
**Topline Findings from the
2010 TCWF Field Health Policy Survey:**

**Californians' Views of the
Health Care System and Reactions to
the Nation's New Health Care Law**

For Release

Thursday, June 3, 2010

**2010 TCWF-Field Health Policy Poll
– Questions Asked and Topline Findings –**

(n = 1,502)

How satisfied are you with the way the health care system is working in California? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?	VERY SATISFIED..... 17% SOMEWHAT SATISFIED 33 SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED 21 VERY DISSATISFIED..... 21 NO OPINION..... 8
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Looking ahead, do you think that five years from now California's health care system will be better off, worse off or just about the same as now?	BETTER OFF 31% WORSE OFF 33 SAME AS NOW 27 NO OPINION..... 9
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

I am going to read some concerns that people have about health care and for each, please tell me how much of a concern this is to you. (READ ITEMS IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) Is this something you are very concerned about, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned about?

	<u>VERY CONCERNED</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT CONCERNED</u>	<u>NOT TOO CONCERNED</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL CONCERNED</u>	<u>NO OPIN.</u>
() a. not having or losing your health care coverage.....	54%	20	14	12	*
() b. not being able to pay for all the costs associated with a major illness or injury	57%	23	12	8	*
() c. not having access to quality doctors and health care services	53%	21	14	11	1
() d. employers cutting back on the amount they contribute to their workers' health care coverage	48%	31	11	8	2
() e. having to pay more out of pocket for health care or your health insurance coverage	58%	27	9	5	1
() f. having your or a family member's health coverage canceled or severely limited by an insurance provider due to a health condition.....	55%	20	15	9	1

Do you think you and your family would be better off if you were to get health insurance coverage through an employer, from the government or having personal responsibility for getting your own coverage?	EMPLOYER PROVIDED 40% GOVERNMENT PROVIDED..... 27 PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY 24 NO OPINION..... 9
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Who do you trust more to do a better job handling the issue of health care – President Obama, the Democrats in Congress or the Republicans in Congress?	PRESIDENT OBAMA..... 34% DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS 16 REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS..... 24 NONE 18 NO OPINION..... 8
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

As you know, the Congress recently passed and President Obama signed into law a health reform bill that changes the nation's health care system.

How knowledgeable would you say you are about the specific changes to the nation's health care system contained in the new law – very knowledgeable, somewhat knowledgeable, not too knowledgeable, or not at all knowledgeable?	VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE..... 12% SOMEWHAT KNOWLEDGEABLE 48 NOT TOO KNOWLEDGEABLE 29 NOT AT ALL KNOWLEDGEABLE 11 NO OPINION..... *
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

* Less than ½ of 1%.

Overall, do you support or oppose the nation's new health care law?
(IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK:) Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

SUPPORT STRONGLY 30%
SUPPORT SOMEWHAT 22
OPPOSE SOMEWHAT 9
OPPOSE STRONGLY 29
NO OPINION 10

In the long run, do you think the new health care law will make the U.S. health care system better, worse or not make much difference?

BETTER 47%
WORSE 32
NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE 16
NO OPINION 5

In the long run, do you think the new health care law will strengthen the U.S. economy, weaken the economy or have no effect?

STRENGTHEN 30%
WEAKEN 40
NO EFFECT 22
NO OPINION 8

In the long run, do you think that the new health care law will or will not help control the rising costs of health care in this country?

WILL HELP CONTROL RISING COSTS 46%
WILL NOT HELP 46
NO OPINION 8

Do you think the new health care law will increase the federal budget deficit, decrease it, or have no effect? (IF INCREASE:) Do you think that it will be worth it or not?

INCREASE – WORTH IT 19%
INCREASE – NOT WORTH IT 36
DECREASE 14
NO EFFECT 22
NO OPINION 9

Do you think the new health care law creates too much government involvement in the nation's health care system, not enough government involvement or about the right amount?

