



Colorado Health Care: A Study of Voter Concerns and the Support for State Reform

**Report Prepared by
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Colorado Self-Identified Registered Voters Age 18+ Are Strong Proponents of State Health Care Reform

According to the 2006 United States Current Population Survey (CPS), 21 percent of Colorado residents age 19-64 are without health care insurance, slightly higher than the 20 percent national prevalence. According to the Colorado Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform, both the uninsured rate in the state, as well as the overall cost of health insurance, has steadily increased over the past five years, raising concern among both policymakers and registered voters.¹

AARP's Colorado State Office, as part of its continued effort to understand the needs and concerns of state residents, commissioned this survey to explore the views of self-identified registered voters age 18+ on the current state of health care in Colorado. The survey also gauges specific concerns about health care-related matters, as well as voter opinions on state health care reform and specific funding proposals.

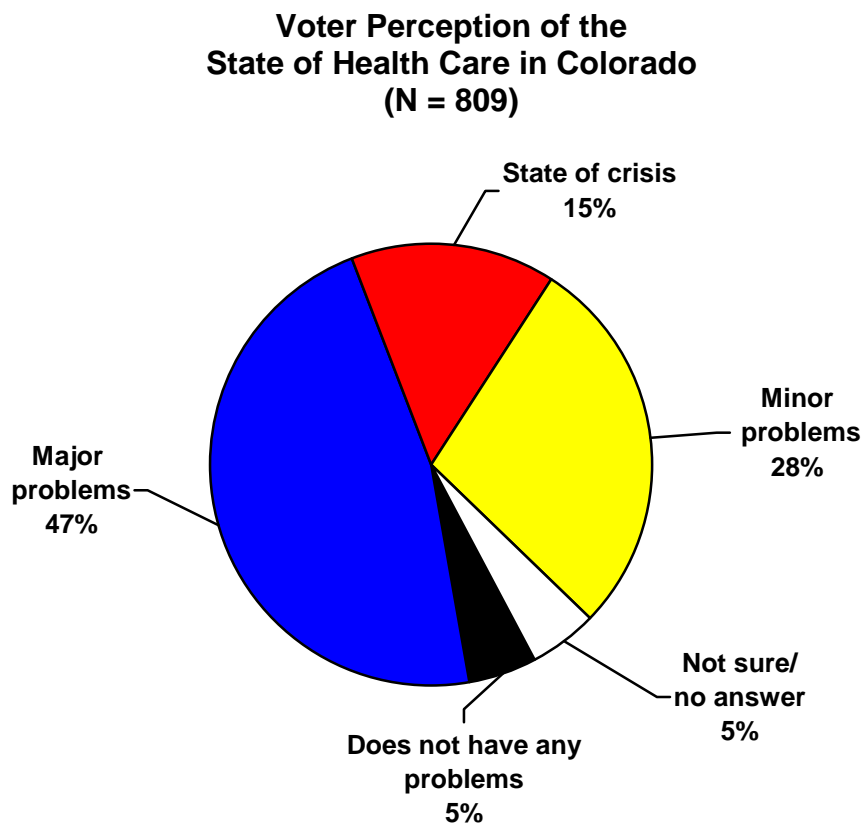
- ✚ According to the survey, six in ten self-identified registered voters age 18+ in Colorado believe that health care in Colorado is in a state of crisis or has major problems.
- ✚ The majority of Colorado registered voters age 18+ surveyed are concerned primarily with matters of health care costs.
- ✚ Nine in ten Colorado registered voters age 18+ polled disagree with health insurance companies being allowed to deny health care coverage to an older person.
- ✚ Eighty-five percent of Colorado registered voters age 18+ surveyed agree that all state residents should have access to affordable, quality health care. Three in five claim that they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who supports the development of a health care system that would provide such access to all residents.
- ✚ Nearly four in five Colorado registered voters age 18+ polled agree that employers should contribute to a system so that everyone in the state can have access to quality, affordable health care coverage.
- ✚ Nearly seven in ten Colorado registered voters age 18+ surveyed strongly or somewhat support increases in sales taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, if the money generated from such proposals is used to help ensure that all state residents have access to quality, affordable health care coverage.
- ✚ Nearly three in four Colorado registered voters age 18+ polled are extremely, very, or somewhat likely to vote for an extension of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) temporary suspension beyond 2010, which allows Colorado to keep an estimated \$3.7B that would otherwise be returned to taxpayers and use these funds for statewide programs including health care.

¹ Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform Final Report to the General Colorado Assembly, January 31, 2008. <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=BlueRibbon%2FRIBBLLayout&cid=1201542097631&p=1201542097631&pagenam=RIBBWrapper>.

Colorado policymakers should carefully consider the findings in this study, as there appears to be overwhelming support for statewide health care reform, specifically in the area of cost controls. About one in five Colorado registered voters age 18+ in this survey is uninsured. Government officials need to closely examine the feasibility of any proposed systems and funding mechanisms that will not only help provide each state resident, regardless of income level, with access to basic health coverage, but ensure the affordability of such plans for all Coloradoans in need.

Detailed Findings

Six in ten Colorado registered voters age 18+ surveyed believe that health care in Colorado is in a state of crisis or, at the least, has major problems.

