

# 2009 Iowa Health Care Reform Issues Poll

by  
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AARP

Knowledge Management

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## **Methodology**

AARP commissioned RDD Field Surveys to conduct a telephone survey of voting AARP members in Iowa age 50 years and older. This survey was conducted August 25 and August 26, 2009 and a total of 500 interviews were completed.

Survey responses were weighted to reflect the distribution of age, gender, and congressional district of voting members in Iowa. The cooperation rate for this survey was 73% and the response rate was 11%. A sample of this size has a sampling error of 4.4 percent. This means that 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would be within +/- 4.4 percentage points of the results obtained had all voting members in Iowa age 50+ been interviewed.

**2009 AARP Iowa**  
**Iowa Health Care Reform Issues Poll**

(Survey Sample: 50+ Voting Members)  
(N=500, sampling error = ±4.4%)

**INTRODUCTION/SCREENER**

Hello, this is \_\_\_\_\_ calling from RDD, an opinion research firm. We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We would like to find out your opinions on various topics of interest. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation. All your responses will be kept entirely confidential. The survey should take about 5-7 minutes of your time.

**Screening Questions**

S1. In order to save time, could you tell me if you are younger than age 50?

1. Yes [ASK TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN HOUSEHOLD WHO IS age 50 or older. IF NO ONE IN HOUSEHOLD IS age 50, ask if anyone living in household is age 50 or older and IF NO, TERMINATE. If person age 50 is unavailable, schedule call back]
2. No

S2. To ensure I only ask you questions relevant to someone in your age group, could you tell me whether you are age 50 to 64, or are you 65 or older?

- 3) 50 – 64
- 4) 65+
- 5) DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE → [TERMINATE]
- 6) REFUSED → [TERMINATE]

S2. And just to confirm, are you a resident of Iowa?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No [TERMINATE]

S3. Are you registered to vote in Iowa?

1. Yes
2. No [ASK TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN HOUSEHOLD WHO IS REGISTERED AND REPEAT S1. IF NO ONE IS REGISTERED TO VOTE, TERMINATE.]

## Main Questionnaire

### *Importance of Health Care Coverage for Iowans*

Q1. How important is it to you that all Iowa residents should have access to affordable, quality health care? Would you say it is extremely important to you, very important to you, somewhat important to you, not very important, or not at all important to you?

%	n=500
37	Extremely important
42	Very important
15	Somewhat important
2	Not very important
3	Not at all important
1	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1	Refused [DO NOT READ]

### *General Opinion on Need for Health Care Reform and Health Care Reform Now*

Q2. Which of the following comes closest to your view about the country's health care system?

%	n=500
15	We need a complete overhaul
48	We need to make major changes
28	We need to make minor changes
5	We do not need to make any changes
4	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
<.5	Refused [DO NOT READ]

Q3. How important is it to you that Congress enact new policies this year to improve the nations health care system? Would you say it is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not that important, or is it not at all important to you?

%	n=500
26	Extremely important
31	Very important
18	Somewhat important
10	Not very important
12	Not at all important
3	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1	Refused [DO NOT READ]

*Pre-existing Conditions*

Q4. How strongly do you support or oppose the federal government requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a pre-existing condition or prior illness? Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose...

%	n=500
51	Strongly support
28	Somewhat support
8	Somewhat oppose
9	Strongly oppose
4	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
-	Refused [DO NOT READ]

*Legislative Proposals to Save Medicare Money*

Q5. Please tell me if you support or oppose each of the following *proposals to save* money in Medicare. (RANDOMIZE) and INTERVIEWER: then ask: “and would you say you strongly support/oppose or somewhat support/oppose)”

n=500	Strongly support %	Somewhat support %	Somewhat oppose %	Strongly oppose %	Not sure %	Refused %
A. Promote programs rewarding healthy behaviors	58	29	4	5	4	-
B. Take steps to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse	85	11	2	2	1	-
C. Ask wealthier people to pay higher Medicare premiums	25	26	16	27	6	-
D. Reimburse Medicare providers (doctors, hospitals and equipment providers) based on quality and outcomes of care rather than quantity of services provided	51	30	6	4	9	1

