust an organization like the one described tend to:

- Usually vote Republican
- Be satisfied with access to health care and health care costs on a national level
- Believe today's health care system is better than it was 10 years ago.

Respondents who said "maybe" or who wanted more information before deciding tended to be those who:

- Are *somewhat satisfied* with health care access and cost rather than *very satisfied*
- Are Caucasian
- Are college graduates
- Have an annual income greater than \$75,000.

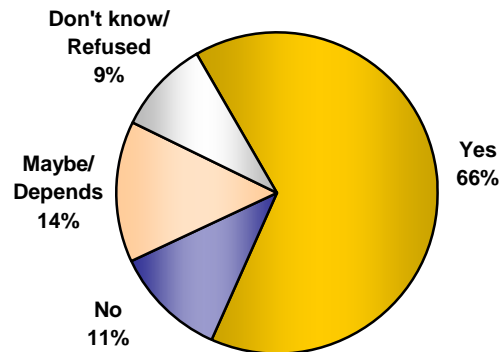
Some representative comments from these respondents include:

"It all depends on what organization you are talking about. I hope someone steps up that knows what they're doing."

"It would be an excellent way to get input, but it would not be an appropriate format for final

Figure 7
Trust in a Non-Profit, Non-Partisan Organization
All respondents

(Base = 601)



Question 10a: I'm going to describe an organization that is working with the American public to design a new national health care system. This organization is non-profit and non-partisan, meaning it is not affiliated with any political party, any government agency or any medical or insurance group. It is made up entirely of citizens like you and experienced professionals. Would you trust this type of organization to shape a new healthcare system for the nation?

Note: Although multiple responses were accepted, the chart displays only the first response mentioned.

May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

decisions. It would have to be done by professionals, hospitals, business people and probably academia.”

“It depends. I would have to see their platform, research, where the money is coming from, who their beneficiaries are and who is financing them.”

“Probably [would trust them] as long as we’re included along the way.”

“It is nice that they’re non-profit, but it must have knowledgeable healthcare professionals who know about medical procedures.”

“I’m a little wary of non-profits because they sometimes promote agendas that are questionable. You have non-profits like hospitals that don’t pay income tax. They buy doctors out and that way they get tons of money. They buy his business out and the doctor works for them and they take a percentage of his profit and don’t pay income tax.”

“I would hope, but it would have to come from a number of different agencies to offer their expertise.”

Most Important Elements of an Ideal Health Care System

When asked to name the three elements most important in an ideal health care system, respondent comments fell into four primary areas: cost, coverage, quality of care, and keeping pace with medical research and technology. Table 3 lists responses within each category in descending order of mention.

As shown, cost was top-of-mind for nearly two out of three respondents followed closely by making sure everyone can get care (51%).

Table 3
Elements of an Ideal Health Care System
All respondents

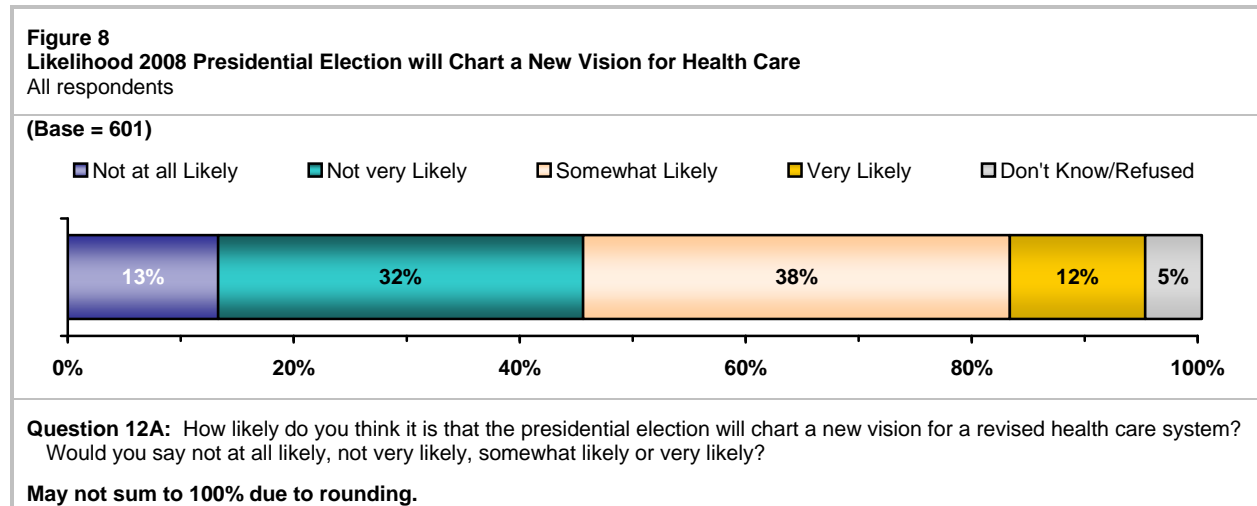
	Total (601)
(Base)	
Low, affordable cost (care, prescriptions, etc.)	63%
Coverage (Net)	60%
Everyone is covered, everyone can get care	51
Availability of services/doctors	5
Preventive coverage	4
More coverage/better coverage	3
Timely care / Not put on a waiting list	3
Need coverage for elderly, disabled, children	2
Quality of Care (Net)	43%
High quality care	29%
Well-trained doctors/professionals	21
Keeping up-to-date (Net)	8%
Up-to-date technology	6
Quality of research / research advances	1
Other (Net)	24%
Choose your own doctor	8
Personal accountability/responsibility	3
Honesty, Being up-front, Know where the money goes	3
Not controlled by the government	2
Cap on malpractice lawsuits / Less fraud	1
Other	11
Don't know / Not sure	12%

