

A decorative graphic is present on the page. It features a solid green rectangle in the top-left corner. A thin grey line extends from the bottom-right corner of this green rectangle, ending in a small yellow square. Another thin grey line extends from the top-left corner of a larger yellow square located at the bottom-right of the page. A large, thin, light-brown arc curves from the top-right towards the bottom-right, passing behind the main title text.

# **Health Care Reform: A Survey of AARP Illinois Members**

April 2009



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**Data collected by Alan Newman Research  
Report Prepared by Brittne M. Nelson**

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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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## Health Care in Illinois: In a State of Crisis

The United States health care system is in a state of crisis. While the U.S. spends twice as much per person on health care than any other developed country, it still under performs on critical measures of success such as health care quality, access, efficiency, equity, and healthy lives.<sup>1</sup> (see page 26 for references) In 2008, \$2.4 trillion was spent on health care in our current mixed public-private health care system, yet 47 million Americans are without health care coverage mainly due to cost.<sup>2,3</sup> The economic crisis of 2009 coupled with spiraling health care costs has made health care reform an imperative issue. This is particularly true in Illinois where the rate of unemployment, currently at 7.9%, has increased every month since December 2007, and 1.7 million residents are without health care coverage.<sup>4</sup> As unemployment rises, more residents will lose their employer-based health care coverage and be among the uninsured or turn to Medicaid, which is already the second largest expenditure for Illinois and the country.<sup>5</sup> Indeed, a recent study found that every one percent increase in unemployment leads to 1.1 million Americans losing health care insurance, 1 million new enrollees in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and a \$1.4 billion increase in state spending on Medicaid.<sup>6</sup>

Given the current economic crisis of states losing revenue in the face of increasing expenses, the health care system will not be sustainable without change. Now is the time for Americans to choose between continuing to support the current broken health care system, or embracing change via a new system that may have unknown benefits and risks.

The debate over health care reform will be a top issue among legislators in 2009. As the Illinois Legislature grapples with how to achieve affordable and accessible health care coverage, AARP's Illinois State Office commissioned a survey to understand members' concerns about the future of health care, current experiences managing health care expenses, and their support for specific ways to improve and expand access to health care coverage. This mail survey of 753 AARP members finds that:

- ✚ **AARP Illinois members are open to change in the problematic health care system.** Most agree that health care in Illinois is in a state of crisis or has major problems, yet members are worried about being without health care, if a new health care system fails, or paying more in a new system than their current plan.
- ✚ **AARP Illinois members are concerned about the affordability of health care.** Four in five members are concerned about having to pay more for their health care coverage, and two-thirds are worried about not being able to afford the health care services they think they need.

- ✚ **Many members have had to make difficult choices to manage their health care costs.** Due to changes in the economy, over half of all members have found it more difficult to pay for essential items such as food and medicine. One in eight has avoided seeking medical help when needed because of the cost, and one in five has not filled or delayed getting a prescription filled due to cost.
- ✚ **Illinois members believe that all State residents should have access to health care.** Eighty-seven percent agree that all Illinois residents should have access to basic health care. About eight in ten believe it is *extremely* or *very important* for Illinois to make health care more affordable and to reduce the number of uninsured residents.
- ✚ **AARP Illinois members support health care reform proposals that promote accessibility and coverage for all residents.** At least three in four members support proposals that would require employers to either provide health insurance to full-time workers or pay into a state fund that would provide coverage, and expand the state government health insurance program to provide coverage for more people.
- ✚ **Women and Hispanic AARP Illinois members have unique experiences managing prescription drug costs, but share similar perspectives about health care reform.** Women and Hispanic members manage their prescription drug costs differently than other members but both groups robustly support proposals that expand health care coverage.
- ✚ **Illinois members say employers, insurance companies, individuals, workers, health care providers, and the government should contribute in order to provide health care coverage.** About eight in ten say employers and insurance companies should contribute so that everyone can have access to quality, affordable health care coverage, and a similar proportion believes state and federal government as well as health care providers should contribute as well.

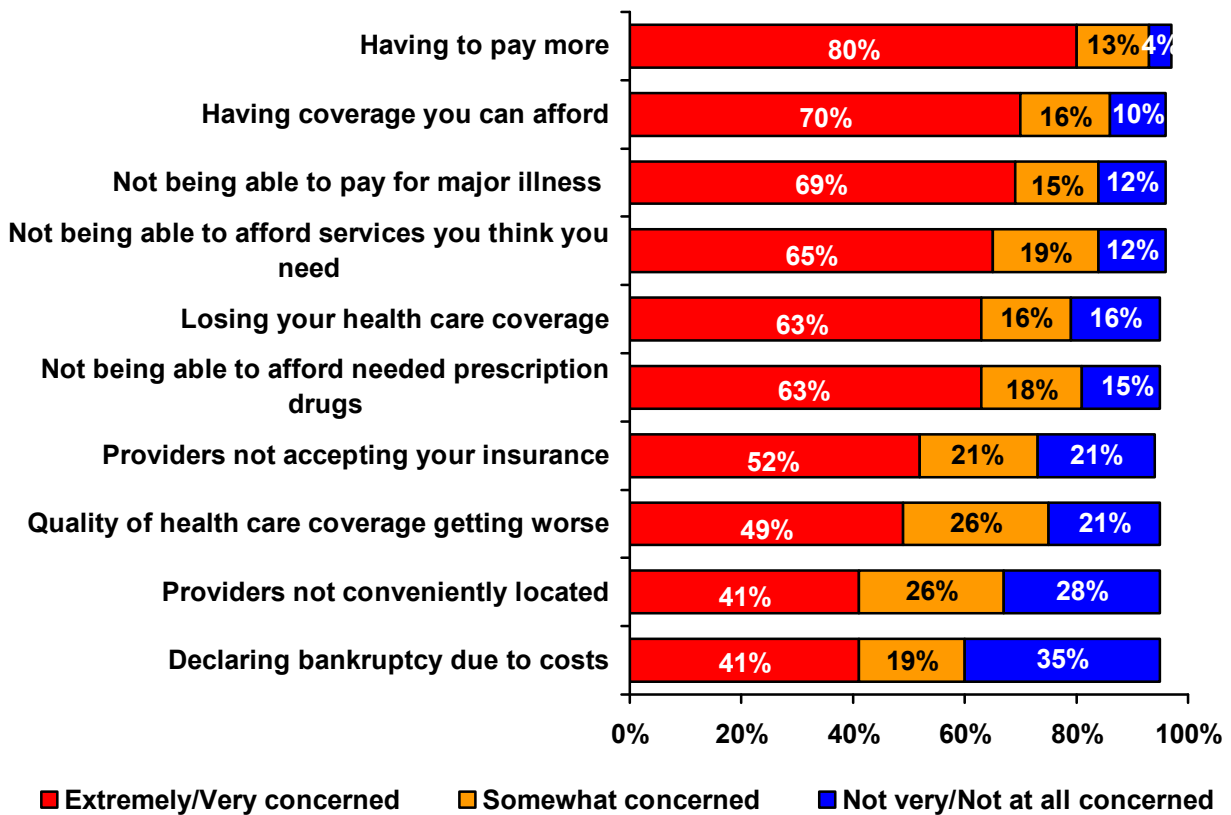
Most Illinois members say health care in Illinois is in a state of crisis or has major problems and many are worried about being able to afford their health care in the future. Members are open to change in the health care system. It is important that any reform proposal includes portability, choice, and more affordable and accessible health care coverage to all state residents. Members support reform proposals that provide security and peace of mind by allowing all residents to have coverage, yet members are worried about being without health care if a new health care system fails or paying more in a new system than their current plan. AARP Illinois members also believe in a system where the cost of providing health care to all state residents is shared among employers, insurers, individuals, workers, health care providers, and the government. As the State works to improve and expand health care to all residents, policymakers should look at the findings in this study as it is an indication of what types of health care reform Illinois residents would support.

## Detailed Findings

When it comes to health care, Illinois residents are concerned primarily with health care costs and the overall coverage of health care.

When asked what worries members the most with regard to health care, having to pay more for their health care, having coverage they can afford, not being able to pay for a major illness, needed services or prescription drugs, and losing health care coverage top the list.

**Illinois Members' Primary Health Care Concerns  
(N=753)\***



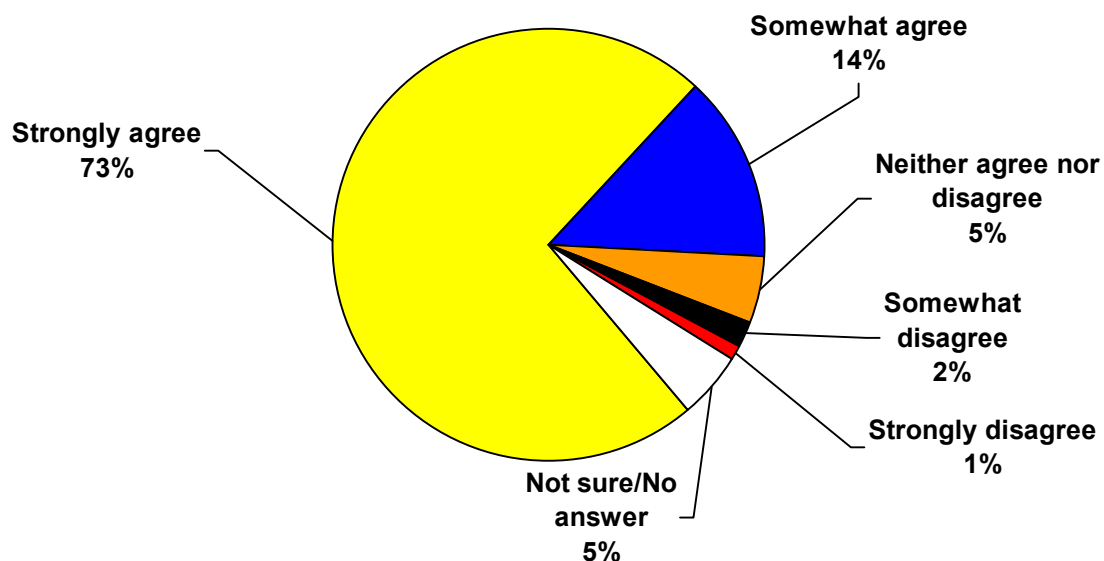
\*Percentages do not sum to 100 due to exclusion of *Missing/No answer* responses.

