



**Ready for Change:
Opinions of
Pennsylvanians Age
50+ on Health Care
Reform**

March 2008



Ready for Change: Opinions of Pennsylvanians Age 50+ on Health Care Reform

**Report Prepared by
Brittne M. Nelson and Katherine Bridges**

**Copyright © 2008
AARP
Knowledge Management
601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049
www.aarp.org/research
Reprinting with Permission**

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. We produce *AARP The Magazine*, published bimonthly; *AARP Bulletin*, our monthly newspaper; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, our bimonthly magazine in Spanish and English; *NRTA Live & Learn*, our quarterly newsletter for 50+ educators; and our website, www.aarp.org. AARP Foundation is our affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Acknowledgements

AARP staff from the Pennsylvania State Office, Government Relations and Advocacy, and Knowledge Management contributed to the design and implementation of the study. Thanks go to Ray Landis, AARP Pennsylvania; Ed Dale and Brian Elms, Government Relations and Advocacy; Michael Schuster, Office of General Counsel; and Rachelle Cummins, Darlene Matthews, Jennifer Leslie, Joanne Binette, and John Fries from Knowledge Management State Research. Kate Bridges from State Research designed the survey, managed all aspects of the project and co-authored the report with Brittne Nelson. Thanks also go to staff at FGI, Inc. who conducted the interviews and tabulated the survey results. For more information, contact Katherine Bridges at (207) 899-2094.

Executive Summary

In 2007, Governor Rendell put forward a proposal entitled “Rx for Pennsylvania,” that would change the way health care is delivered in the Commonwealth. This plan consisted of three primary components: “Cover All Pennsylvanians,” a plan that envisions all Pennsylvanians obtaining health insurance; a quality improvement plan that focuses on reducing hospital-acquired infections and promoting wellness programs; and an access expansion plan to reduce emergency room visits and more fully utilize alternatives to physicians for routine health care needs.

During the year, some progress was made in the Governor’s plan. A major piece of legislation addressing hospital-acquired infections was approved by the General Assembly and signed into law. In addition, legislation expanding the scope of practice for some health care professionals became law. But the “Cover All Pennsylvanians” initiative, along with other parts of the plan, did not realize such success because of funding issues and philosophical differences among state elected officials.

AARP’s Pennsylvania State Office commissioned this study to assess the opinions of the 50+ population on some elements of the Governor’s plan, as well as to better understand the experiences and concerns of this population relative to health care access and costs. To this end, FGI Research conducted telephone interviews with 820 Pennsylvania residents age 50 and older between December 19, 2007 and January 5, 2008. The results of this study are contained in this report, with a full annotated questionnaire in the appendix showing the responses to each individual question.¹

AARP recommends that Pennsylvania policymakers carefully consider the findings of this study and fully examine the feasibility of any proposed statewide systems that will provide all Pennsylvanians with access to quality, affordable health care. Key findings from this study show:

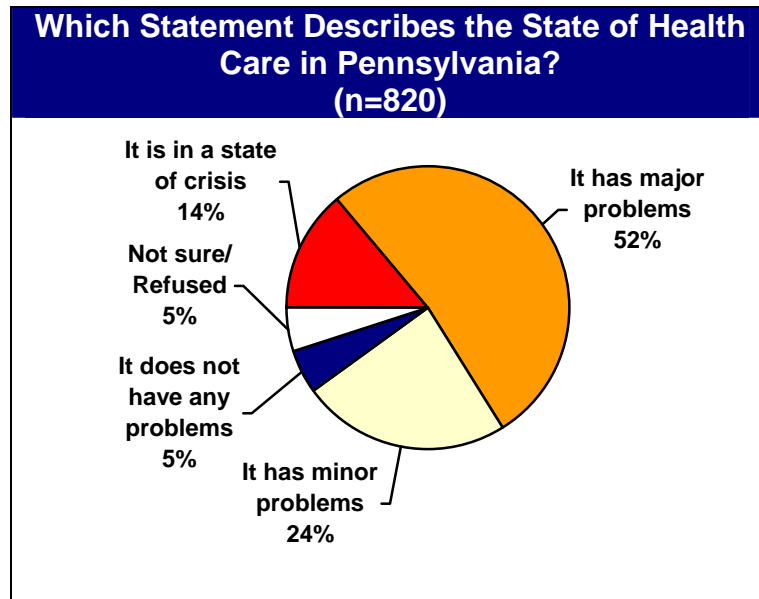
- Four out of five Pennsylvania residents age 50+ say their out-of pocket medical expenses have increased over the last five years. When thinking about the next five years, nine in ten of these Pennsylvania residents are concerned about having to pay more for their health care, and eight in ten are concerned about having fewer health care services being covered.
- Although most respondents age 50+ say the state of health care in Pennsylvania has major problems, Pennsylvanians understand the security health care coverage provides: eight in ten say all Pennsylvania residents should have access to affordable, quality health care, and that it is important to reduce the number of Pennsylvania residents without health care coverage.
- Respondents believe employers, federal government, state government, and individuals should contribute to a health care plan. However, they also believe individuals who practice healthy lifestyles should be rewarded with lower insurance rates than those who do not.
- A majority of Pennsylvanians support several proposals tested in the survey: using tobacco taxes to pay for state-level health care, requiring employers who do not provide health care coverage to pay a fee that allows the State to help these uninsured employers buy coverage, and providing financial incentives to hospitals to build community care centers so those without insurance can receive quality health care in a non-emergency setting.
- Pennsylvanians know health care reform takes strong leadership. Two in three say they would be more likely to vote for a state office candidate who supports a plan that would provide affordable, quality health care to all Pennsylvania residents.