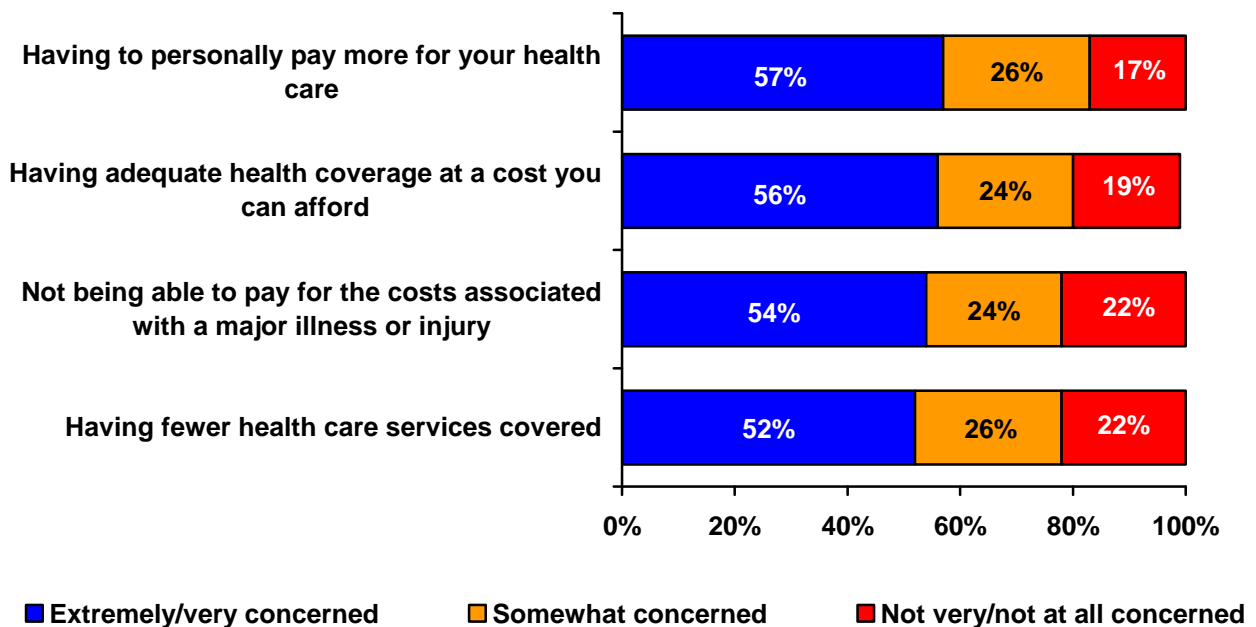


- ✚ The less income respondents earn, the more they believe that health care in Colorado is in a state of crisis. Specifically, 21 percent of survey respondents who earn between \$20K and \$50K per year believe that the state is facing a health care crisis, versus only 10 percent of those earning between \$75K and \$100K per year and eight percent of those earning greater than \$100K annually.

HEALTH CARE CONCERNS

The majority of Colorado registered voters age 18+ polled are extremely or very concerned with matters of health care costs. Nearly three in five survey respondents are extremely or very concerned about having to personally pay more for their current care. More than half of those surveyed are extremely or very concerned about having adequate, affordable health care coverage and being able to pay for the costs associated with a major illness or injury.

Voters' Primary Health Care Concerns
(N = 809)**

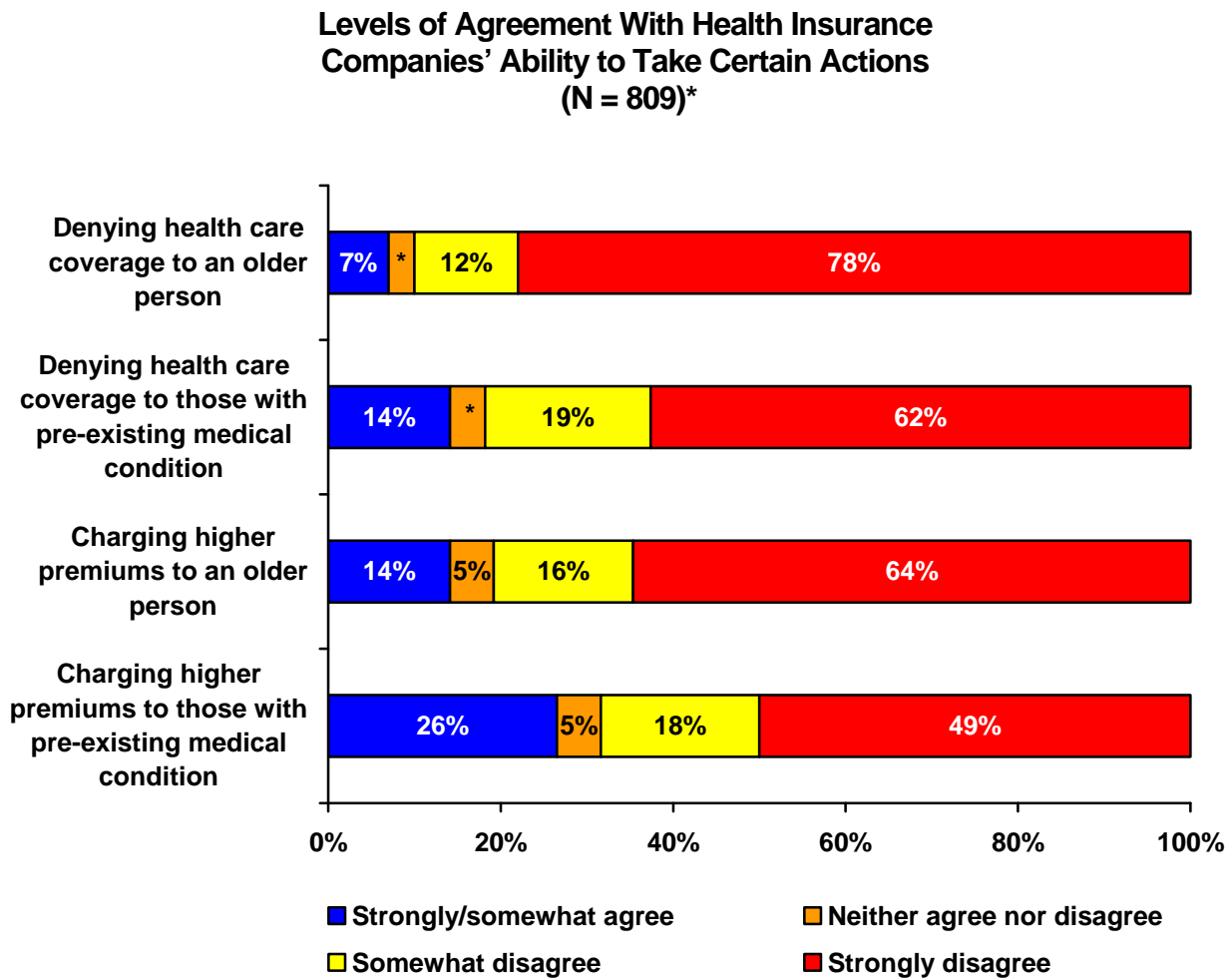


* Percentages may not sum to 100 due to the accounting of *Missing/No Answer* responses.

** Please see annotated questionnaire (question 6) for complete list of possible concerns provided to respondents.

Colorado registered voters age 18+ polled disagree with the notion that health insurance companies should be allowed to deny coverage or charge higher premiums to older persons and persons with pre-existing conditions. Four in five or more survey respondents disagree with health insurance companies being allowed to deny health care coverage to an older person or a person with a pre-existing medical condition.

Four in five respondents also disagree with health insurance companies being allowed to charge higher premiums to older persons. Fewer respondents, although still a majority, disagree with health insurance companies charging higher premiums to those with pre-existing medical conditions.