**About nine in ten Illinois members agree that State residents should have access to affordable, quality health care.**

Illinois residents are concerned about maintaining health care costs, but nearly all agree that all State residents should have access to affordable, quality health care. Only three percent disagree.

Similar proportions of respondents with varying political ideologies agree that all residents should have access to affordable, quality health care (**Conservative:** 80%, **Moderate:** 90%, **Liberal:** 93%). This is a good show of support across the ideological spectrum.

**All Illinois Residents Should Have Access to Affordable, Quality Health Care (N=753)**

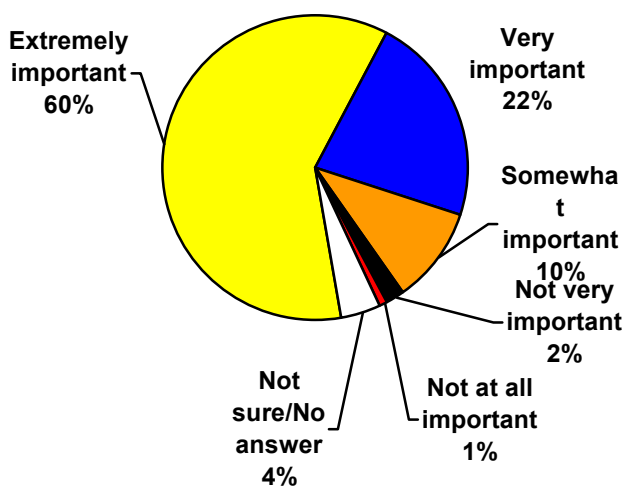


**About four in five Illinois members believe that it is important for the State to make health care more affordable for all residents and to reduce the number of uninsured residents.**

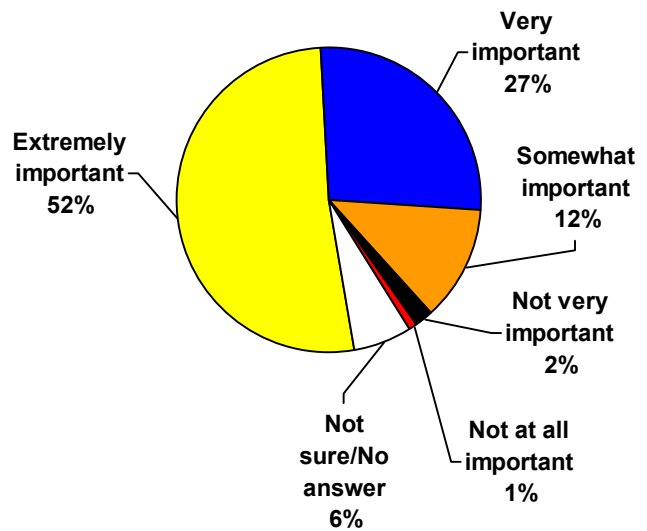
Members are proponents of making health care affordable and accessible to everyone including uninsured residents. About four in five Illinoisans say that it is extremely or very important for the State to make health care more affordable to all residents and another one in ten believes this is somewhat important. Similar proportions believe reducing the number of uninsured residents is also important.

A recent study found that Americans age 50-64 are the fastest growing segment of the uninsured and typically have the highest out-of-pocket medical expenses of any age group.<sup>7</sup> Given this context, it is not surprising that Boomer-age members are more likely than older members to think it is extremely or very important to make health care more affordable (50-59: 90%; 60-74: 81%; 75+: 79%) and to reduce the number of the uninsured (50-59: 85%; 60-74: 80%; 75+: 74%).

**Importance of the State Making Health Care More Affordable to all Residents (N=753)\***



**Importance of Reducing the Number of Uninsured Residents (N=753)\***

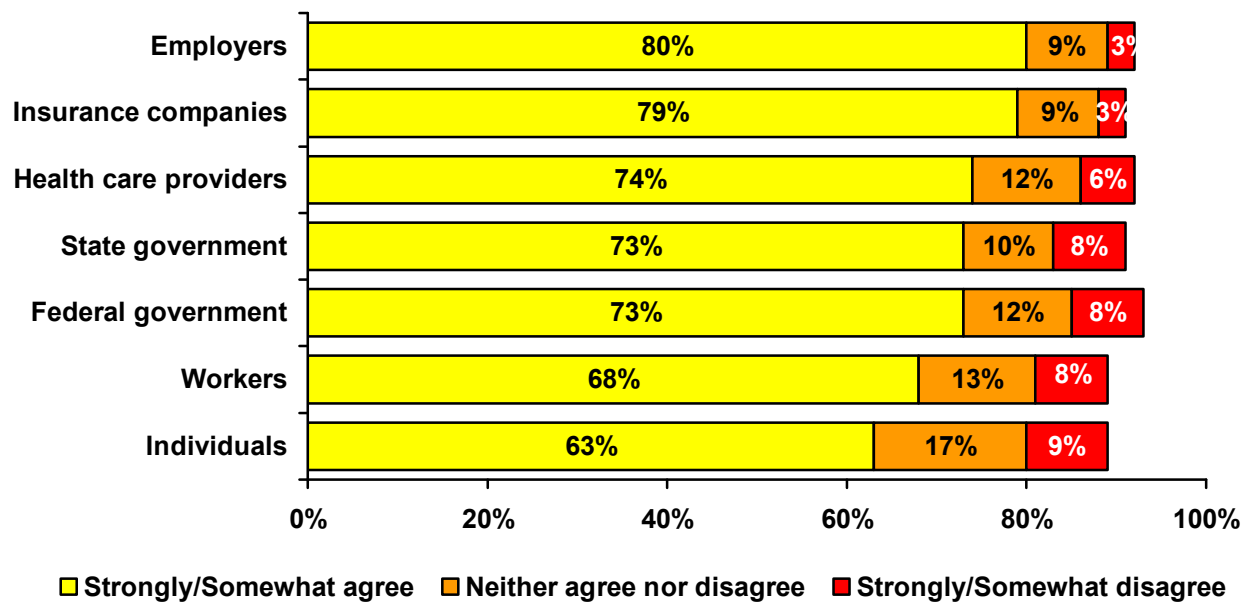


\*Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

**Eight in ten Illinois members say employers and insurance companies should contribute to health care costs so everyone can have access to affordable, quality health care coverage. About three in four also believe that health care providers, state government, and the federal government should contribute to health care costs.**

Illinois members strongly agree that residents should have access to affordable health care coverage. Most respondents say employers, insurance companies, the government, health care providers, workers, and individuals should all be contributors in order to provide everyone with affordable health care coverage.

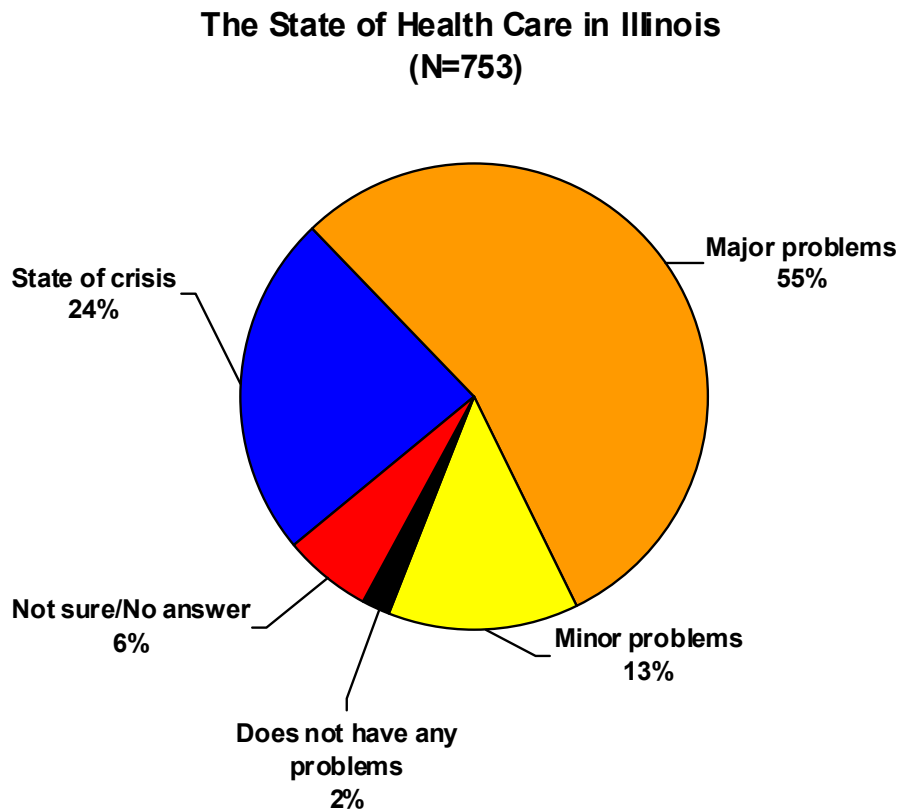
**Entities to Contribute to Quality, Affordable Health Care Coverage (N=753)**



**Illinois members believe the health care system is in a state of crisis or has major problems.**

When asked which statement best describes the state of health care in Illinois, three in four members say it is in a state of crisis (24%) or has major problems (55%). Thirteen percent say it has minor problems and only two percent say it does not have any problems.

