


HealthLeaders *Media* FACT FILE

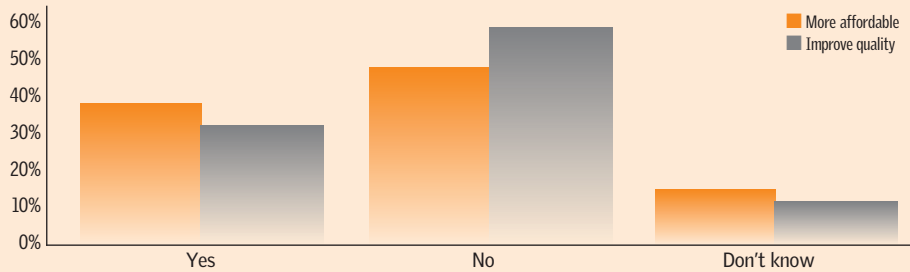
NOVEMBER 2009

Healthcare Reform

As politicians debated healthcare reform proposals, Thomson Reuters surveyed Americans as part of its PULSE™ Healthcare Survey.* Overall, folks are pretty satisfied with the coverage they now have, and they are dubious about the role of government in the process and whether reform will lower costs or improve care. The results do vary based on certain demographic factors, suggesting a difficult challenge for legislators seeking middle ground. 

AFFORDABILITY AND QUALITY

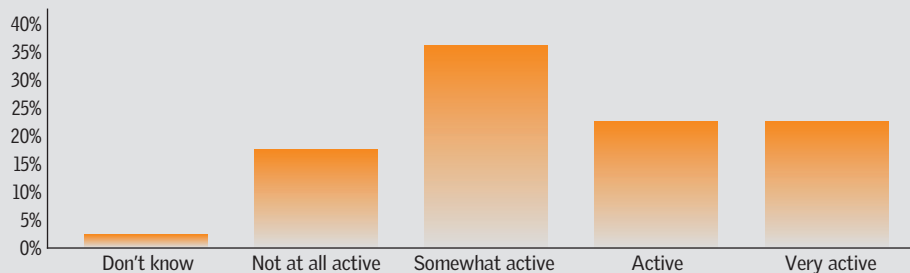
As the summer wore on, doubts about the value of healthcare reform proposals became apparent. Folks were asked if reform would make healthcare more affordable, and if reform would improve the quality of care. Most respondents answered "no" to each question.



SOURCE: Thomson Reuters.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

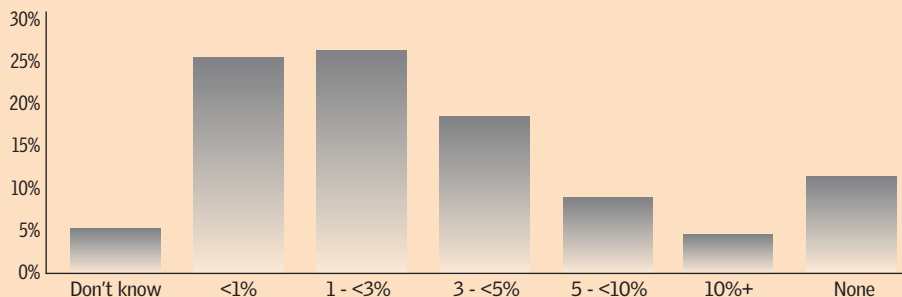
Despite the uncertainty that the healthcare proposals would cut costs or increase quality, respondents generally agreed that government has a role in the process, though there was variation on just how active that role should be. Still, nearly one in five (17.5%) said the government should not be active at all.



SOURCE: Thomson Reuters.

HIGHER TAXES

While 11.5% of respondents were clear that they would not be willing to bear any tax increase to support healthcare reform, most folks would accept a small increase of less than 1% or between 1% and 3%, (about 25% each). Some (4.7%) would be willing to bear a tax increase in excess of 10%.



SOURCE: Thomson Reuters.

Malpractice Claims

One aspect of healthcare that was not a part of initial Democratic proposals was tort reform or malpractice reform. These 2007 figures show that average claims varied significantly by state, from a low of \$132,787 in Kansas to a high of \$641,692 in Wyoming. Overall, some \$3.7 billion in claims was paid out in the United States that year, with an average payment of \$323,266.