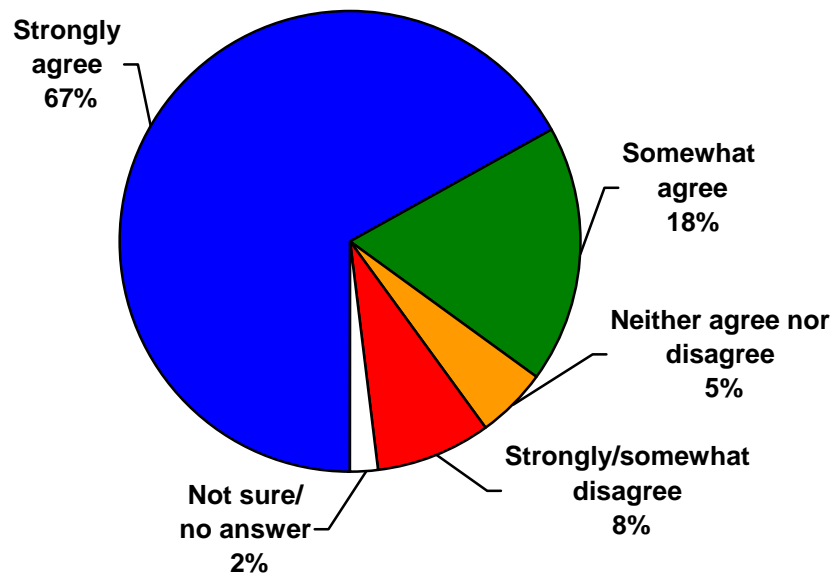
* Indicates less than 5 percent.

✚ Not surprisingly, nine in ten (88%) respondents age 65+ disagree with companies being allowed to charge higher premiums to older persons, versus less than 80 percent of those under the age of 50 (18-34: 79%; 35-49: 76%, respectively).

OPINIONS ON STATE HEALTH CARE REFORM

Nearly seven in ten Colorado registered voters age 18+ surveyed strongly agree that all Coloradans should have access to quality, affordable health care coverage.

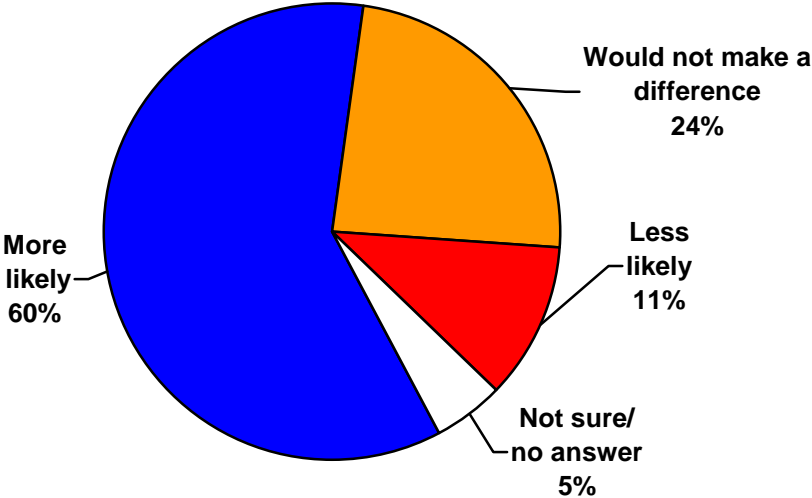
All Coloradans Should Have Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care Coverage (N = 809)



- ✚ Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to strongly agree that all Coloradans should have access to quality, affordable health care coverage (18-64: 70% versus 65+: 53%).
- ✚ Survey respondents with relatively lower annual incomes are more likely than their higher-income counterparts to strongly or somewhat agree that all Coloradans should have access to quality, affordable health care coverage (<\$20K annually: 95%; >\$100K annually: 84%).
- ✚ Nearly three in four respondents say it is extremely (36%) or very important (37%) for Colorado to reduce the number of uninsured residents in the state. Another one in six (16%) say it is somewhat important. Those with more conservative political views tend to place less importance on such potential reform (conservative: 59%; liberal: 88%).

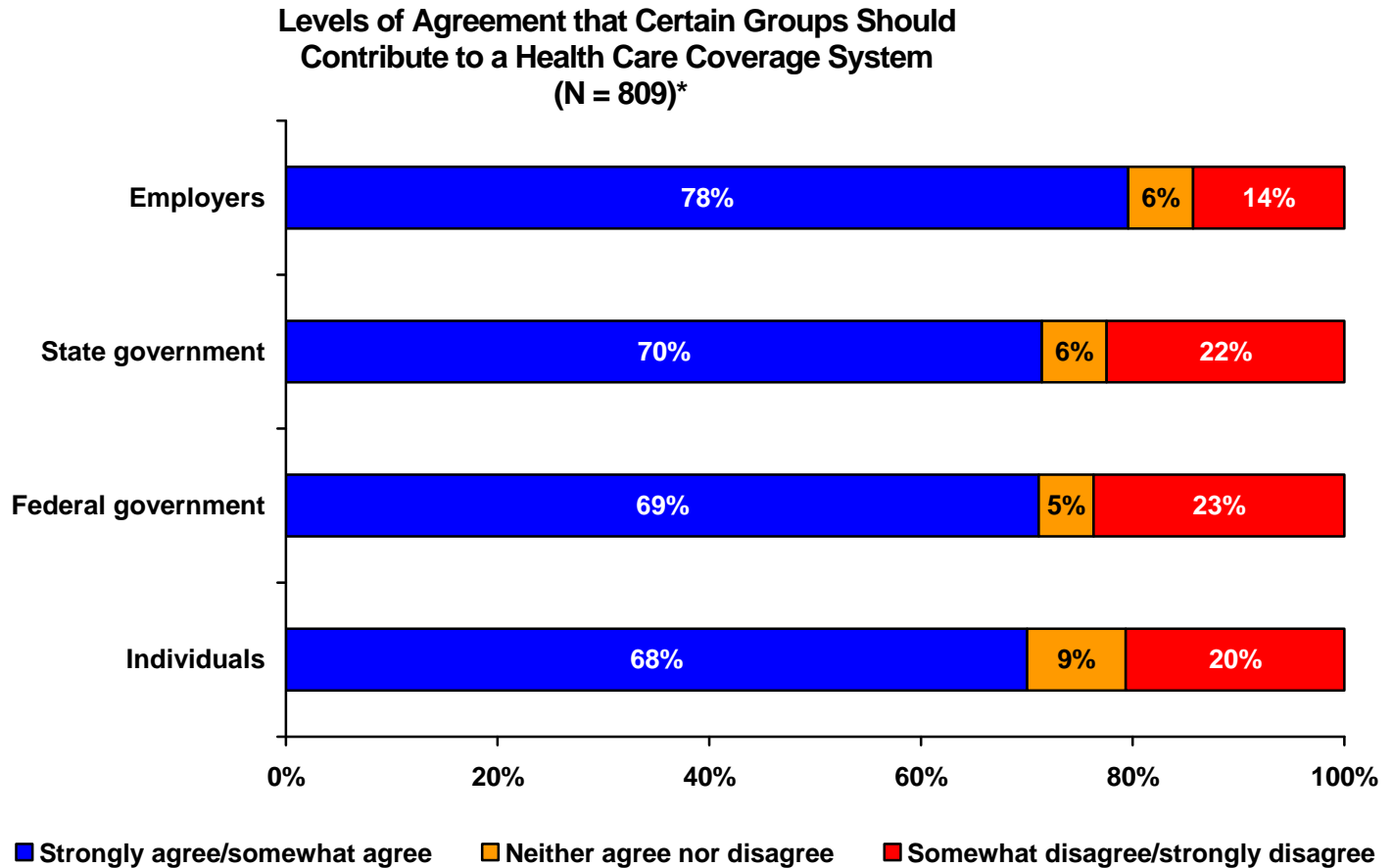
Six in ten Colorado registered voters age 18+ surveyed say they are more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who supports the development of a health care system that would provide access to affordable, quality health care for all Colorado residents. On the other hand, it would not make a difference to 24 percent of those voting.