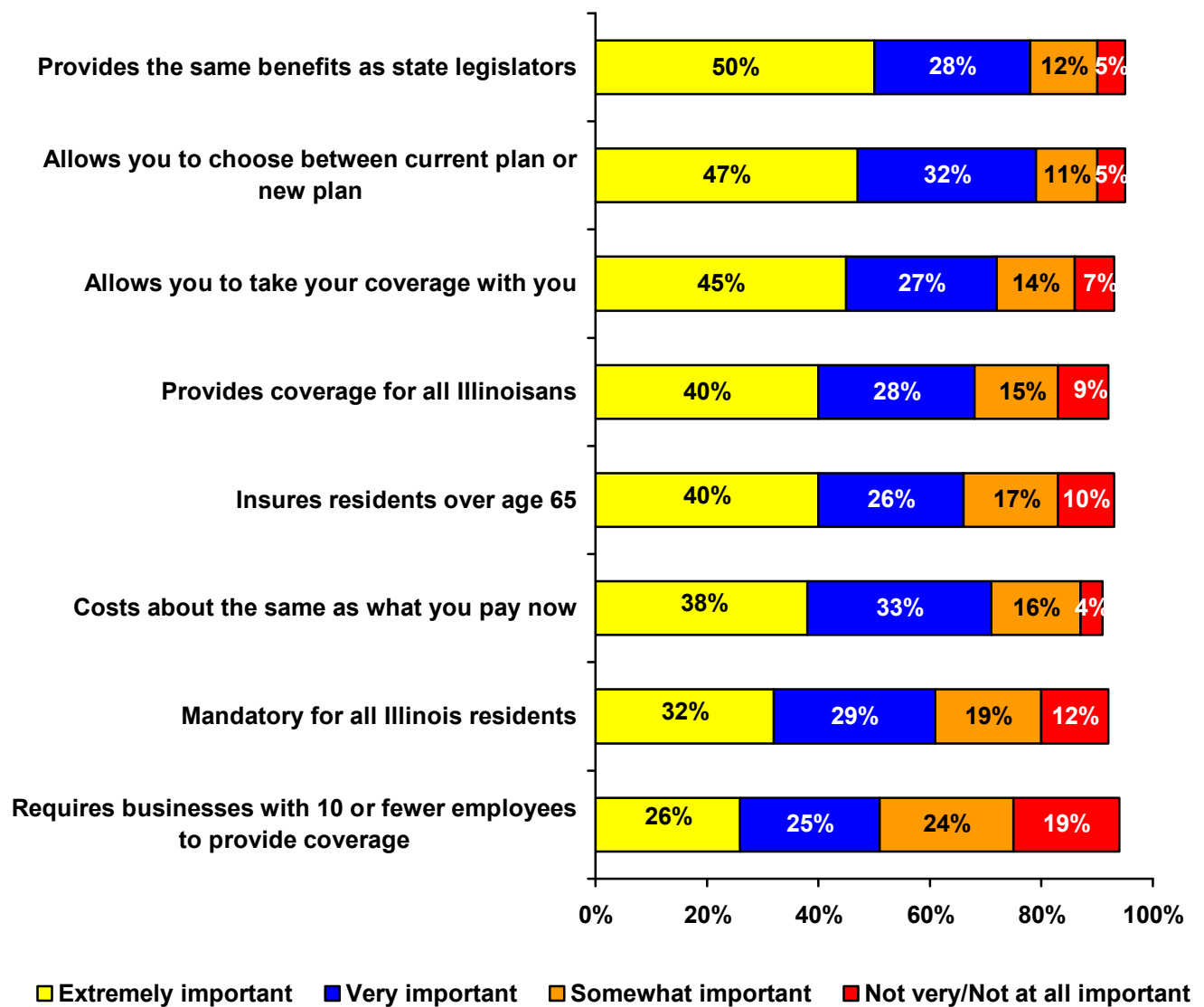
Across all age groups, similar proportions of respondents say that the health care system is in a state of crisis or has major problems (50-59: 87%, 60-74: 79%, 75+: 70%).



**The most important characteristics of a reformed health care system are fairness, choice, portability, and coverage.**

According to members, fairness, choice, portability, and coverage for all Illinoisans are the most important characteristics of a reformed health care system. Specifically, about eight in ten members say that important characteristics of health care reform proposals are providing residents the same benefits as state legislators, and allowing residents to choose between a new plan and their current plan. Seven in ten members say that allowing residents to take their coverage with them and providing coverage for all Illinoisans are health care reform characteristics that are *extremely* or *very* important to them.

**Important Characteristics of Health Care Reform  
(N=753)**



## **Illinois members support proposals that would expand health care coverage for State residents.**

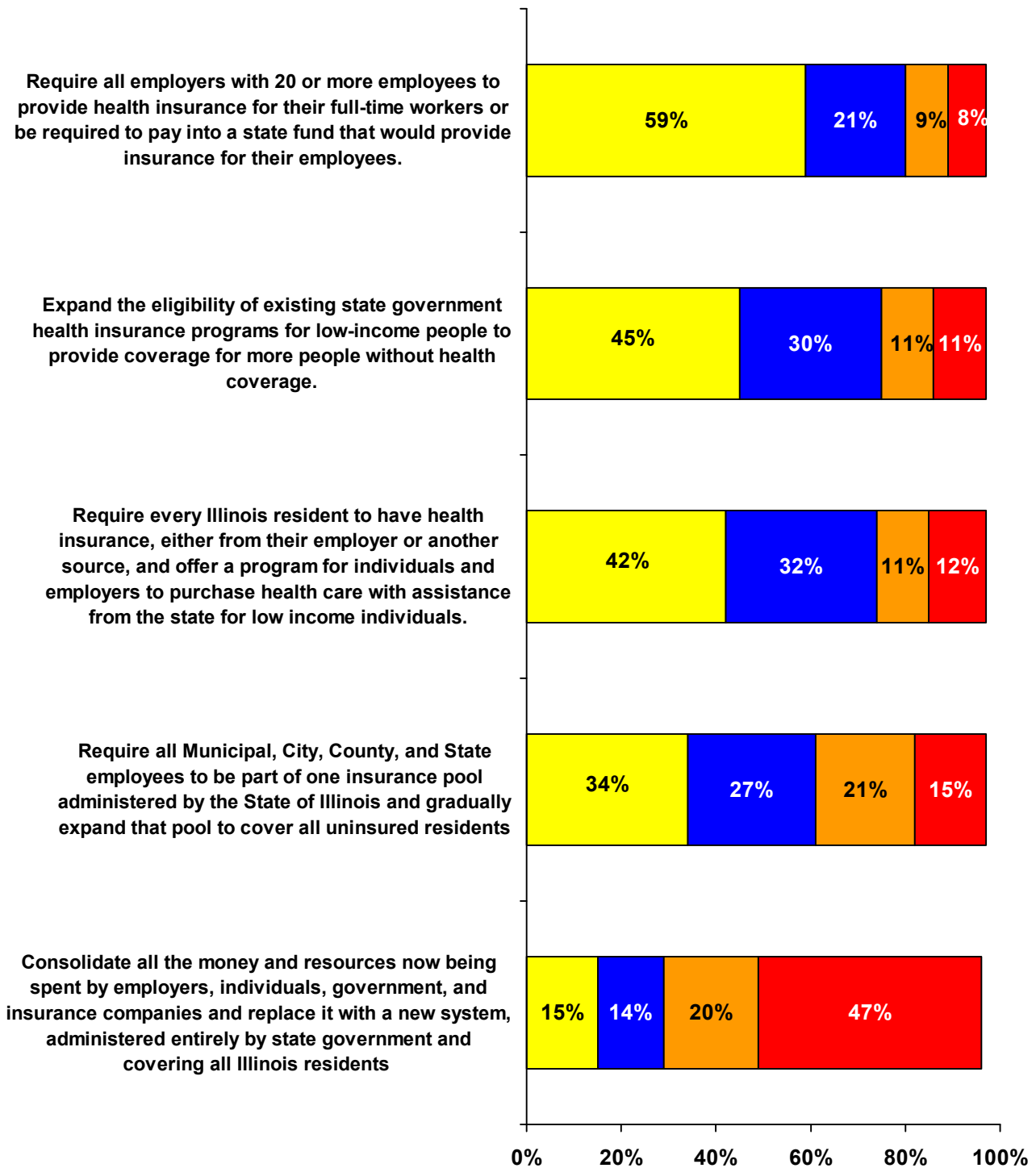
AARP Illinois members were asked about their level of support for specific ways to reform the health care system in Illinois. Respondents were asked about five different proposals. The five proposals were:

- **Require all employers with 20 or more employees to provide health insurance for their full-time workers or be required to pay into a state fund that would provide insurance for their employees.**
- **Expand the eligibility of existing state government health insurance programs for low-income people to provide coverage for more people without health coverage.**
- **Require all Municipal, City, County, and State employees to be part of one insurance pool administered by the State of Illinois and gradually expand that pool to cover all uninsured residents.**
- **Require every Illinois resident to have health insurance, either from their employer or another source, and offer a program for individuals and employers to purchase health care with assistance from the state for low income individuals.**
- **Consolidate all the money and resources now being spent by employers, individuals, government, and insurance companies to operate the current health insurance system and replace it with a new system, administered entirely by state government and covering all Illinois residents. This would require all residents to give up their current health insurance plan and enroll in the new state government plan but would not affect those on Medicare.**

While a majority of Illinois members polled support all five proposals, most (79%) support requiring midsize and larger (20+ employees) employers to provide health insurance for their full-time workers or pay into a state fund that would provide insurance for their employees. Three in four members support expanding the state health care program to provide more coverage to low-income residents. A similar proportion of respondents support requiring every Illinois resident to have health insurance either from an employer, another source, or individually purchased. Each of these top proposals provides a strategy that would expand health care coverage to Illinois residents.

Given that members are worried about being without any health care coverage if a new health care system fails, it is not surprising that the most opposition (47%) is to consolidating all the resources currently spent on health care and replacing it with a new system administered by the State.

## Support for Health Care Coverage Proposals (N=753)



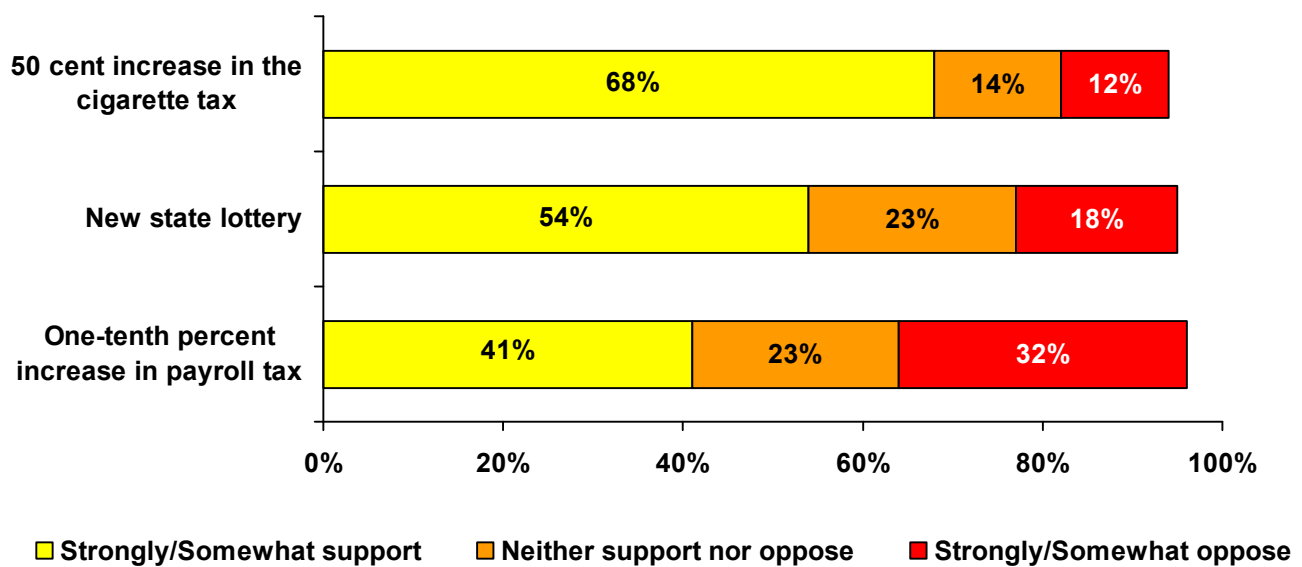
■ Strongly support 
 ■ Somewhat support 
 ■ Neither support nor oppose 
 ■ Somewhat/Strongly oppose

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

## Members support funding changes in the health care system by increasing the cigarette tax and creating a new state lottery to fund health care reform.

