

Americans' Views on Healthcare Costs, Coverage and Policy

**Conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago
with funding from The West Health Institute**

*Interviews: 2/15-19/2018
1,302 adults*

Margin of error: +/- 3.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Q1. Thinking about both the cost and quality of the health care that Americans receive, do you think that we get good value for what our country spends on health care, or not?

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Yes	25
No	74
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,302

Q2. Thinking about the federal budget, would you prefer that your representative in Congress vote to increase spending, decrease spending or keep spending the same for...

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 2/15-19/2018	Increase spending	Decrease spending	Keep spending the same	DK	SKP/ REF
Medicare, the national health care insurance program mainly for persons age 65 and over	56	10	33	*	1
Social Security	53	11	34	1	1
Medicaid, a federal-state health insurance program for low income people and people with certain disabilities	42	17	39	*	1
The Affordable Care Act, the health care reforms that were passed by Congress in March of 2010, also known as Obamacare	37	33	27	1	1

N=1,302

Q3. Overall, would you say you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way your representative in Congress is handling the cost of health care?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Strongly/Somewhat approve NET	15
Strongly approve	3
Somewhat approve	12
Neither approve nor disapprove	33
Strongly/Somewhat disapprove NET	49
Somewhat disapprove	27
Strongly disapprove	22
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,302</i>

Q4. How important is it for your representative in Congress to spend their time advancing policies to help seniors have access to high quality, affordable healthcare and supportive services?

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Not at all/Slightly important NET	14
Not at all important	2
Slightly important	12
Moderately important	25
Extremely/Very important NET	60
Very important	36
Extremely important	23
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,302</i>

Q5. There are some health care items that Medicare doesn't currently cover. Should Medicare, the national health care insurance program for persons age 65 and over, pay for each of the following or not?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 2/15-19/2018	Yes	No	DK	SKP/ REF
Dental care	83	16	-	1
Hearing aids	82	17	*	1
Long-term care, which includes help with everyday activities such as personal care activities like bathing and dressing, preparing meals, and medical transportation	78	21	*	1
Eye examinations for prescription glasses	85	14	*	1

N=1,302

If yes to any in Q5

Q6. Would you still support Medicare covering each of the following if that meant an increase in the Medicare payroll tax?

NORC 2/15-19/2018	Yes	No	DK	SKP/ REF
Dental care (<i>n=1,097</i>)	88	11	1	1
Hearing aids (<i>n=1,082</i>)	86	12	1	1
Long-term care, which includes help with everyday activities such as personal care activities like bathing and dressing, preparing meals, and medical transportation (<i>n=1,041</i>)	89	11	*	1
Eye examinations for prescription glasses (<i>n=1,130</i>)	88	11	*	1

Q5/Q6 combined.

NORC 2/15-19/2018	Yes, with tax increase	Yes, without tax increase	No	DK	SKP/ REF
Dental care	73	9	16	1	1
Hearing aids	71	10	17	1	1
Long-term care, which includes help with everyday activities such as personal care activities like bathing and dressing, preparing meals, and medical transportation	69	8	21	*	1
Eye examinations for prescription glasses	75	10	14	*	1

N=1,302

Q7. Which party do you trust to do a better job of handling:

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 2/15-19/2018	The Republicans	The Democrats	Both equally	Neither	DK	SKP/ REF
Policies that affect seniors	20	35	16	27	*	1
Social Security	19	36	14	29	*	1
Health care	18	38	13	29	*	2
Policies that affect young people	16	36	18	28	*	1

N=1,302

Q8. Thinking more about the costs of health care, in the past 12 months, how often have you done any of the following because of cost?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 2/15-19/2018	More than once/One time NET	More than once	One time	Never/Not applicable NET	Never	Not applicable	DK	SKP/ REF
Gone without a routine dental cleaning or check up	47	35	12	52	45	7	*	1
Didn't go to the doctor when you were sick or injured	44	29	14	55	46	10	-	1
Skipped a recommended medical test or treatment	40	24	16	59	46	13	-	1
Gone without a routine physical or other preventive health care	40	27	12	59	49	10	*	1
Didn't go to the dentist when you needed treatment	39	30	9	60	50	10	*	1
Chosen a lower cost option for a recommended test or treatment	37	23	14	62	40	21	*	1
Not filled a prescription or taken less than the prescribed dose of medicine	32	20	12	67	49	17	*	1

N=1,302

Q9. Thinking about your experience with paying medical bills, in the past 12 months, how often has each of the following happened?

Include medical bills for doctors, dentists, hospitals, therapists, medication, equipment, nursing homes, or home health care. Please include bills you received over the past 12 months, even if the initial bill was incurred more than 12 months ago.