Likelihood of Voting for a Candidate for State Public Office if They Support a System to Provide Access to Affordable, Quality Health Care for All Colorado Residents (N = 809)



✚ Those with more conservative political views are less likely than their counterparts to say they would vote for a candidate who supports access to affordable, quality health care for all Colorado residents (conservative: 39%; moderate: 64%; liberal: 84%)

Nearly four in five Coloradoans age 18+ agree that employers should contribute to a system so that everyone in the state can have access to quality, affordable health care coverage. Approximately seven in ten agree that state and federal governments and individuals should also contribute to such a system.



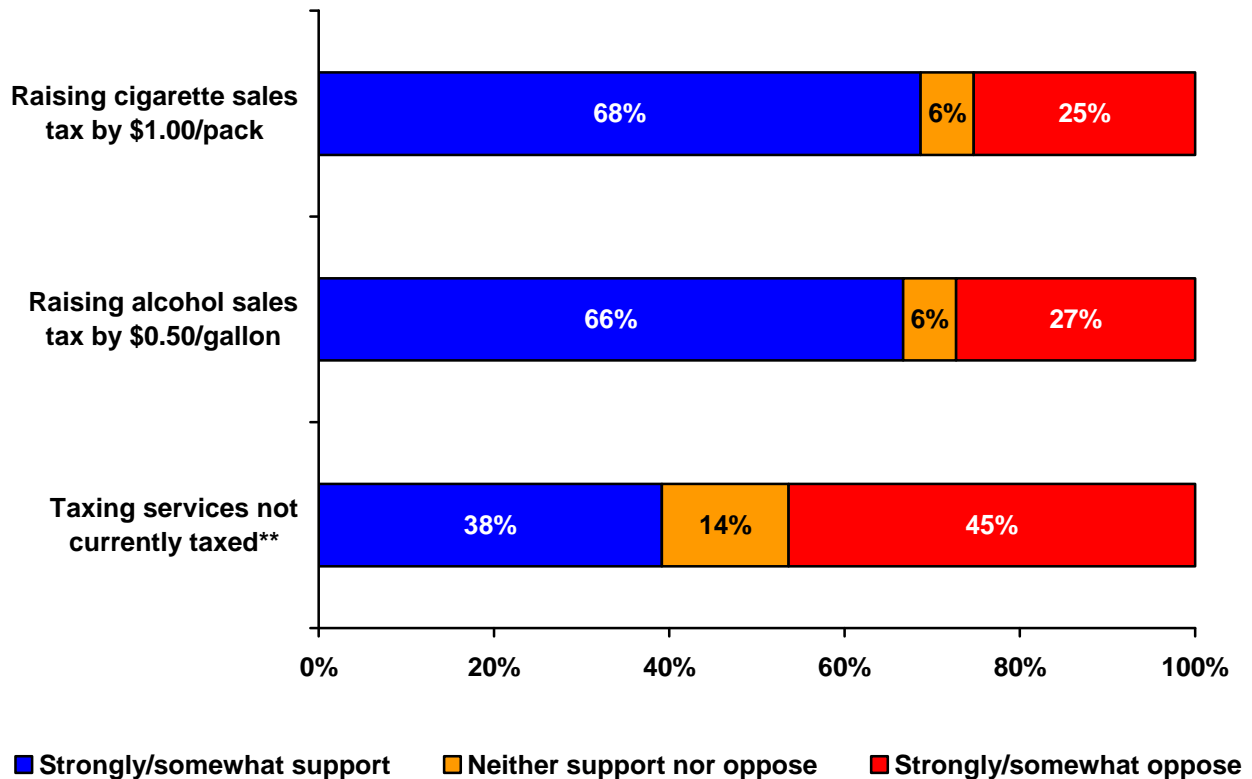
* Percentages may not sum to 100 due to the accounting of *Not Sure/No Answer* responses.

✚ Two-thirds (66%) of those surveyed are also in favor of requiring employers to provide all or most of their employees with health care coverage by either paying for it directly or paying taxes to a government program which would supply employees with such coverage. One in ten (10%) somewhat agree and about one in five strongly (11%) or somewhat disagree (11%) with this idea.

REACTIONS TO SPECIFIC HEALTH CARE FUNDING PROPOSALS

Approximately two-thirds of Colorado registered voters age 18+ surveyed support increases in sales taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, if the money generated from such proposals is used to help ensure health care access to all state residents. On the other hand nearly half oppose taxing services that are not currently taxed for this purpose.

**Levels of Support for Various Health Care Reform Funding Proposals
(N = 809)***



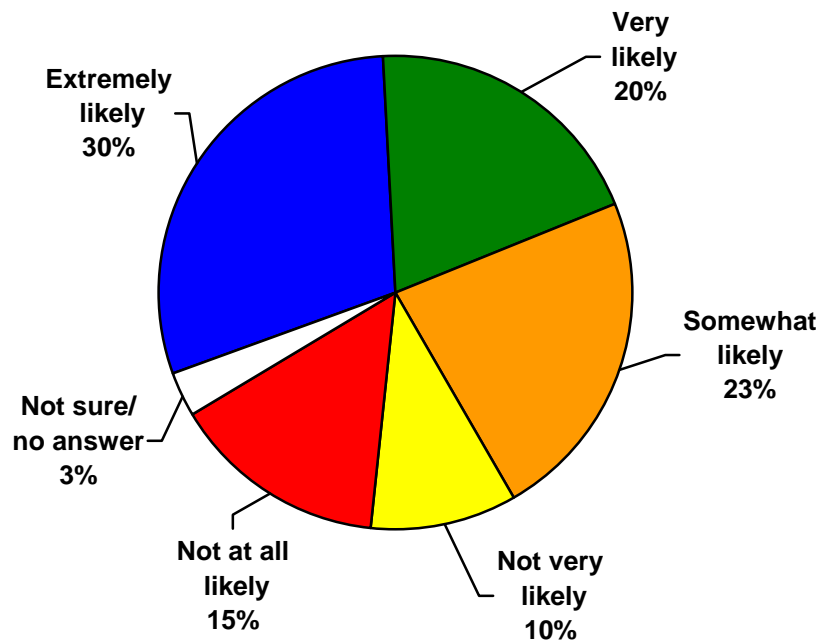
* Percentages may not sum to 100 due to the accounting of *Not Sure/No Answer* responses.