¹ See page 10 for methodology description.

Detailed Findings

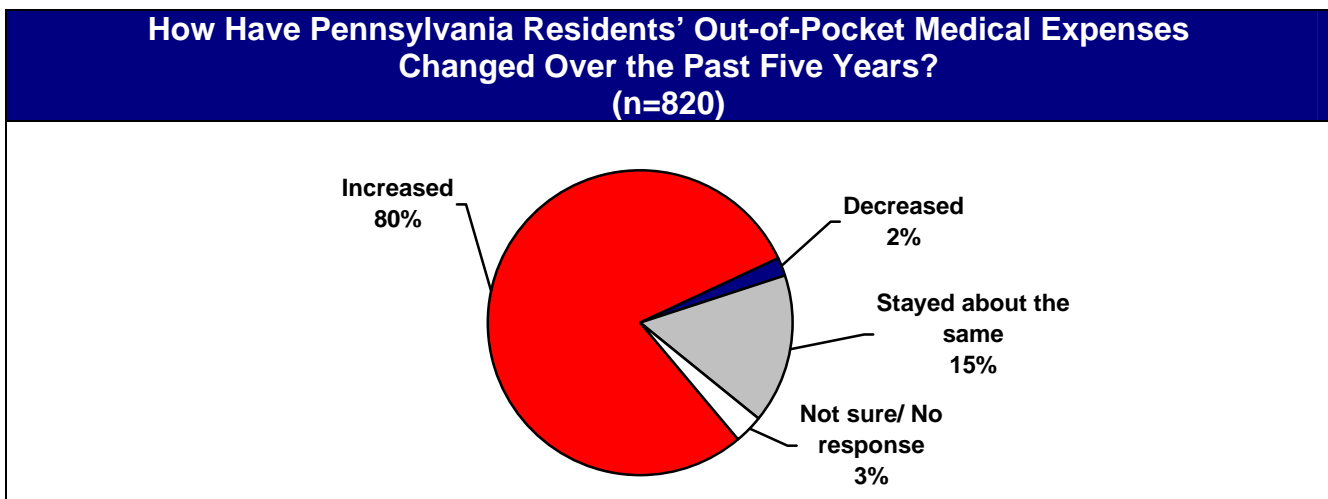
Two out of three respondents describe the state of health care in Pennsylvania as being either in a state of crisis or having major problems.

Most Pennsylvanians age 50+ would describe the state of health care in Pennsylvania as problematic. Three in four agree with statements that “it has major...” or “...minor problems,” and one in seven agrees that health care in Pennsylvania is in a state of crisis.



Four in five Pennsylvania residents age 50+ say their out-of-pocket medical expenses have increased over the past five years.