Members understand that making changes to the health care system will require revenue. Two in three members support a fifty cent increase in the state cigarette tax, and over half support a new state lottery that would be used specifically to provide affordable, quality health care for all Illinois residents. Fewer members support a one-tenth increase in the payroll tax from 3% to 3.10%. It is not clear which type of payroll tax members were evaluating; payroll tax can include either taxes withheld from an employee's paycheck or taxes paid by an employer. Two in five members do support a payroll tax increase to provide health care coverage.

**Support for Various Revenue Options to Fund Health Care Reform  
(N=753)**



**Members want legislators to lead the fight for health care reform. Over half of all members say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports a plan that would provide affordable, quality health care for all Illinois residents.**

Across five health care issues, two in five (42%) members say ensuring affordable health care coverage should be the one issue the Governor and State Legislature should work on in 2009. Members understand that working to ensure affordable health care coverage for all residents and changing the current health care system takes strong leadership, and they want legislators to lead the fight for health care reform. Over half say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports affordable, quality health care for all Illinois residents.

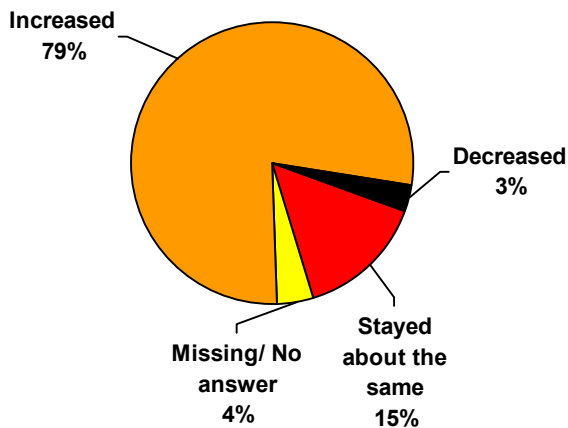
**Likelihood to Vote for a Candidate Who Supports Affordable, Quality Health Care for All Illinois Residents  
(N=753)**



**Out-of-pocket medical expenses have increased for most members. Over half say they have had difficulty paying for essentials such as food and medications due to the economy; one in eight has avoided seeing a doctor due to cost.**

Members have good reason to be concerned about health care costs and they are ready for health care reform. Four in five say their out-of-pocket medical expenses have increased over the past five years. In addition to increasing medical expenses, changes in the economy have caused many members to try to balance rising expenses. Over half of respondents have had difficulty paying for essentials such as food, medication, or gas due to economic changes. It is not surprising that one in eight (13%) has avoided seeing a doctor in the past year due to cost.

**Changes in Out-Of-Pocket Medical Expenses Over the Past Five Years (N=753)**



**Recent Difficulty Paying for Essential Items Due to Economy (N=753)**



**Respondents have made difficult choices to manage health care expenses. About one in five has not filled or delayed filling a prescription due to cost, taken less medicine than prescribed to make it last longer, or cut back on essentials in order to afford prescription drugs.**

AARP Illinois members have been savvy about managing prescription drug costs. Three in four purchase generic drugs to cut costs, two in three ask their doctor or pharmacist for generic drugs when available, and two in five obtain samples from their physician in order to save money. Unfortunately, many members have had to make difficult decisions about their prescription drugs. One in five has not filled or delayed filling a prescription due to cost, and one in six has taken less medicine than prescribed to make it last longer, cut back on essentials in order to afford prescription drugs, or used a drug company discount drug program. See pages 15 through 20 to view how Women and Hispanic members are managing their prescription drug costs.

<b>Behaviors to Manage Prescription Drug Costs (N=753)</b>	
Purchased a generic drug because it cost less	78%
Asked your doctor or pharmacist for generic prescription drugs instead of brand name drugs when generics are available	64%
Obtained samples from your physician in order to save money	41%
Shopped around for the best price	35%
Purchased your prescription drugs by mail or Internet because they cost less	32%
Not filled or delayed getting a prescription filled because you did not have enough money to pay for it	21%
Used a discount drug program offered by a drug company	18%
Taken less medicine than your doctor prescribed to make it last longer	18%
Cut back on items such as food, fuel, electricity or utilities to be able to afford a prescription drug	17%
Purchased a drug discount card	7%

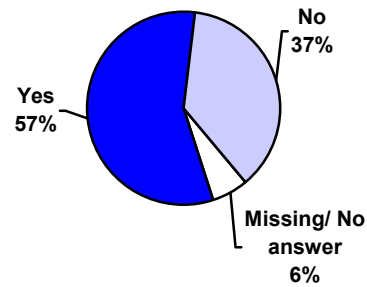
## Women Member Experiences

Out-of-pocket medical expenses have increased and recent changes in the economy have made it difficult for many women to pay for essentials like medicine or food.

**Changes in Out-of-Pocket Medical Expenses Over the Past Five Years (n=419)**



**Recent Difficulty Paying for Essential Items Due to Economy (n=419)**



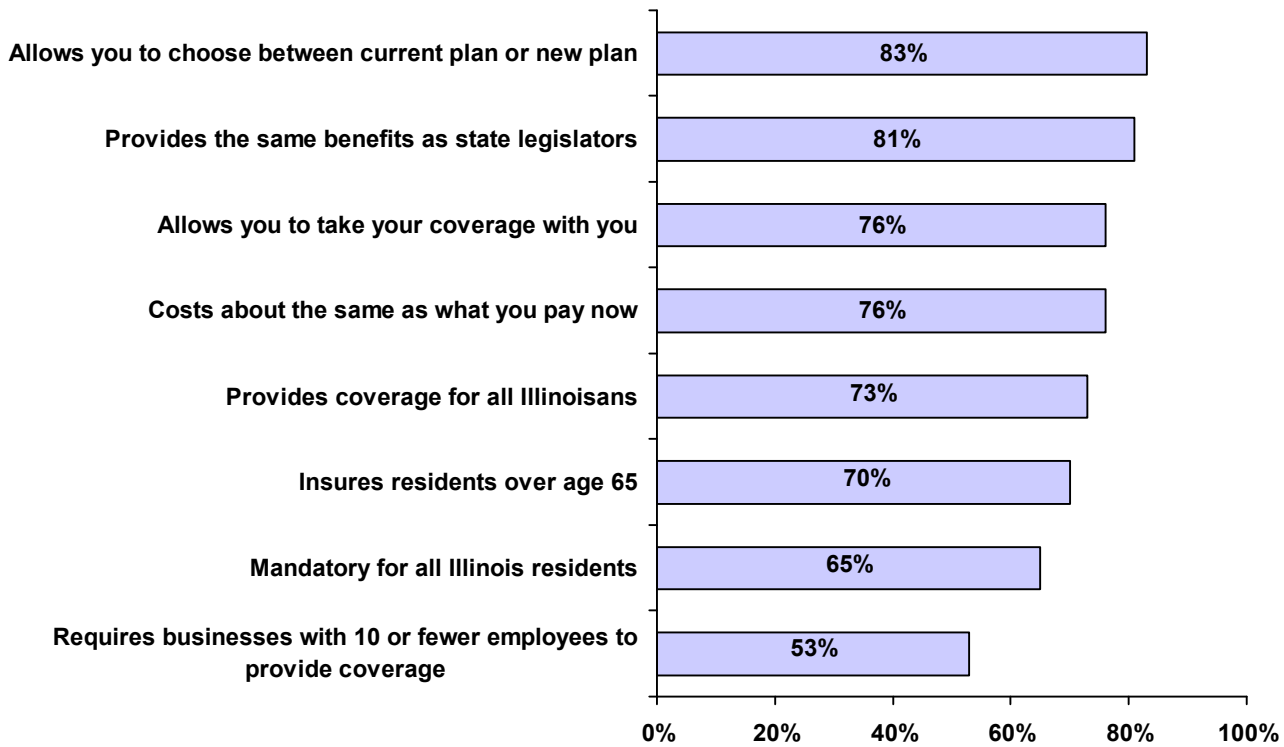
Women are savvy about managing their prescription drug costs by shopping around and purchasing generic drugs, but a high percentage make risky decisions such as taking less medication than prescribed in order to make it last longer.