** Such services include: accounting services, lawyers, and dry cleaning services.

- ✚ It is interesting to note that females are significantly more likely than males to support tax increases on cigarettes and alcohol (cigarettes: 73% vs. 63%, respectively; alcohol: 73% vs. 60%, respectively).
- ✚ Additionally, those voters who characterize their health status as being excellent or very good are far more likely than their counterparts (in fair or poor health) to support tax increases on cigarettes, specifically (70% vs. 53%, respectively).

Colorado registered voters age 18+ polled are split as to whether they would vote for an extension of the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) temporary suspension beyond 2010. This suspension, or time-out, allows Colorado to keep an estimated \$3.7B that would be used for K-12 and higher education, health care, highways, and other services. Seventy-two percent say they would be extremely, very, or somewhat likely to vote for an extension of TABOR.²

Likelihood of Coloradoans to Vote for Extension of TABOR Time-Out Beyond 2010 (N = 809)*



* Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding effects.

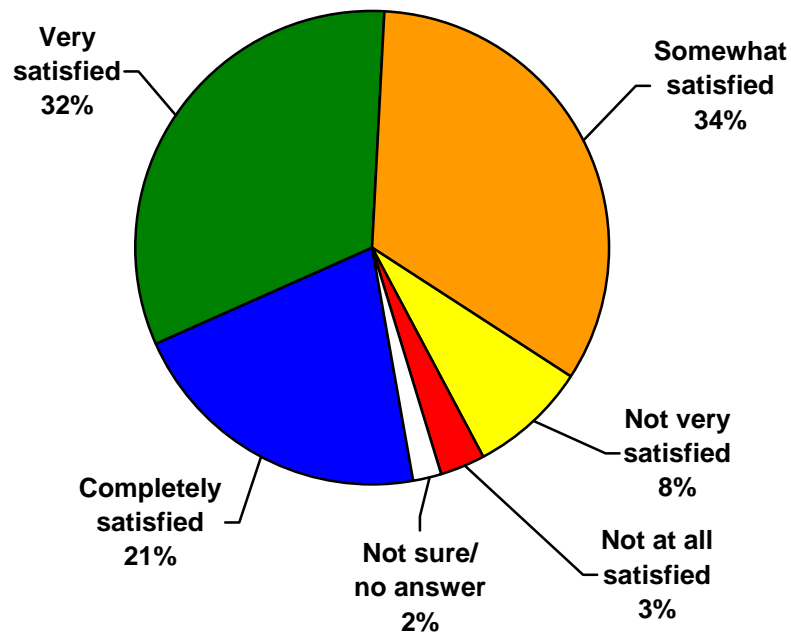
- ✚ Not surprisingly, only 24 percent of those respondents who disagree with the concept of access to health care coverage for all state residents are extremely or very likely to vote for an extension of the TABOR time-out.
- ✚ By the same token, survey respondents who characterize themselves as liberal are much more likely to vote for the time-out extension than their conservative counterparts (69% vs. 33%, respectively).
- ✚ Seventy-two percent of survey respondents are extremely (26%), very (18%), or somewhat likely (28%) to vote for permanently repealing or removing TABOR in the state in order to allow funding for state services that were cut during recessionary periods, such as health care. Only a quarter are not very (12%) or not at all likely (12%) to vote for the permanent repeal of TABOR.

² Percentages in text may differ slightly from graph due to the rounding of percentages in the graph.

Health Care Coverage and Voting Profile of Registered Voters Age 18+ in Colorado

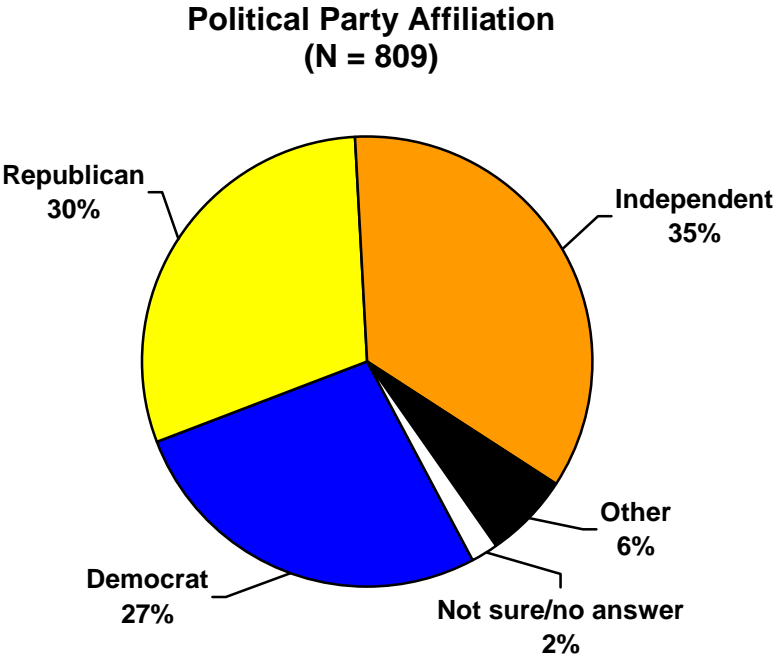
Only half of Colorado registered voters age 18+ surveyed with health care coverage are very satisfied with their current plans.

Satisfaction With Level of Coverage Received Through Current Health Care Plan (N = 684 respondents with health care coverage)*