TOO MUCH INVOLVEMENT 42%
NOT ENOUGH INVOLVEMENT 17
ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT 37
NO OPINION 5

Medicare is the government health insurance program for people 65 and over. Do you think that the new health care law will strengthen the Medicare program, weaken Medicare or have no effect on it?

STRENGTHEN 26%
WEAKEN 35
NO EFFECT 24
NO OPINION 15

Do you think the changes to the health care system from the new law will allow people who have coverage now to keep it if they want to or do you think everyone will be required to make changes, whether they want to or not?

CAN KEEP CURRENT COVERAGE
IF THEY WANT 48%
EVERYONE WILL BE REQUIRED TO
MAKE CHANGES 43
NO OPINION 9

As a result of the passage of the new health care law, which of the following best describes your current view of our health care system? (READ ALL CATEGORIES)

(1) The new law takes care of most of the changes that need to be made to our health care system 5%
(2) The new law is an important first step but many more changes still need to be made 58
(3) The new law is taking us in the wrong direction and the changes it makes need to be reversed 34
NO OPINION 3

The next few questions are about the impact that you think the changes to the health care system from the new law will have on you and your family.

As a result of the new health care law do you think you and your family will be better off or worse off, or don't you think it will make much difference?

BETTER OFF 25%
WORSE OFF 28
NO DIFFERENCE 44
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 3

* Less than ½ of 1%.

As a result of the new law, do you think that your own health insurance coverage, or ability to get coverage, will get better, get worse or not change?

BETTER..... 28%
 WORSE 24
 NOT CHANGE..... 43
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 5

As a result of the new health care law, do you think the costs you and your family pay for health care will go up, go down or not change? (IF "GO UP," ASK:) Do you think they will go up a lot or a little?

GO UP – A LOT 30%
 GO UP – A LITTLE 21
 GO DOWN 13
 NOT CHANGE..... 29
 NO OPINION..... 7

As a result of the new health care law, do you think that the quality of health care that you and your family receive will get better, get worse or not change?

GET BETTER..... 19%
 GET WORSE 30
 NOT CHANGE..... 47
 NO OPINION..... 4

As a result of the new health care law, do you think that the taxes you and your family pay will increase, decrease or not change?

INCREASE 69%
 DECREASE 2
 NOT CHANGE..... 25
 NO OPINION..... 4

As a result of the new health care law, do you think that your risk of facing serious financial hardships due to a health-related expense will increase, decrease or not change?

INCREASE 32%
 DECREASE 21
 NOT CHANGE..... 41
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 6

As a result of the new health care law, do you think that your risk of going without health insurance coverage at some point in the future will increase, decrease or not change?

INCREASE 24%
 DECREASE 29
 NOT CHANGE..... 44
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 3

Do you think that the new health care law will require you to change your current doctor or not?

YES, HAVE TO CHANGE 20%
 NO, WON'T HAVE TO CHANGE 67
 NO CURRENT DOCTOR 3
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 10

Next I am going to ask some questions about the impact that the changes to the health care system from the new law will have on California.

Generally speaking, as a result of the new health care law, do you think that health care in California will get better, get worse or not change?

GET BETTER..... 42%
 GET WORSE 36
 NOT CHANGE..... 17
 NO OPINION..... 5

As a result of the new health care law, do you think that California will be required to increase the amount it spends on health care each year, reduce the amount it spends on health care each year or have no effect? (IF INCREASE, ASK:) Will it increase the amount California will have to spend a lot or a little?

INCREASE A LOT 43%
 INCREASE A LITTLE 19
 REDUCE 11
 NO EFFECT..... 18
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 9

* Less than ½ of 1%.

(N = 773)

I am going to read some specific parts of the new health reform law. For each please tell me how important it is to you personally that this is part of the new law. (READ EACH ITEM BELOW, BEGINNING WITH ITEM CHECKED AND ASK:) Is that extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not too important or should it not have been done at all?