Rank (1=high 51=low)	Total Dollars in Paid Claims	Average Claims Payments
United States	\$3,710,443,850	\$323,266
1. Wyoming	\$8,342,000	\$641,692
2. Illinois	\$215,890,000	\$634,971
3. Massachusetts	\$148,669,500	\$530,963
4. Connecticut	\$67,696,000	\$470,111
5. Wisconsin	\$27,028,000	\$458,102
6. New York	\$674,683,750	\$441,547
7. New Jersey	\$196,876,250	\$432,695
8. District of Columbia	\$9,772,500	\$424,891
9. Georgia	\$101,219,500	\$416,541
10. Virginia	\$48,346,000	\$409,712
11. New Hampshire	\$16,642,500	\$405,915
12. Delaware	\$5,745,000	\$383,000
13. Pennsylvania	\$282,611,000	\$368,463
14. Minnesota	\$30,505,550	\$367,537
15. Kentucky	\$42,591,000	\$367,164
16. Arizona	\$67,975,250	\$363,504
17. Nevada	\$25,511,500	\$359,317
18. Vermont	\$3,527,500	\$352,750
19. Maryland	\$60,624,500	\$352,468
20. Ohio	\$71,774,000	\$335,393
21. Maine	\$10,885,000	\$329,848
22. North Carolina	\$44,136,750	\$329,379
23. Oregon	\$29,458,050	\$327,312
24. Arkansas	\$14,162,000	\$314,711
25. Washington	\$46,961,550	\$308,958
26. Utah	\$19,978,750	\$298,190
27. Hawaii	\$7,407,750	\$296,310
28. West Virginia	\$17,135,750	\$290,436
29. Florida	\$226,487,600	\$289,256
30. Montana	\$16,266,250	\$285,373
31. Alaska	\$2,535,000	\$281,667
32. Tennessee	\$40,995,100	\$278,878
33. Alabama	\$7,556,250	\$269,866
34. Colorado	\$27,715,000	\$269,078
35. Mississippi	\$23,113,000	\$268,756
36. Oklahoma	\$42,674,750	\$266,717
37. Rhode Island	\$16,399,500	\$264,508
38. Missouri	\$52,683,800	\$260,811
39. Indiana	\$47,849,750	\$240,451
40. California	\$214,115,050	\$231,726
41. Idaho	\$5,257,500	\$228,587
42. Iowa	\$14,241,500	\$226,056
43. New Mexico	\$22,705,250	\$214,200
44. Nebraska	\$11,377,000	\$203,161
45. South Carolina	\$34,001,250	\$178,954
46. Louisiana	\$48,650,500	\$172,520
47. North Dakota	\$3,230,000	\$170,000
48. Texas	\$87,298,750	\$162,265
49. South Dakota	\$3,350,000	\$159,524
50. Michigan	\$55,265,000	\$133,490
51. Kansas	\$14,473,750	\$132,787
Guam	NA	NA
Puerto Rico	\$10,968,000	\$54,030
Virgin Islands	\$470,000	\$235,000

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of data from the National Practitioner Data Bank.

Upcoming Topic:
» Gastroenterology

FACT FILE PARTNER:



THOMSON REUTERS

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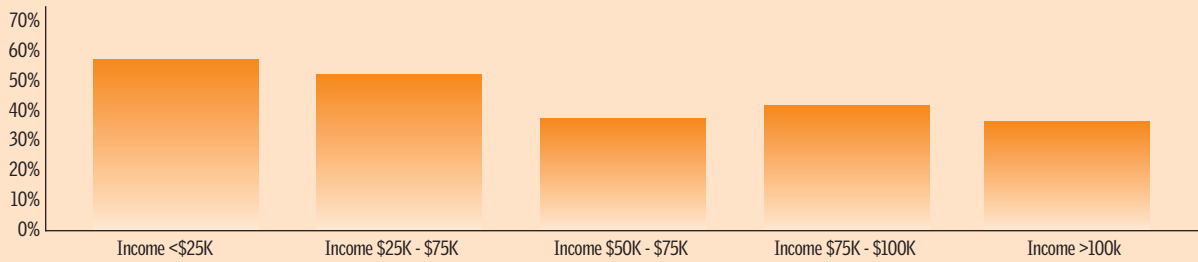
* Thomson Reuters PULSE™ Healthcare Survey analysis is based on a telephone survey of 3,007 households conducted July 28 to Aug. 9.