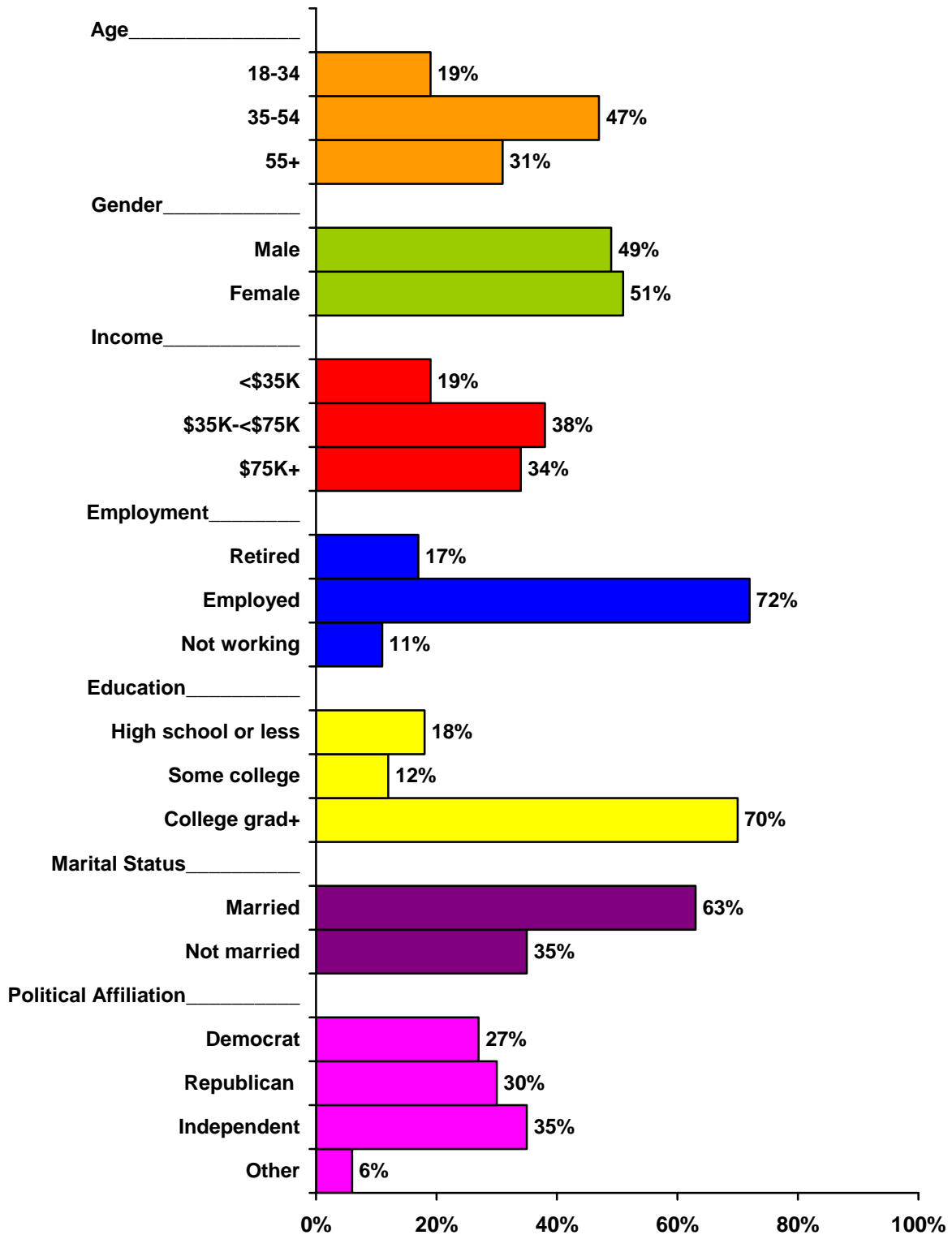
- ✚ After all, nearly eight in ten (77%) respondents claim out-of-pocket medical expenses, including insurance premiums, prescription drug costs, and co-pays, have increased over the past five years.
- ✚ Three in five (60%) participate in a health care plan sponsored by a current employer.
- ✚ It is important to note that 15 percent of Colorado registered voters surveyed *do not* have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance or government plans such as Medicare or Medicaid.

More than one-third of Colorado registered voters surveyed consider themselves Independents, and about three in ten each claim to be Democrats or Republicans.



- ✚ Nearly nine in ten survey respondents vote always (59%) or most of the time (27%) in state elections for Governor and Legislators. Eight percent vote about half the time and only five percent claim to seldom or never vote.
- ✚ Three in ten (31%) consider their political views conservative, more than four in ten (44%) characterize their views as moderate, and approximately two in ten (19%) are liberal.

Respondent Demographics of Colorado Self-Identified Registered Voters (N = 809)



* Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding effects, as well as the accounting of *Not Sure/No Answer* responses.

Methodology

AARP commissioned FGI Research, Inc. to conduct a telephone survey of Colorado residents age 18 and older who identified themselves as registered voters. The survey was conducted between December 19, 2007 through January 18, 2008, and a total of 809 interviews were completed.³ A sample of this size has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.⁴

Survey responses were weighted to reflect the actual distribution of age and gender for the population of registered voters age 18 and older in Colorado as found in the 2004 Current Population Survey Voter Supplement. Weighted responses to all survey questions are in the attached annotated questionnaire.

Throughout the report, statistics representing responses are reported in percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding effects.

³ The response rate is 20 percent and the cooperation rate is 28 percent. The response rate is Response Rate 3 and the cooperation rate is Cooperation Rate 3 (AAPOR, 2007).

⁴ This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would be within ± 3.5 percentage points of the results obtained had every registered voter age 18 and older in Colorado been interviewed.

Annotated Survey

2007 Colorado Health Care Reform Tactical Survey
(Survey Sample: N=809 18+ Registered Voters)
Sampling error=+/- 3.5%

INTRODUCTION/SCREENER

Hello, my name is _____ from FGI, a national research firm. This is not a sales call and you will not be asked to buy anything now or later. We would really like to include your opinions on an important issue facing Colorado residents. [USE AS NECESSARY: "I assure you that all of your answers will remain completely confidential. The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete.

Respondent Selection

S1. RECORD GENDER OF PERSON WHO ANSWERED PHONE:

- 1) Male
- 2) Female

S2. In order to save time and ensure I only ask you questions relevant to someone in your age group, could you tell me whether you are age 18 to 44, 45 to 64, or are you 65 or older?

- 1) 18 – 44
- 2) 45 – 64
- 3) 65+
- 4) DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- 5) REFUSED

S3. And just to confirm, are you a resident of Colorado?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No → [ASK TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN HH WHO IS A COLORADO RESIDENT AGE 18+. IF NONE IN HH, TERMINATE]

S4. Are you registered to vote in Colorado?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No → [ASK TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN HH WHO IS A REGISTERED TO VOTE IN COLORADO. IF NONE IN HH, TERMINATE]

Main Questionnaire

1. Which of these statements do you think best describes the state of health care in Colorado today? Would you say... [READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

- 15% It is in a state of crisis
- 47% It has major problems
- 28% It has minor problems
- 5% It does not have any problems
- 5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- <0.5% Refused [DO NOT READ]

2. Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance or government plans such as Medicare, Medicaid, or military benefits?

- 85% Yes
- 15% No → [SKIP TO Q5]
- <0.5% Not sure [DO NOT READ] → [SKIP TO Q5]
- 0% Refused [DO NOT READ] → [SKIP TO Q5]

3. [ASK ONLY IF Q2=YES] [INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT GIVES NAME OF INSURER, SUCH AS A SPECIFIC COMPANY, ASK WHETHER 1) THEY PAY FOR THE POLICY ON THEIR OWN, 2) IT IS PAID FOR BY AN EMPLOYER OR PREVIOUS EMPLOYER, OR 3) IF IT IS A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM SUCH AS MEDICARE.]

[INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW ANYTHING BUT THE NAME OF THE COMPANY PROVIDING THE INSURANCE, PROCEED THROUGH THE QUESTIONS ANYWAY. RECORD COMPANY NAME IN “OTHER” WHICH IS THE LAST ITEM IN LIST.]