	<u>EXTREMELY</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>VERY</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT TOO</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT DONE</u> <u>AT ALL</u>	<u>NO</u> <u>OPIN.</u>
() a. providing financial help to lower and middle income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs to help them purchase coverage.....	32%	30	21	5	12	1
() b. requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have had a prior illness or chronic condition.....	39%	30	16	3	10	2
() c. allowing young adults to stay on their parents' health insurance plans through age 26 for an additional fee	24%	28	23	9	16	*
() d. prohibiting insurance companies from setting an upper limit on the health benefits that people can get over their lifetime	29%	30	20	5	13	3
() e. requiring large businesses to offer health insurance to their employees or be subject to a fine if their employees end up getting government subsidized health coverage.....	21%	26	23	5	21	4
() f. providing tax credits to small businesses to encourage them to offer coverage to their employees	28%	34	25	5	7	1
() g. expanding the number of people covered under the state's Medi-Cal program which provides health coverage to low-income residents	23%	28	22	7	17	3
() h. prohibiting insurers from denying health coverage to children with pre-existing health conditions.....	48%	30	9	2	9	2
() i. closing the Medicare "doughnut hole" or "coverage gap" so seniors no longer have a period where they are responsible for paying the full cost of their medicines.....	32%	29	22	7	8	2

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

(N = 749)

I am going to read some specific parts of the new health reform law. For each please tell me how important it is to you personally that this is part of the new law. (READ EACH ITEM BELOW, BEGINNING WITH ITEM CHECKED AND ASK:) Is that extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not too important or should it not have been done at all?

	<u>EXTREMELY</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>VERY</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT TOO</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT DONE</u> <u>AT ALL</u>	<u>NO</u> <u>OPIN.</u>
() j. creating a health insurance exchange or marketplace where small businesses and people who don't get coverage through their jobs can shop for insurance and compare prices and benefits	35%	34	19	4	6	2
() k. requiring all legal residents who do not currently have health insurance to get it or be subject to a fine, with subsidies given to low-income people	17%	18	18	7	37	3
() l. requiring that insurance policies sold through the new insurance exchanges include certain minimum benefits such as hospitalizations, doctor visits, prescription drugs, maternity care and certain preventive tests.....	33%	36	18	4	7	2
() m. prohibiting the use of government funds or subsidies to pay for abortion services	17%	14	19	13	34	3
() n. preventing illegal immigrants from receiving any government subsidies or assistance for health insurance	25%	21	19	13	20	2
() o. providing working Californians with greater flexibility to change jobs and maintain their health coverage.....	36%	36	19	3	5	1
() p. requiring insurers to spend at least 80 percent of their revenue on medical claims	23%	25	22	6	16	8
() q. prohibiting insurers from canceling a person's health coverage if they become sick or disabled except in cases of fraud	54%	27	11	1	5	2

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

To help expand health care coverage to the uninsured and to provide insurance subsidies for lower- and middle-income families, the new health care law phases in certain types of tax increases over the coming years. I am going read these new types of taxes and for each please tell me whether you favor or oppose it.

Do you favor or oppose (**READ ITEM CHECKED**) as a way to pay for the new health care law? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat? (**REPEAT FOR EACH OTHER ITEM IN SEQUENCE**)

	<u>FAVOR</u> <u>STRONGLY</u>	<u>FAVOR</u> <u>SOMEWHAT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u> <u>SOMEWHAT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u> <u>STRONGLY</u>	<u>NO</u> <u>OPIN.</u>
() a. Increasing the Medicare payroll tax for high income workers earning more than \$200,000 per year or couples earning more than \$250,000 per year	35%	24	13	25	3
() b. Increasing the tax on unearned income, such as income from capital gains or rental income, for high income individuals making more than \$200,000 per year or couples making more than \$250,000 per year	33%	23	14	28	2
() c. Creating a special tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health insurance plans, known as Cadillac plans, that cost more than \$10,200 per year for individuals or more than \$27,500 per year for families	15%	23	21	32	9
() d. Reducing the tax breaks people receive for their out-of-pocket medical expenses	16%	28	21	28	7

Next I would like your opinions about how you think the changes to the health care system will affect different types of people and groups in California. For each please tell me whether you think the changes to the health care system from the new law will make them better off, worse off or have no effect.