**Women AARP Members' Behaviors to Manage Prescription Drug Costs (n=419)**

Purchased a generic drug because it costs less	81%
Asked your doctor or pharmacist for generic prescription drugs instead of brand name drugs when generics are available	68%
Obtained samples from your physician in order to save money	43%
Shopped around for the best price	38%
Purchased your prescription drugs by mail or Internet because they cost less	32%
Not filled or delayed getting a prescription filled because you did not have enough money to pay for it	24%
Taken less medicine than your doctor prescribed to make it last longer	21%
Cut back on items such as food, fuel, electricity or utilities to be able to afford a prescription drug	19%
Used a discount drug program offered by a drug company	18%
Purchased a drug discount card	6%

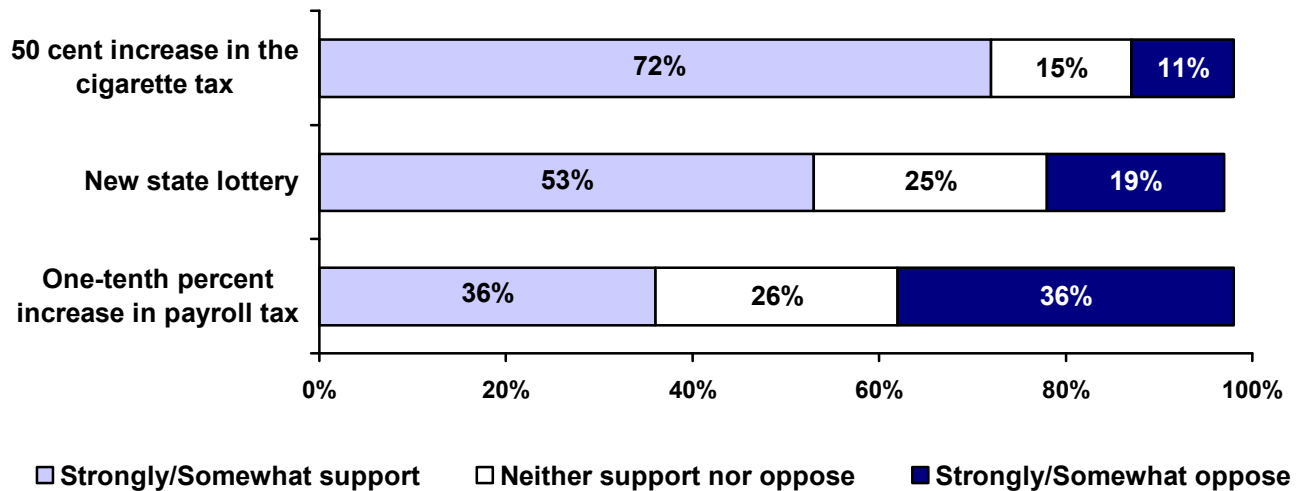
**The top characteristics of health care reform for women AARP Illinois members are choice, fairness, and portability.**

**Important Characteristics of Reform  
(n=419)\***



\*Extremely or Very Important

**Women Members' Support for Various Revenue Options to Fund Health Care Reform  
(n=419)**

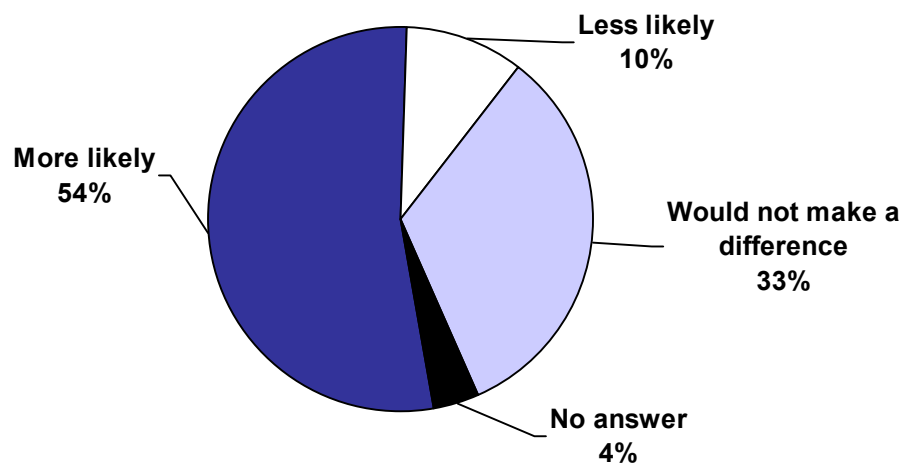


**Women AARP Illinois members support health care reform proposals that expand coverage. Fewer support a proposal that would consolidate all the money and resources into one system.**

<b>Women’s Support for Health Care Reform Proposals</b>	
Require all midsize+ employers to provide health insurance for their full-time workers or be required to pay into a state fund that would provide insurance for their employees.	81%
Expand the eligibility of existing state government health insurance programs for low-income people to provide coverage for more people without health coverage.	76%
Require every Illinois resident to have health insurance, either from their employer or another source, and offer a program for individuals and employers to purchase health care with assistance from the state for low income individuals.	76%
Require all Municipal, City, County, and State employees to be part of one insurance pool administered by the State and gradually expand that pool to cover all uninsured residents.	62%
Consolidate all the money and resources now being spent on the current health insurance system and replace it with a new system, administered entirely by the State and covering all residents.	26%

**More than half of all female Illinois members would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports health care reform.**

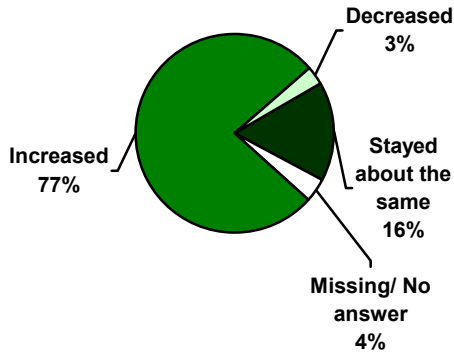
**Likelihood to Vote for a Candidate Who Supports Affordable, Quality Health Care for all Illinois Residents (n=419)**



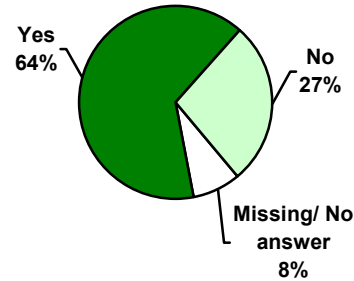
## Hispanic Member Experiences

Out-of-pocket medical expenses have increased and recent changes in the economy have made it difficult for two in three Hispanic Illinois members to pay for essentials like medicine or food.

**Changes in Out-of-Pocket Medical Expenses Over the Past Five Years (n=144)**



**Recent Difficulty Paying for Essential Items Due to Economy (n=144)**



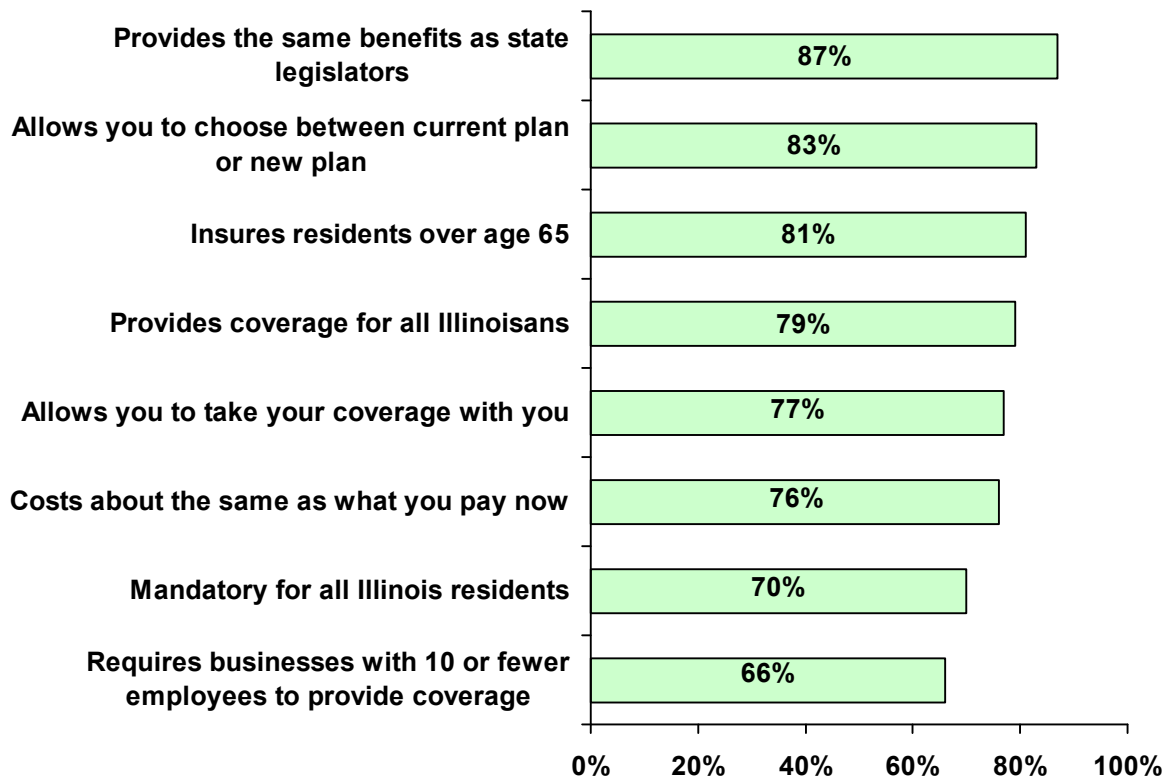
Although many Hispanic members shop around for the best price for their prescriptions, many do not ask their physician for free samples.

**Hispanic AARP Members' Behaviors to Manage Prescription Drug Costs (n=144)**

Purchased a generic drug because it costs less	73%
Asked your doctor or pharmacist for generic prescription drugs instead of brand name drugs when generics are available	57%
Shopped around for the best price	39%
Obtained samples from your physician in order to save money	38%
Purchased your prescription drugs by mail or Internet because they cost less	26%
Not filled or delayed getting a prescription filled because you did not have enough money to pay for it	24%
Cut back on items such as food, fuel, electricity or utilities to be able to afford a prescription drug	21%
Taken less medicine than your doctor prescribed to make it last longer	19%
Used a discount drug program offered by a drug company	19%
Purchased a drug discount card	10%

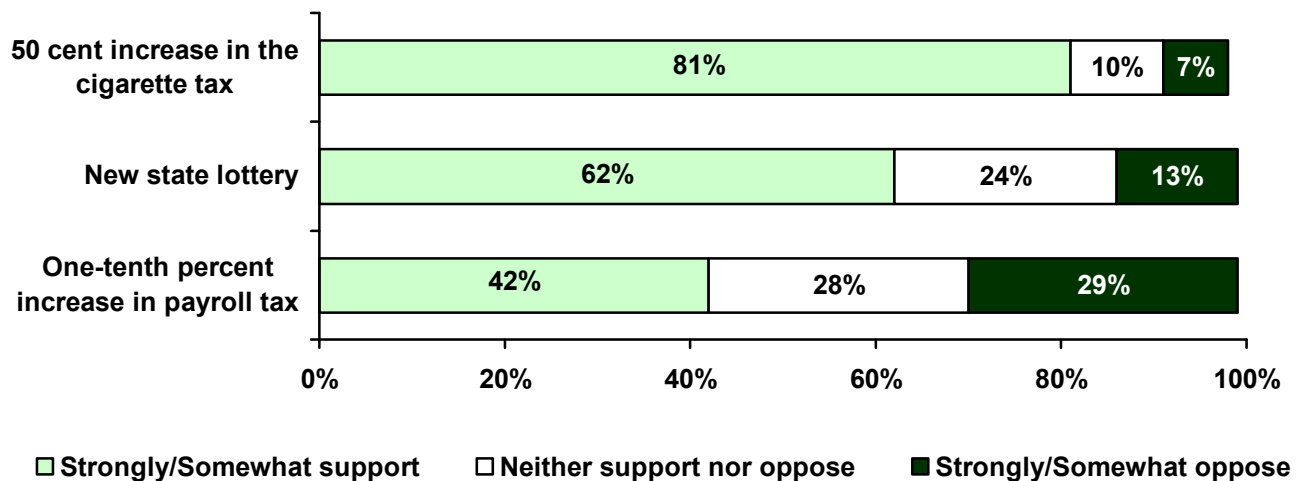
The top characteristics of reform for Hispanic members are equality, choice, and universal coverage.