[IF NECESSARY: EXPLAIN TO RESPONDENT THAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO GO THROUGH THE LIST BECAUSE WE HAVE FOUND THAT SOMETIMES PEOPLE FORGET THEY HAVE AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF COVERAGE AND WE WANT TO BE SURE OUR DATA IS AS ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE.]

Do you have...

[INTERVIEWERS: IF RESPONDENT INSISTS THEY ONLY KNOW THE NAME OF THEIR HEALTHCARE PLAN AND DON'T KNOW WHO PROVIDES IT OR IF IT IS A GOVERNMENT PLAN, SELECT THE “NAME ONLY” RESPONSE FOR WHATEVER ITEM YOU ARE ON. THIS WILL SKIP YOU TO ITEM ‘g’ WHICH IS ‘OTHER’ WHERE YOU CAN RECORD THE NAME. PLEASE USE THIS ONLY IF THE RESPONDENT IS ADAMANT THAT ALL THEY KNOW ABOUT THEIR PLAN IS THE NAME.]

[PROGRAMMERS: PROVIDE THE ‘NAME ONLY’ RESPONSE FOR ALL ITEMS AND HAVE THIS RESPONSE AUTOMATICALLY SKIP OUT OF SERIES TO ITEM ‘g’.]

3. (continued) Do you have...

	n = 684, Respondents with health care coverage	Yes	No	Name Only	DK/NOT SURE
a.	A health care plan sponsored by a current employer?	60%	40%	0%	<0.5%
	Do you have any other type of coverage?"	8%	92%	0%	1%
	[IF NO, SKIP OUT OF SERIES TO NEXT QUESTION, OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO NEXT ITEM] (n = 410)				
b.	A health care plan sponsored by your spouse’s current employer?.....	7%	93%	0%	<0.5%
	Do you have any other type of coverage?"	17%	83%	0%	0%
	[IF NO, SKIP OUT OF SERIES TO NEXT QUESTION, OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO NEXT ITEM] (n = 48)				
c.	A health care plan sponsored by a previous employer (or spouse’s previous employer), such as a retirement benefit or COBRA?.....	6%	94%	0%	<0.5%
d1.	Medicare, the program that provides health insurance primarily to people age 65 and older?	20%	80%	0%	<0.5%
d2.	[ASK ONLY IF d1 = ‘YES’] Do you also have a Medicare supplement plan, such as one that pays the co-payments and deductibles of Medicare? (n = 134).....	66%	32%	<0.5%	1%
d3.	[ASK ONLY IF d1 = ‘YES’] Do you also have a Medicare Part D plan that covers prescription drugs? (n = 134).....	56%	41%	<0.5%	3%
d4.	[ONLY ASKED OF 65+] Do you have any other type of coverage? (n = 119)	33%	65%	1%	1%
e.	Veterans Administration or military benefits?.....	7%	93%	0%	1%
f.	Medicaid, the program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain low-income individuals?.....	3%	96%	0%	1%
g.	An individually purchased health care policy on your own?.....	13%	87%	0%	1%
	Do you have any other type of coverage?"	2%	97%	<0.5%	1%
	[IF NO SKIP OUT OF SERIES TO NEXT QUESTION, OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO NEXT ITEM]				
h.	Any other insurance coverage or policy?	3%	97%	0%	0%
	[RECORD] [SKIP OUT OF SERIES TO NEXT QUESTION] (n =20)				

4. How satisfied are you with the level of coverage you receive through your current health care plan? By coverage we mean the medical benefits and health care services you receive through your plan. Are you...[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

- 21% Completely satisfied
- 32% Very satisfied
- 33% Somewhat satisfied
- 8% Not very satisfied
- 3% Not at all satisfied
- 2% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 0% Refused [DO NOT READ]

5. Thinking about what you currently pay in out-of-pocket medical expenses, including insurance premiums, prescription drug costs, and co-pays, would you say this amount has...[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

- 77% Increased over the past five years
- 2% Decreased over the past five years
- 17% Stayed about the same
- 3% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

6. Looking ahead to the next five years, how concerned are you about each of the following? [RANDOMIZE AND READ EACH ITEM THEN READ] “Are you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, not at all concerned, not sure, or not at all concerned?”

		Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not Sure	Refused N/A
		▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a.	Having to personally pay more for your health care.....	26%	31%	26%	11%	6%	<0.5%	<0.5%
b.	Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need.....	22%	24%	28%	15%	10%	<0.5%	<0.5%
c.	Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need	19%	20%	27%	20%	13%	<0.5%	1%
d.	Not having health care providers that are conveniently located.....	12%	15%	28%	26%	20%	<0.5%	<0.5%
e.	Not having health care providers that accepts your health insurance.....	16%	21%	25%	20%	16%	<0.5%	2%

		Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not Sure	Refused N/A
		▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
f.	Not being able to pay for the costs associated with a major illness or injury.....	25%	29%	24%	12%	10%	<0.5%	<0.5%
g.	Having adequate health coverage at a cost you can afford	26%	29%	24%	10%	9%	1%	<0.5%
h.	Having fewer health care services covered.....	20%	32%	26%	12%	10%	1%	<0.5%
i.	Having to stay in your current job in order to maintain insurance coverage.....	17%	16%	18%	14%	18%	<0.5%	18%

7. How important do you think it is for Colorado to reduce the number of residents without health care coverage? Would you say it is...[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

- 36% Extremely important
- 37% Very important
- 16% Somewhat important
- 5% Not very important
- 3% Not at all important
- 3% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

8. How strongly do you agree or disagree that all Colorado residents should have access to affordable, quality health care? Would you say you...[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

- 67% Strongly agree
- 18% Somewhat agree
- 5% Neither agree nor disagree
- 5% Somewhat disagree
- 4% Strongly disagree
- 1% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- <0.5% Refused [DO NOT READ]

9. How strongly do you agree or disagree that [INTERVIEWER INSERT AND RANDOMIZE EACH ITEM BELOW] should contribute so that everyone can have access to quality, affordable health care coverage? Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not Sure	Refused
		▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a.	Employers.....	45%	32%	6%	7%	7%	2%	1%
b.	Individuals.....	34%	34%	9%	7%	12%	2%	1%
c.	Federal Government.....	45%	24%	5%	10%	14%	2%	1%
d.	State Government.....	37%	33%	6%	9%	13%	2%	1%

10. Now I'm going to read to you a list of actions that health insurance companies sometimes take. For each one please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each action.

How strongly do you agree or disagree that [READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY & ROTATE]?