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 2/15-19/2018	More than once/One time NET	More than once	One time	Never/Not applicable NET	Never	Not applicable	DK	SKP/ REF
You received a medical bill for a cost that you thought was covered by your health insurance	54	33	21	44	32	12	*	2
You received a medical bill saying the amount that you owed was higher than you expected	53	35	18	46	35	12	*	1
You had a medical bill turned over to a collection agency	28	16	11	71	59	12	*	1

N=1,302

Q10. Thinking more about paying for health care costs, how often does paying for health care costs cause you to...

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 2/15-19/2018	Often/ Sometimes NET	Often	Sometimes	Rarely/ Never NET	Rarely	Never	DK	SKP/ REF
Decrease your contributions to any type of savings plan	41	19	22	57	15	42	*	2
Use up all or most of your savings	36	15	21	63	15	47	*	2
Borrow money or increase credit card debt	32	12	20	66	16	50	*	2
Have difficulty paying for basic necessities, like food, heat, and housing	30	12	19	68	18	50	*	2

N=1,302

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Q11. How afraid are you of...

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 2/15-19/2018	Extremely/ Very afraid NET	Extremely afraid	Very afraid	Moderately afraid	Not afraid at all/Not very afraid NET	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all	DK	SKP/ REF
Getting seriously ill	33	16	17	30	36	24	12	*	1
Paying for health care if you become seriously ill	40	22	19	24	35	20	15	*	1

N=1,302

Q12. Would you favor or oppose a single payer health care system, in which all Americans would get their health insurance from one government plan?

	NORC 2/15-19/2018	AP-NORC 1/12-16/2017
Strongly/Somewhat favor NET	46	38
Strongly favor	24	19
Somewhat favor	22	19
Neither favor nor oppose	24	22
Strongly/Somewhat oppose NET	28	39
Somewhat oppose	10	14
Strongly oppose	18	25
DON'T KNOW	1	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1	*

N=

1,302

1,036

INS1. Are you covered by any kind of health insurance or some other kind of health care plan or not?

Please include health insurance obtained through employment or purchased directly as well as government programs like Medicare and Medicaid that provide medical care or help pay medical bills.

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Yes	86
No	12
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,302</i>

If yes in INS1

INS2. Which of the following is your main source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your employer, a plan through your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace, are you covered by Medicare or Medicaid, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Plan through employer	35
Plan through spouse's employer	11
Plan purchased yourself directly from an insurance company	5
Health insurance marketplace	5
Medicare	27
Medicaid	7
Somewhere else	9
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,152</i>

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Democrat	35
Republican	24
Independent	25
None of these	16
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,302</i>

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If Democrat in PID1

PIDa. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Strong Democrat	41
Moderate Democrat	59
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	563

If Republican in PID1

PIDb. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Strong Republican	38
Moderate Republican	62
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	248

If independent, none of these, or Don't Know/SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED in PID1

PIDi. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Lean Democrat	32
Lean Republican	28
Don't lean	39
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	491

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POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDa, PIDb, and PIDi.

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Democrat NET	48
Strong Democrat	14
Moderate Democrat	20
Lean Democrat	13
Independent/None – Don't lean	16
Republican NET	36
Lean Republican	12
Moderate Republican	15
Strong Republican	9
Unknown	*

N= 1,302

AGE

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
18-24	11
25-34	19
35-44	16
45-54	15
55-64	19
65-74	14
75+	6

N= 1,302

GENDER

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Male	48
Female	52

N= 1,302

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RACE/ETHNICITY

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
White	64
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,302</i>

MARITAL STATUS

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Married	46
Widowed	6
Divorced	11
Separated	2
Never married	29
Living with partner	6
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,302</i>

EDUCATION

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	29
College graduate or above	31
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,302</i>

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INCOME

	NORC 2/15-19/2018
Under \$10,000	8
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	11
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	18
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	8

N=

1,302

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago with funding from the West Health Institute. NORC at the University of Chicago and the West Health Institute collaborated on all aspects of the study design and reporting. Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between February 15 and 19, 2018, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. All interviews were conducted in English by professional interviewers who were carefully trained on the specific survey for this study. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,302 completed the survey—1,093 via the web and 209 via telephone. The final stage completion rate is 22.4 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 33.7 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 88.1 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 6.6 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.8 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

In addition, African Americans were sampled at a higher rate than their proportion of the population to support additional analyses. The overall margin of sampling error for the 388 completed interviews with African Americans is +/- 7.3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level including the design effect.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2017 Current Population Survey. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

For more information, email info@norc.org.