**Important Characteristics of Reform**  
(n=144)\*



\*Extremely or Very Important

**Hispanic Members' Support for Various Revenue Options to Fund Health Care Reform**  
(n=144)

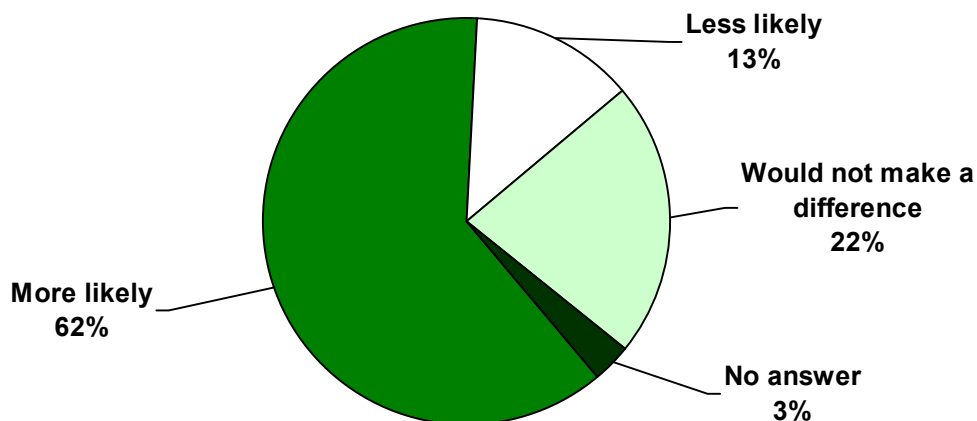


**Hispanic members robustly support health care reform proposals that expand coverage. Fewer support a proposal that would consolidate all the money and resources into one system.**

<b>Hispanic Members' Support Health Care Reform Proposals</b>	
Expand the eligibility of existing state government health insurance programs for low-income people to provide coverage for more people without health coverage.	94%
Require all midsize+ employers to provide health insurance for their full-time workers or be required to pay into a state fund that would provide insurance for their employees.	90%
Require every Illinois resident to have health insurance, either from their employer or another source, and offer a program for individuals and employers to purchase health care with assistance from the state for low income individuals.	86%
Require all Municipal, City, County, and State employees to be part of one insurance pool administered by the State and gradually expand that pool to cover all uninsured residents.	79%
Consolidate all the money and resources now being spent on the current health insurance system and replace it with a new system, administered entirely by the State and covering all residents.	46%

**About two in three Hispanic Illinois members would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports health care reform.**

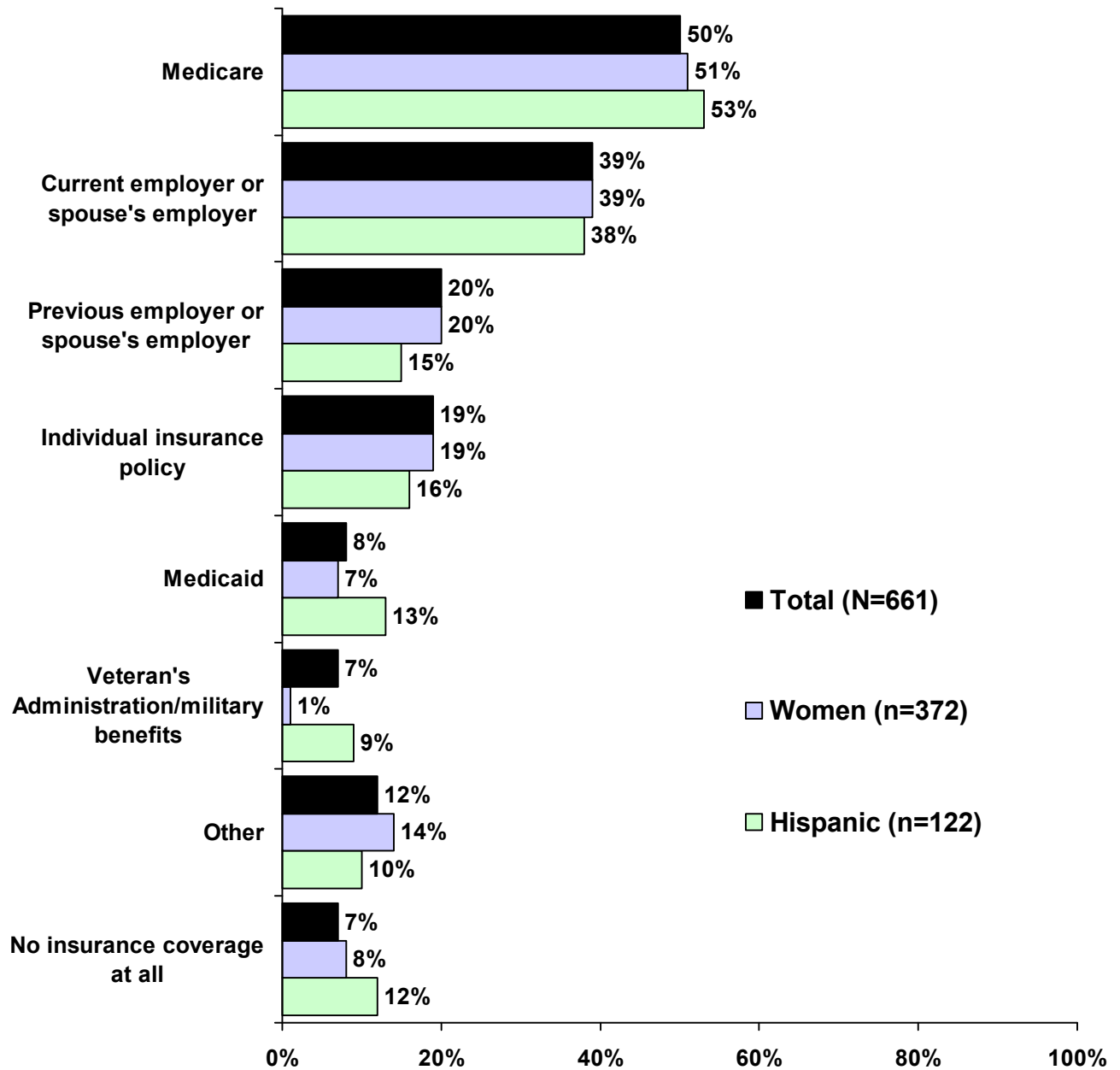
**Likelihood to Vote for a Candidate Who Supports Affordable, Quality Health Care for all Illinois Residents (n=144)**



## Respondent Profile

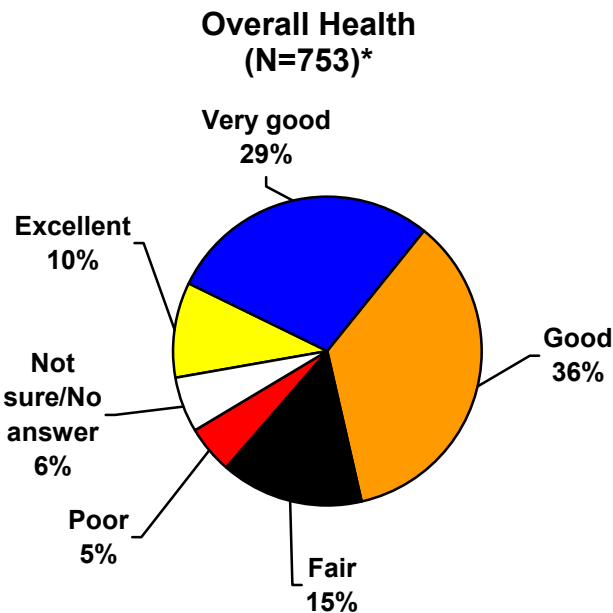
It is important to note that seven percent of all AARP Illinois members do not have any kind of health care coverage. Hispanic members were more likely to not have any health care coverage. Of those with coverage, similar proportions maintain such coverage through Medicare, employer-sponsored coverage, or an individually purchased health care policy.

**Types of Health Care Coverage**



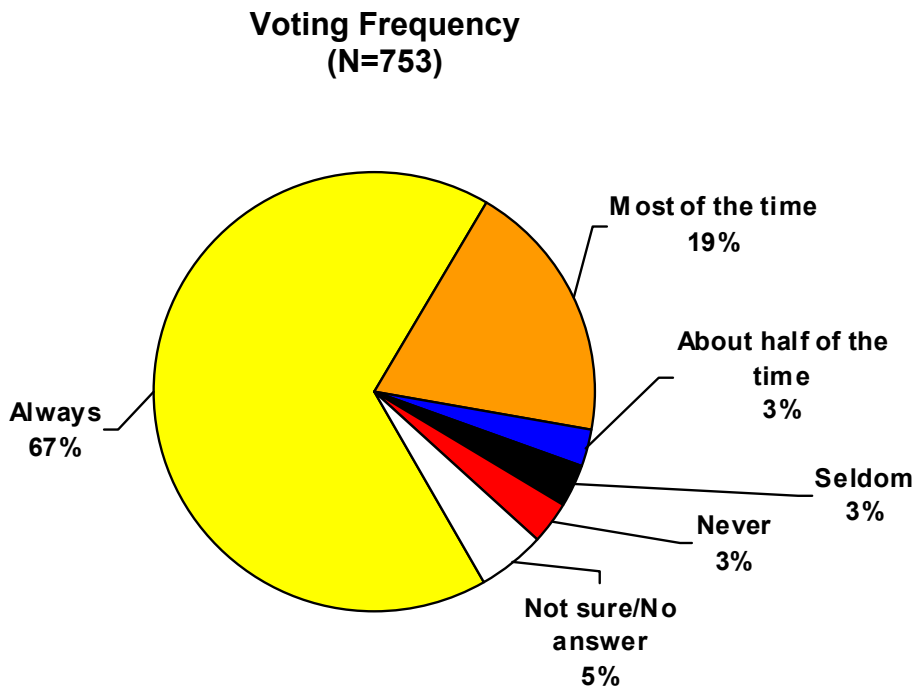
Seventy-five percent of Illinois members say they are in *excellent*, *very good*, or *good* health. Six in ten (59%) say they have a chronic medical condition such as diabetes, high blood pressure, or osteoporosis.