		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not Sure	Refused
		▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a.	Health insurance companies should be allowed to deny health care coverage to a person with a pre-existing medical condition.....	4%	10%	4%	19%	62%	2%	0%
b.	Health insurance companies should be allowed to deny health care coverage to an older person.....	2%	4%	3%	12%	78%	1%	<0.5%
c.	Health insurance companies should be allowed to charge higher premiums to a person with a pre-existing medical condition.....	5%	21%	5%	18%	49%	2%	0%
d.	Health insurance companies should be allowed to charge higher premiums to an older person.....	4%	10%	5%	16%	64%	1%	0%

11. If a candidate for state office supports the development of a health care system that would provide access to affordable, quality health care for all Colorado residents, would that make you more likely to vote for that candidate, less likely to vote for that candidate, or would it not make a difference?

- 60% More likely
- 11% Less likely
- 24% Would not make a difference
- 4% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

12. Now I want to get your opinions on some of the ways to pay for health care reform in Colorado. The money generated from each proposal would be used to help ensure that all state residents have access to quality, affordable health care coverage.

How strongly do you support or oppose....? Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose [PROGRAMMERS INSERT AND RANDOMIZE EACH ITEM BELOW.] AFTER INTERVIEWERS READ TWO ITEMS SAY “Remember the money generated from each proposal would be used to help ensure that all state residents have access to quality, affordable health care.”

		Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not Sure	Refused
		▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a.	Taxing services that are not currently taxed such as accounting services, lawyers, and dry cleaning services.	13%	25%	14%	18%	27%	3%	<0.5%
b.	Raising the sales tax on alcohol by 50 cents per gallon.	42%	24%	6%	8%	19%	1%	<0.5%
c.	Raising the sales tax on cigarettes by \$1.00 per pack.....	52%	16%	6%	6%	19%	1%	<0.5%

13. How strongly do you support or oppose requiring employers to provide all or most of their employees with health care coverage either by paying for it or paying taxes to a government program that would supply their employees with health care coverage? Do you....[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

- 33% Strongly support
- 34% Somewhat support
- 10% Neither agree nor oppose
- 11% Somewhat oppose
- 11% Strongly oppose
- 1% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

Now I would like to ask you some questions regarding The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, otherwise known simply as TABOR. TABOR was passed by Colorado voters in 1992 as an amendment to the state's constitution. TABOR does not allow increases in funding for state services, so once they have been cut back they cannot be restored, even if state revenues increase as the economy grows.

14. In 2005, TABOR was temporarily suspended for five years until 2010. This temporary suspension or time-out allows the state to keep an estimated \$3.7 billion that would otherwise be returned to taxpayers and use these funds for K-12 and higher education, health care, highways, and the return of the Senior Homestead Property Tax Exemption. How likely would you be to vote for an extension of the TABOR time-out beyond 2010 so that more money could go to state services such as those I just mentioned? Would you be.....[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

30%	Extremely likely
20%	Very likely
23%	Somewhat likely
10%	Not very likely
15%	Not at all likely
3%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
<0.5%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

15. How likely would you be to vote for permanently repealing or removing TABOR in Colorado in order to allow funding for state services that were cut during periods of recession, such as health care, to be restored to previous levels when the economy improves? Would you be.....[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

26%	Extremely likely
18%	Very likely
28%	Somewhat likely
12%	Not very likely
12%	Not at all likely
3%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
<0.5%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

Demographics

The following questions are for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.

D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S GENDER. ASK ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY: "To ensure it is recorded accurately, could you please state your gender?"

49% Male
51% Female

D2. Would you say that in general your health today is...?

27% Excellent
39% Very good
23% Good
8% Fair
2% Poor
0% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
<0.5% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D3. Do you currently have any chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, or osteoporosis?

30% Yes
70% No
<0.5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D4. What is your age as of your last birthday? [IN YEARS] _____

3% 18 - 24
17% 25 - 34
22% 35 - 44
25% 45 - 54
17% 55 - 64
8% 65 - 74
6% 75+
3% Refused

D5. What is your current marital status? Are you....[READ OPTIONS]

- 63% Married
- 3% Not married, living with your partner or significant other
- 1% Separated
- 10% Divorced
- 6% Widowed
- 16% Or are you currently single and never Married
- 0% Not Sure
- 1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D6. [IF D5 = 1 ASK: “Are you or your spouse currently a member of A-A-R-P?” IF D5 = 2 ASK: “Are you or your partner currently a member of AARP?” OTHERWISE ASK “Are you currently a member of AARP?”]

- 25% Yes
- 73% No
- 1% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- <0.5% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D7. What is the highest level of education that you completed? [READ OPTIONS]

- 1% 0 to 12th grade, but with no diploma
- 17% High school graduate or equivalent
- 12% Post high school education, but with no degree
- 14% 2 year degree
- 28% 4 year degree
- 7% Post graduate study, but with no degree
- 21% Graduate or professional degree
- 0% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D8. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? [READ OPTIONS]

- 12% Self-employed full-time
- 6% Self-employed part-time
- 46% Employed full-time
- 8% Employed part-time
- 17% Retired and not working at all
- 3% Unemployed and looking for work
Or are you....
- 8% Not in the labor force for other reasons
- 0% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- <0.5% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D9. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

9% Yes
89% No
<0.5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
2% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D10. What is your race?

83% White or Caucasian
2% Black or African American
1% Native American or Alaskan Native
1% Asian
0% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
9% Or are you some other race? [Please Specify: _____]
4% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D11. Thinking about your state elections for Colorado Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, which of the following best describes your voting behavior? Would you say you vote always, most of the time, about half of the time, seldom, or would you say you never vote?

59% Always
27% Most of the time
8% About half of the time
3% Seldom
2% Never
1% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D12. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

27% Democrat
30% Republican
35% Independent
6% Other
1% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D13. How would you characterize your political views?

31% Conservative
44% Moderate
19% Liberal
2% None of the above
3% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D14. What is your 5-digit zip code? _____

D15. In general, how often do you go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email? Would you say several times a day, about once a day, 3-5 days a week, 1-2 days a week, once every few weeks, less often than every few weeks, or do you never go online to use the Internet or check email?

- 47% Several times a day
- 20% About once a day
- 10% 3-5 days a week
- 6% 1-2 days a week
- 2% Once every few weeks
- 4% Once a month or less
- 11% Or do you never go online to use the Internet or World Wide Web?
- <0.5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- <0.5% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D16. We realize income is a private matter and so rather than ask you anything specific about your income, I'd like to ask you to please stop me when I get to the category that your includes your household's income before taxes in 2006. Was it....[READ OPTIONS]

- 3% Less than \$10,000
- 7% \$10,000 to less than \$20,000
- 8% \$20,000 to less than \$35,000
- 15% \$35,000 to less than \$50,000
- 12% \$50,000 to less than \$60,000
- 11% \$60,000 to less than \$75,000
- 14% \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
- 20% \$100,000 or more
- 2% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 9% Refused [DO NOT READ]

That was our last question for today/tonight. Thanks you very much for taking the time to help us out. Have a great day/night!



AARP

Knowledge Management

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