*Spending Medicare Savings – Personal ideas*

Q6. If changes to the Medicare program result in savings, how *do you think* those savings should be spent? Do you support or oppose.. (RANDOMIZE and INTERVIEWER: then ask: “and would you say you strongly support/oppose or somewhat support/oppose”)

n=500	Strongly support %	Somewhat support %	Somewhat oppose %	Strongly oppose %	Not sure %	Refused %
A. Keeping the Medicare premiums people pay as affordable as possible	86	12	1	<.5	1	-
B. Keeping the out-of-pocket costs that people on Medicare pay as low as possible	72	21	2	2	2	<.5
C. Improving Medicare’s prescription drug benefit by shrinking the donut hole	50	24	4	4	18	1
D. Helping people AGES 50 and 64 buy into the Medicare program	29	34	13	13	11	<.5
E. Increasing payments to doctors and hospitals that deliver high quality care	31	39	13	9	7	2
F. Providing services for people on Medicare as they leave the hospital to help them avoid re-hospitalization	69	24	2	2	3	<.5

*Personal Importance of Health Care Issues*

Q7. How important to you are each of the following when thinking about health care reform: [RANDOMIZE FOR EACH RESPONDENT] ... [insert A-K] THEN ASK: *.would you say this is extremely important to you, very important, somewhat important, or not that important to you?* [INTERVIEWER: once respondent seems to understand scale, no need to read unless to prompt].

n=500	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Not sure %	Refused %
A. Requiring health insurance companies to cover everyone even if they had a pre-existing illness	47	26	19	2	3	3	-
B. Requiring health insurance companies to stop dropping people or increasing rates when people are sick	61	21	11	3	2	2	1
C. Strengthening preventative health programs	36	33	23	3	2	2	<.5
D. Requiring all Americans to have health insurance with financial help for those who can't afford it	27	28	25	7	8	4	<.5
E. Allowing Medicare to negotiate with drug companies for lower drug prices for enrollees	54	30	12	1	2	1	-
F. Requiring employers to either offer health insurance to their workers or pay into a public fund for health coverage.	28	25	23	7	10	6	<.5

*Personal Importance/Priority for Government to Address*

Q8. Now, I am going to read some issues facing the health care system today. For each, please tell me how important you feel it is for health reform to address this issue in the coming year. (ITEMS READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) In your opinion should this be one of the top priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important or should not be done at all?

n=500	One of the top priorities %	Important but not top priority %	Not too important %	Should not be done %	Not sure %	Refused %
A. Controlling the overall costs of health care and health insurance	62	27	2	4	4	<.5
B. Improving the overall quality of health services	48	38	8	3	3	<.5
C. Reward doctors and hospitals who can provide high quality of care at a lower cost	44	40	6	6	4	<.5
D. Reducing the number of Americans without health insurance	51	33	8	5	4	<.5
E. Making health insurance available to everyone regardless of their health status	48	35	7	5	5	-

## 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?"

%	n=500
49	Male
52	Female

D2. Do you currently have any chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, or osteoporosis?

%	n=500
47	Yes
52	No
<.5	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D3. Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance or government plans such as Medicare, Medicaid, or military benefits?

%	n=500
93	Yes
7	No
<.5	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
-	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D6. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? [READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]

%	n=500
7	Self-employed full-time
2	Self-employed part-time
22	Employed full-time
8	Employed part-time
57	Retired and not working at all
1	Unemployed and looking for work
3	Or are you not in the labor force for other reasons
-	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
-	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D5. Please stop me when I get to the category that your includes your household's income before taxes in 2008. Was it...[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

%	n=500
8	Less than \$20,000
29	\$20,000 to less than \$50,000
22	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
14	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
11	\$100,000 or more
3	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
14	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D8. What is your age as of your last birthday \_\_\_\_\_

%	n=500
45	50-64
59	65+
1	Refused

D9. What is your 5-digit zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

D10. What county do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

%	n=500
20	Congressional District 1
20	Congressional District 2
20	Congressional District 3
20	Congressional District 4
19	Congressional District 5
1	DK/Refused

D7. Are you or your spouse or partner currently a member of A-A-R-P?"

%	n=500
100	Yes
	No
	DON'T KNOW [DO NOT READ]
	REFUSED [DO NOT READ]

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

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The views expressed herein are for information, debate, and discussion, and do not necessarily represent official policies of AARP.

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