(**BEGIN WITH ITEM CHECKED, ASKING:**) What about (**ITEM**)? Do you think the new health care law will make them better off, worse off or have no effect? (**CONTINUE IN SEQUENCE UNTIL ALL ARE READ**)

	<u>BETTER</u>	<u>WORSE</u>	<u>NO</u> <u>EFFECT</u>	<u>NO</u> <u>OPIN.</u>
() a. small businesses	34%	46	14	6
() b. the self-employed	42%	36	16	6
() c. large businesses	20%	39	35	6
() d. low-income residents	73%	14	10	3
() e. middle-income residents	40%	35	21	4
() f. high-income residents	9%	44	45	2
() g. senior citizens	43%	32	20	5
() h. young adults	55%	22	19	4
() i. the uninsured	72%	14	11	3
() j. illegal immigrants	37%	21	31	11
() k. doctors	26%	43	26	5
() l. insurance companies	29%	44	21	6
() m. women	44%	21	26	9
() n. children	66%	14	16	4
() o. drug manufacturers	37%	27	28	8

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

From which of the following media sources have you gotten most of your news about the changes to the health care system from the new law – television, newspapers, radio, magazines, the Internet or someplace else?

(IF ANY MENTIONED, ASK:) From which other sources have you gotten a lot of news about the health care reform law? (ADDS TO MORE THAN 100% DUE TO MULTIPLE MENTIONS)

Television	62%
Newspapers	36
Radio	26
Magazines.....	14
The Internet.....	43
Someplace else	10
NONE (VOLUNTEERED)	1
NO OPINION.....	*

IF TELEVISION: Where have you gotten most of your television news about the health care law – local news programming, ABC, CBS or NBC network news, CNN, MSNBC or Fox cable news, or someplace else? (ADDS TO MORE THAN 100% DUE TO MULTIPLE MENTIONS)

	<u>62%</u>
Local news programming	19%
ABC network news	13
CBS network news	11
NBC network news.....	13
CNN cable news.....	22
MSNBC cable news	12
The Fox News cable channel.....	20
Someplace else	6
NO OPINION.....	

How would you rate the job that news organizations have been doing in explaining the details of the changes to the health care system from the new law – excellent, good, only fair or poor?

EXCELLENT	7%
GOOD	24
ONLY FAIR	38
POOR.....	28
NO OPINION.....	3

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Finally, some questions about yourself for classification purposes...

Do you currently have any kind of health care coverage? This would include health insurance through your or your spouse's employer or union, a plan you buy independently, or through a government plan such as Medicare, Medi-Cal or through Tri-Care.

YES 87%
 NO 13
 DON'T KNOW *

IF YES: Is your main source of health insurance coverage through your or your spouse's employer or union, through a policy that you or your spouse purchased independently from an insurance provider, are you covered under Medicare, or are you covered through Medi-Cal or Medicaid, or through Tri-Care, the military insurance program?

..... 87%
 YOUR/SPOUSE'S EMPLOYER/UNION..... 50
 POLICY BOUGHT INDEPENDENTLY 11
 MEDICARE 15
 MEDI-CAL/MEDICAID 4
 MILITARY INSURANCE/TRI-CARE 2
 OTHER 4
 DON'T KNOW 2

IF MEDICARE: Is your Medicare coverage through a managed care plan, also referred to as Medicare Advantage, or do you receive your coverage through the traditional fee-for-service Medicare program?

..... 15%
 THROUGH A MANAGED CARE PLAN/
 MEDICARE ADVANTAGE 5
 TRADITIONAL MEDICARE PROGRAM 8
 DON'T KNOW 2

IF YES: Have you or has anyone close to you been without health insurance coverage at any time in the past two years?

..... 87%
 YES 36%
 NO 50
 NO OPINION..... 1

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.