Hispanic and female members share the same rate of responses to questions about overall health. Female members are more likely than male members to say they have a chronic medical conditions (Female: 67%, Male: 54%).



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

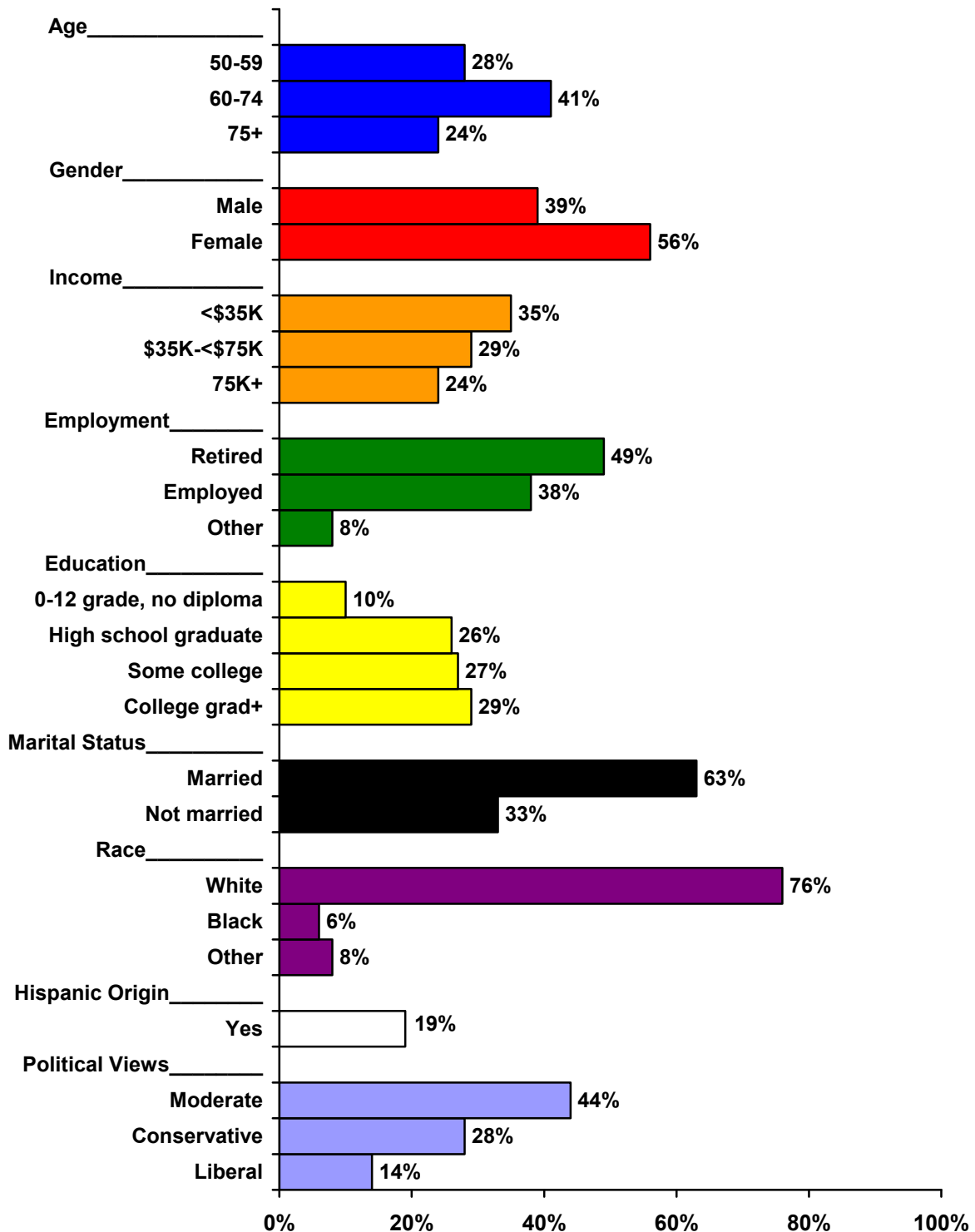
Four in five AARP Illinois members say they vote *always* or *most of the time* in state elections. Hispanic and female members share the same rates of voting frequency.



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<http://www.bls.gov/LAU/>
- <sup>5</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. (2009) Distribution of State General Fund Expenditures, in millions, SFY2007.  
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- <sup>6</sup> Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, (2008). Unemployment's Impact on Uninsured and Medicaid. <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/kcmu042808pkg.cfm>
- <sup>7</sup> Smolka, G., Purvis, L. and Figueiredo, C. (2009). Health Care Reform: What's at Stake for 50-64 Year Olds? AARP Public Policy Institute.  
[http://www.aarp.org/research/health/carefinancing/i24\\_hcr.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/health/carefinancing/i24_hcr.html)

## Demographics (N=753)\*



\* Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding effects, as well as the exclusion of *Not sure* and *Missing/No answer* responses.

## Methodology

AARP conducted the *2008 Survey of AARP Illinois Members* between October 31 and December 1, 2008. Mail surveys were sent to a randomly selected sample of 2,000 members. An additional 1,000 mail surveys were sent to a randomly selected sample of likely Hispanic AARP members in the following counties: Cook, DuPage, Lake, Will, Kane, Grundy, and McHenry.

Each sampled member was contacted about the survey in four ways: a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey. Of the 2,000 surveyed, 417 returned surveys by the end date. Of the 1,000 surveyed, 336 returned completed questionnaires by the survey end date, yielding a total of sample size of 753 and a response rate of 25 percent. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.1 percent.

Survey responses were weighted to reflect the distribution of AARP members. As of February 28, 2009, there are 1.7 million active AARP members residing in the state of Illinois. Throughout the report, statistics representing member responses are reported in percentages. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding effects.

**APPENDIX**  
**ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE**

# 2008 AARP Illinois Member Survey

N=753, Response Rate 25%, Standard Error 3.1%

**1. Which of these statements do you think best describes the state of health care in Illinois today?**

- 24% It is in a state of crisis
- 55% It has major problems
- 13% It has minor problems
- 2% It does not have any problems
- 6% Missing / No Answer

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

- 88% Yes
- 7% No → [SKIP TO QUESTION 7]
- <0.5% Not sure
- 6% Missing / No Answer

**3. Do you have any of the following kinds of health care coverage? N=661**

	Yes	No	Not Sure	Missing / No Answer
	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. A health care plan sponsored by a current employer .....	26%	47%	1%	26%
b. A health care plan sponsored by your spouse's current employer .....	13%	55%	1%	31%
c. A health care plan sponsored by a previous employer (or spouse's previous employer), such as a retirement benefit or COBRA .....	20%	51%	<0.5%	28%
d. Veterans Administration or military benefits .....	7%	58%	<0.5%	35%
e. An individually purchased health care policy on your own .....	19%	46%	1%	34%
f. Medicaid, or some other state insurance program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain low-income individuals .....	8%	55%	1%	36%
g. Any other insurance coverage .....	12%	47%	1%	40%
h. Medicare, the program that provides health insurance primarily to people age 65 and older → [IF NO SKIP TO QUESTION 6] .....	50%	27%	<0.5%	23%

**4. Do you also have a Medicare supplement plan, such as one that pays the co-payments and deductibles of Medicare? N=335**

- 66% Yes
- 24% No
- 7% Not sure
- 3% Missing / No Answer

**5. Do you also have a Medicare Part D plan that covers prescription drugs?**

- 52% Yes
- 43% No
- 3% Not sure
- 1% Missing / No Answer

**6. How satisfied are you with your current health care coverage? N=661**

- 15% Completely satisfied
- 31% Very satisfied
- 36% Somewhat satisfied
- 10% Not very satisfied
- 4% Not at all satisfied
- 4% Missing / No Answer

**7. 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 increased, decreased, or stayed about the same over the past five years? N=753**

- 79% Increased over the past five years
- 3% Decreased over the past five years
- 15% Stayed about the same
- 4% Missing / No Answer

**8. Looking ahead to the next five years, how concerned are you about each of the following?**

	Extremely Concerned	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Very Concerned	Not at all Concerned	Missing/No Answer
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. Having to pay more for your health care.....	51%	29%	13%	3%	1%	3%
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need.....	41%	24%	19%	9%	3%	4%
c. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need.....	37%	26%	18%	11%	3%	4%
d. Not having health care providers that are conveniently located .....	20%	21%	26%	19%	8%	5%
e. Not having health care providers that accept your health insurance .....	28%	24%	21%	14%	7%	6%
f. Having adequate health coverage at a cost you can afford .....	42%	28%	16%	7%	3%	5%
g. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse.....	23%	26%	26%	14%	6%	5%
h. Not being able to pay for the costs associated with a major illness or injury.....	42%	27%	15%	9%	3%	4%
i. Losing your health care insurance or health care coverage .....	43%	21%	16%	11%	5%	4%
j. Declaring bankruptcy because of health care costs.....	27%	14%	19%	21%	14%	4%

**9. Was there a time in the past two years when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost?**

13% Yes  
 81% No  
 6% Missing / No Answer

**10. Many people face difficult decisions when buying prescription drugs. In the last 12 months have you done any of the following?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Missing /No Answer</b>
	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. Obtained samples from your physician in order to save money.....	41%	47%	2%	10%
b. Purchased a generic drug because it cost less.....	78%	13%	1%	9%
c. Used a discount drug program offered by a drug company ..	18%	68%	3%	11%
d. Purchased a drug discount card .....	7%	78%	3%	12%
e. Shopped around for the best price .....	35%	52%	2%	11%
f. Not filled or delayed getting a prescription filled because you did not have enough money to pay for it .....	21%	68%	2%	10%
g. Taken less medicine than your doctor prescribed to make it last longer .....	18%	70%	1%	11%
h. Cut back on items such as food, fuel, electricity or utilities to be able to afford a prescription drug.....	17%	71%	2%	10%
i. Asked your doctor or pharmacist for generic prescription drugs instead of brand name drugs when generics are available .....	64%	26%	1%	10%
j. Purchased your prescription drugs by mail or Internet because they cost less .....	32%	57%	1%	10%