Question 11: What do you feel would be the top three most important elements of an ideal health care system?

Multiple responses accepted.

Health Care and the 2008 Presidential Election

Respondents were fairly evenly divided when it came to expectations that the 2008 Presidential election will chart a new vision for a revised health care system with 49% saying it is “likely” and 45% saying it is “not likely” (Figure 8).



Democrats were more likely than Republicans to believe the 2008 election would include a discussion of national health care (65% and 45% respectively). Other groups who were especially likely to think health care will be a featured issue in the race for president include:

- Adults ages 18 to 34 (65% think it's likely)
- Minority respondents (68%)
- Those with incomes below \$50,000 (55%).

Respondents who think health care is unlikely to play a major role in the election include:

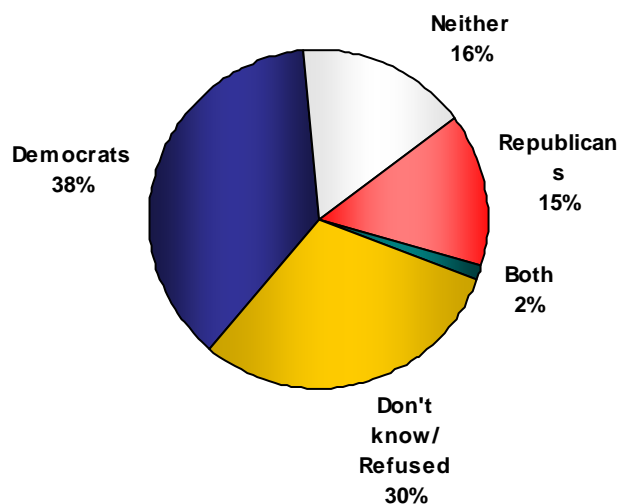
- Republicans (50%) and Independent voters (57%)
- Those with incomes greater than \$75,000 (55%)
- Males (53%).

When asked which party has the most meaningful health care proposal, approximately three in ten respondents (29%) said they “don’t know” (Figure 9). It is unclear from this response whether Iowa voters are unable to choose between the proposals being floated by candidates in each party or if they are not familiar with what is being proposed. Independent voters (37%) and Republicans (28%) were significantly more likely than Democrats (20%) to say, “don’t know” in response to this question.³

Given the bias in “don’t know” responses, it is not surprising that Democrats emerged as the party with the “most meaningful proposal.” Three quarters of respondents who said they usually vote with the Democrats (74%) said the Democrats have the most meaningful health care proposal. While Independent voters who answered the question also said the Democratic Party had the best proposal (30%), they were almost as likely to say neither party has offered a good option (25%). Iowa voters who usually vote Republican tended to favor Republican health care plans (42%), say “don’t know” (28%) or eschew proposals from both parties (20%).

Figure 9
Party with Most Meaningful Health Care Proposal
All respondents

(Base = 601)



Question 12b: When it comes to candidate health care proposals, which party do you think has the most meaningful proposal?

May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

³ Differences between Republicans and Democrats on this question are significant at the 90% level of confidence.