DEMOGRAPHICS MATTER: SUPPORT FOR HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATE

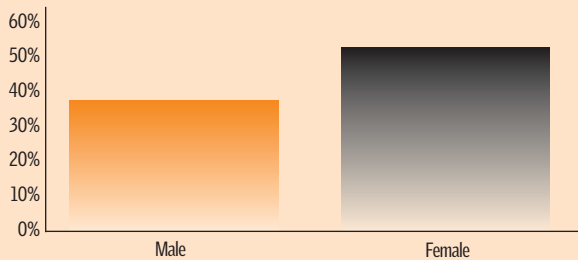
By Income

Generally, the lower one's income, the greater the support for mandated health insurance coverage. Only about 40% of those with incomes above \$50,000 supported the mandated coverage.



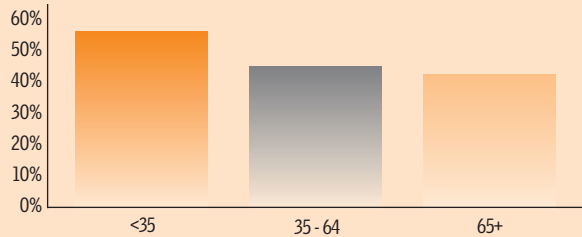
By Gender

A slight majority of females (51%) supports the idea of mandated insurance coverage, while just 37% of males agreed.



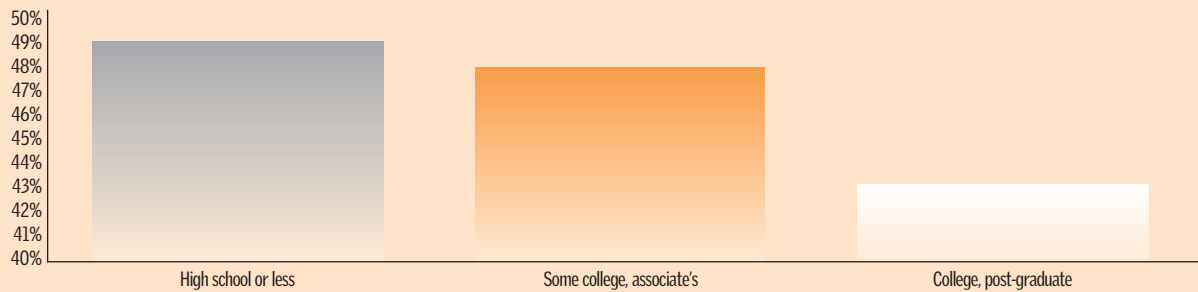
By Age

Only those younger than age 35 show majority support for the idea of mandated health insurance, with about 55%. Just over 40% of those 35 and older backed the idea.



By Education

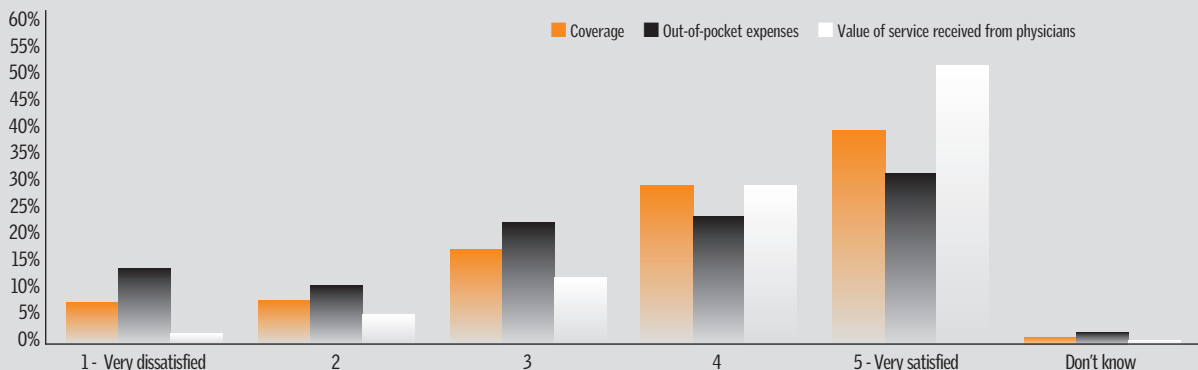
The greatest support for mandated health insurance came from those with an education level of high school or less (49%).



SOURCE: Thomson Reuters.

SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT SYSTEM

Despite the big push for healthcare reform, survey respondents indicate they are satisfied with the variety of services covered with the insurance they have now, the out-of-pocket expenses they bear now, and the value of service they receive from their physician now. On a scale with 1 being very dissatisfied and 5 being very satisfied, the top scores of 4 and 5 combined for majorities in each aspect measured.



SOURCE: Thomson Reuters.