**11. Have you or your family found it more difficult to pay for essential items such as food, gas, and medicine due to recent changes in the economy?**

- 57% Yes
- 36% No
- 7% Missing / No Answer

**12. How important do you think it is for Illinois to make health care affordable for all residents?**

- 60% Extremely important
- 22% Very important
- 10% Somewhat important
- 2% Not very important
- 1% Not at all important
- 4% Missing / No Answer

**13. How important do you think it is for Illinois to reduce the number of residents without health care coverage?**

- 52% Extremely important
- 27% Very important
- 12% Somewhat important
- 2% Not very important
- 1% Not at all important
- 6% Missing / No Answer

**14. How strongly do you agree or disagree that all Illinois residents should have access to affordable, quality health care?**

- 73% Strongly agree
- 14% Somewhat agree
- 5% Neither agree nor disagree
- 2% Somewhat disagree
- 1% Strongly disagree
- 5% Missing / No Answer

**15. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the following entities should contribute so that everyone can have access to quality, affordable health care coverage?**

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree nor Disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Missing / No Answer</b>
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. Employers .....	59%	21%	9%	1%	2%	9%
b. Workers.....	36%	32%	13%	4%	4%	11%
c. Federal Government.....	49%	24%	12%	3%	4%	8%
d. State Government .....	48%	26%	10%	4%	4%	9%
e. Insurance companies.....	58%	21%	9%	1%	2%	10%
f. Individuals.....	31%	32%	17%	5%	4%	12%
g. Health care providers such as hospitals.....	47%	27%	12%	2%	3%	8%

**16. Below is a list of characteristics of proposals for health care reform in Illinois. How important is each characteristic to you?**

	<b>Extremely Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not Very Important</b>	<b>Not at all Important</b>	<b>Missing / No Answer</b>
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. Provided the same benefits as those given to state legislators	50%	28%	12%	3%	2%	6%
b. Insured residents over age 65, even if they were eligible for Medicare	40%	26%	17%	7%	4%	7%
c. Was mandatory for all Illinois residents	32%	28%	19%	6%	5%	10%
d. Provided coverage for all Illinois residents	40%	28%	15%	4%	5%	8%
e. Cost you about the same amount that you pay in health care costs now	38%	33%	16%	2%	2%	9%
f. Allowed individuals to choose to keep their current plan or switch to the new state plan	47%	32%	11%	2%	2%	7%
g. Allowed you to take your insurance coverage with you when you changed jobs or spent part of the year in another state	45%	27%	14%	4%	3%	7%
h. Required small business, those with 10 employees or fewer, to provide health insurance coverage for their employees	26%	25%	24%	9%	9%	6%

17. Below are five proposals for providing health care coverage for all Illinois residents. Please read each proposal and answer how strongly you support or oppose each proposal.

a. **PROPOSAL ONE** - How strongly do you support or oppose requiring all employers with 20 or more employees to provide health insurance for their full-time workers or be required to pay into a state fund that would provide insurance for their employees?

- 59% Strongly support
- 21% Somewhat support
- 9% Neither support nor oppose
- 4% Somewhat oppose
- 4% Strongly oppose
- 4% Missing / No Answer

b. **PROPOSAL TWO** - How strongly do you support or oppose expanding the eligibility of existing state government health insurance programs for low-income people to provide coverage for more people without health coverage?

- 45% Strongly support
- 30% Somewhat support
- 11% Neither support nor oppose
- 6% Somewhat oppose
- 5% Strongly oppose
- 3% Missing / No Answer

c. **PROPOSAL THREE** - How strongly do you support or oppose requiring all Municipal, City, County, and State employees to be part of one insurance pool administered by the State of Illinois and gradually expand that pool to cover all uninsured residents?

- 34% Strongly support
- 27% Somewhat support
- 21% Neither support nor oppose
- 6% Somewhat oppose
- 9% Strongly oppose
- 3% Missing / No Answer

d. **PROPOSAL FOUR** - How strongly do you support or oppose requiring every Illinois resident to have health insurance, either from their employer or another source, and offer a program for individuals and employers to purchase health care with assistance from the state for low income individuals?

- 42% Strongly support
- 32% Somewhat support
- 11% Neither support nor oppose
- 6% Somewhat oppose
- 7% Strongly oppose
- 3% Missing / No Answer

- e. **PROPOSAL FIVE - How strongly do you support or oppose consolidating all the money and resources now being spent by employers, individuals, government, and insurance companies to operate the current health insurance system and replace it with a new system, administered entirely by state government and covering all Illinois residents? This would require all residents to give up their current health insurance plan and enroll in the new state government plan but would not affect those on Medicare.**

- 15% Strongly support
- 14% Somewhat support
- 20% Neither support nor oppose
- 17% Somewhat oppose
- 31% Strongly oppose
- 4% Missing / No Answer

**18. Thinking about the health care reform proposals described above, how worried are you about each of the following?**

	Extremely Worried	Very Worried	Somewhat Worried	Not Very Worried	Not at all Worried	Missing/ No Answer
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
a. These plans will drive businesses out of the state .....	23%	23%	32%	11%	3%	9%
b. Too many people will move to Illinois for health care .....	22%	19%	29%	18%	3%	9%
c. The new system will be too difficult to administer .....	29%	22%	30%	8%	2%	9%
d. It will end up costing more than my current plan .....	37%	26%	20%	6%	2%	8%
e. If this system fails, I will be without health care .....	39%	22%	15%	10%	4%	9%
f. I will be paying for people who aren't working but are getting the benefit of health care .....	33%	20%	23%	11%	5%	8%

- 19. If revenues would be used to specifically ensure that all state residents have access to quality, affordable health care coverage would you support or oppose a .50 cent increase in the cigarette tax from .98 cents per pack to \$1.48 cents per pack?**
- 54% Strongly support
  - 14% Somewhat support
  - 14% Neither support nor oppose
  - 3% Somewhat oppose
  - 9% Strongly oppose
  - 5% Missing / No Answer
- 20. If revenues would be used to specifically ensure that all state residents have access to quality, affordable health care coverage would you support or oppose a new Illinois state lottery?**
- 30% Strongly support
  - 23% Somewhat support
  - 23% Neither support nor oppose
  - 4% Somewhat oppose
  - 14% Strongly oppose
  - 5% Missing / No Answer
- 21. If revenues would be used to specifically ensure that all state residents have access to quality, affordable health care coverage would you support or oppose an increase in the Illinois state payroll tax from 3% to 3.10%?**
- 16% Strongly support
  - 24% Somewhat support
  - 23% Neither support nor oppose
  - 12% Somewhat oppose
  - 20% Strongly oppose
  - 5% Missing / No Answer
- 22. If a candidate for state office supported a plan that would provide affordable, quality health care for all Illinois residents, would that make you more likely to vote for that candidate, less likely to vote that candidate, or would it not make a difference?**
- 54% More likely
  - 11% Less likely
  - 31% Would not make a difference
  - 5% Missing / No Answer

**23. Of the following five health care issues, which ONE issue do you think the Governor and State Legislature should work on in 2009? Please choose only ONE issue.**

- 13% Expanding coverage for the uninsured
- 14% Improving health care quality and reducing medical errors
- 10% Improving access to health care services and providers
- 15% Limiting the costs of prescription drugs
- 42% Ensuring affordable health care coverage
- 6% Missing / No Answer

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

**D1. What is your gender?**

- 39% Male
- 56% Female
- 5% Missing / No Answer

**D2. In general, how would you describe your health status today?**

- 10% Excellent
- 29% Very good
- 36% Good
- 15% Fair
- 5% Poor
- 6% Missing / No Answer

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

- 59% Yes
- 36% No
- 5% Missing / No Answer

**D4. What is your age as of your last birthday? [IN YEARS] \_\_\_\_\_**

- 28% 50 – 59
- 41% 60 – 74
- 24% 75+
- 8% Missing / No Answer

**D5. What is your current marital status? Are you....**

- 63% Married
- 2% Not married, living with your partner or significant other
- 1% Separated
- 8% Divorced
- 18% Widowed
- 4% Currently single and never Married
- 4% Missing / No Answer

**D6. What is the highest level of education that you completed?**

- 10% 0 to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, but with no diploma
- 26% High school graduate or equivalent
- 19% Post high school education, but with no degree
- 9% 2 year degree
- 10% 4 year degree
- 5% Post graduate study, but with no degree
- 14% Graduate or professional degree
- 7% Missing / No Answer

**D7. Thinking about your federal and state elections for Illinois Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, which of the following best describes your voting behavior?**

- 67% Always vote
- 19% Vote most of the time
- 3% Vote about half of the time
- 3% Seldom vote
- 3% Never vote
- 5% Missing / No Answer

**D8. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**

- 4% Self-employed full-time
- 3% Self-employed part-time
- 22% Employed full-time
- 9% Employed part-time
- 49% Retired and not working at all
- 3% Unemployed and looking for work
- 5% Not in the labor force for other reasons
- 5% Missing / No Answer

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

- 19% Yes
- 74% No
- 1% Not sure
- 6% Missing / No Answer

**D10. What is your race?**

- 76% White or Caucasian
- 6% Black or African American
- <0.5% Native American or Alaskan Native
- 3% Asian
- 1% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 3% Or are you some other race? [Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_]
- 10% Missing / No Answer

**D11. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?**

- 45% Democrat
- 23% Republican
- 21% Independent
- 5% Other
- 6% Missing / No Answer

**D12. How would you characterize your political views?**

- 28% Conservative
- 44% Moderate
- 14% Liberal
- 9% None of the above
- 6% Missing / No Answer

**D13. What is your 5-digit zip code? \_\_\_\_\_**

**D14. In general, how often do you go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?**

- 23% Several times a day
- 17% About once a day
- 8% 3-5 days a week
- 7% 1-2 days a week
- 3% Once every few weeks
- 3% Once a month or less
- 36% You never go online to use the Internet or World Wide Web
- 4% Missing / No Answer

**D15. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2007?**

16%	Less than \$20,000
20%	\$20,000 to less than \$35,000
15%	\$35,000 to less than \$50,000
14%	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
9%	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
9%	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000
5%	\$150,000 or more
12%	Missing / No Answer

**Thank you for your time!**

Please return this important survey in the postage-paid envelope by December 1, 2008 to:  
AARP, State Member Research, 601 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20049



**AARP**

**Knowledge Management**

**For more information, please contact Joanne Binette at:**

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