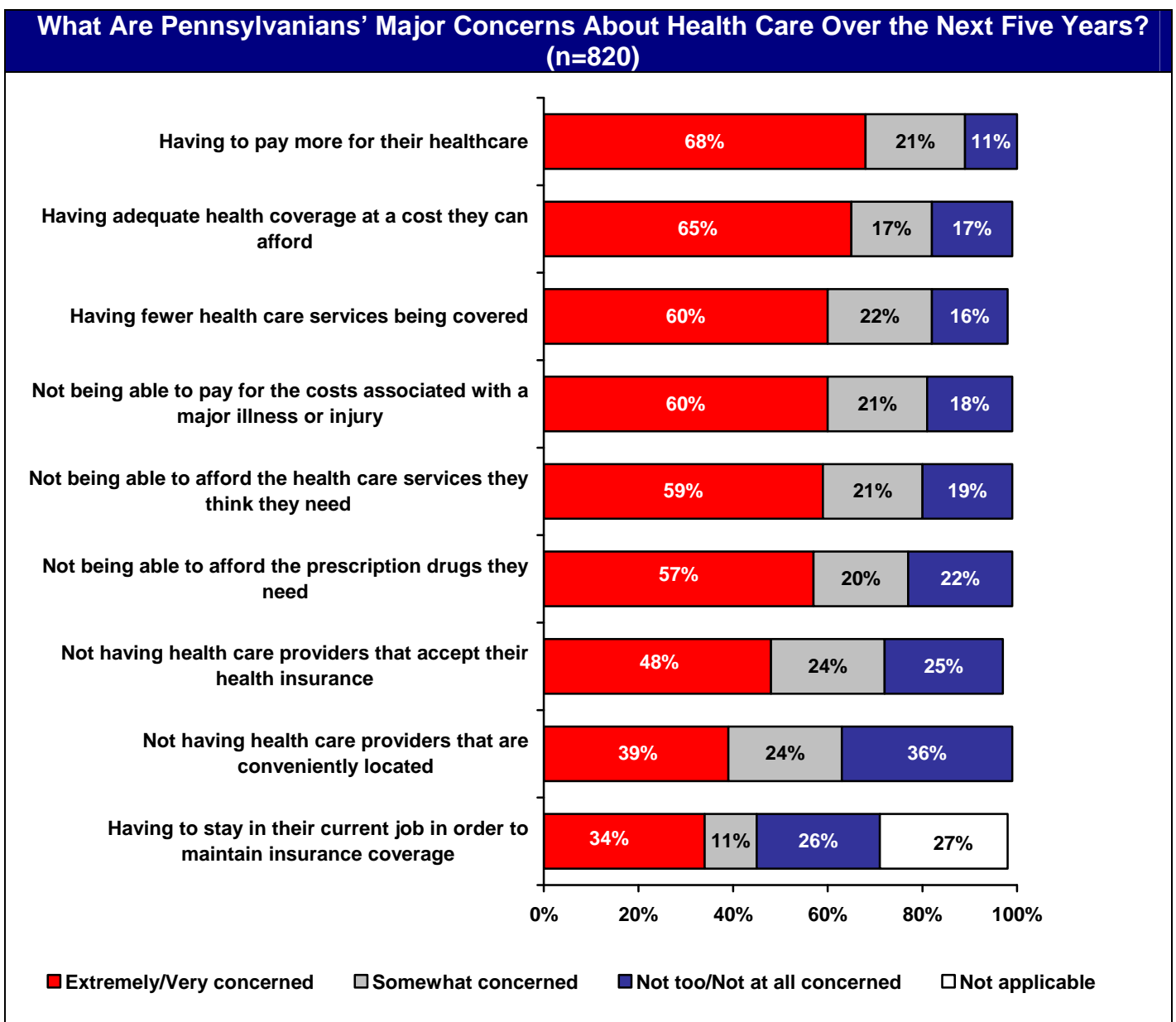
Like most Americans, older Pennsylvania residents are experiencing increased health care costs. Four in five say the amount they spend out-of-pocket on un-reimbursed insurance premiums, prescription drug costs, and medical co-pays has increased over the past five years.



Pennsylvanians age 50+ are concerned about health care expenses increasing and health care coverage decreasing over the next five years.

When thinking about health care over the next five years, Pennsylvanians age 50+ are concerned about increasing expenses and decreasing coverage. At least three in five say they are extremely or very concerned about having to pay more for their healthcare coverage; not being able to pay for healthcare costs if they had a major illness, or the services they think they need; and not being able to afford their prescription drugs in the next five years.

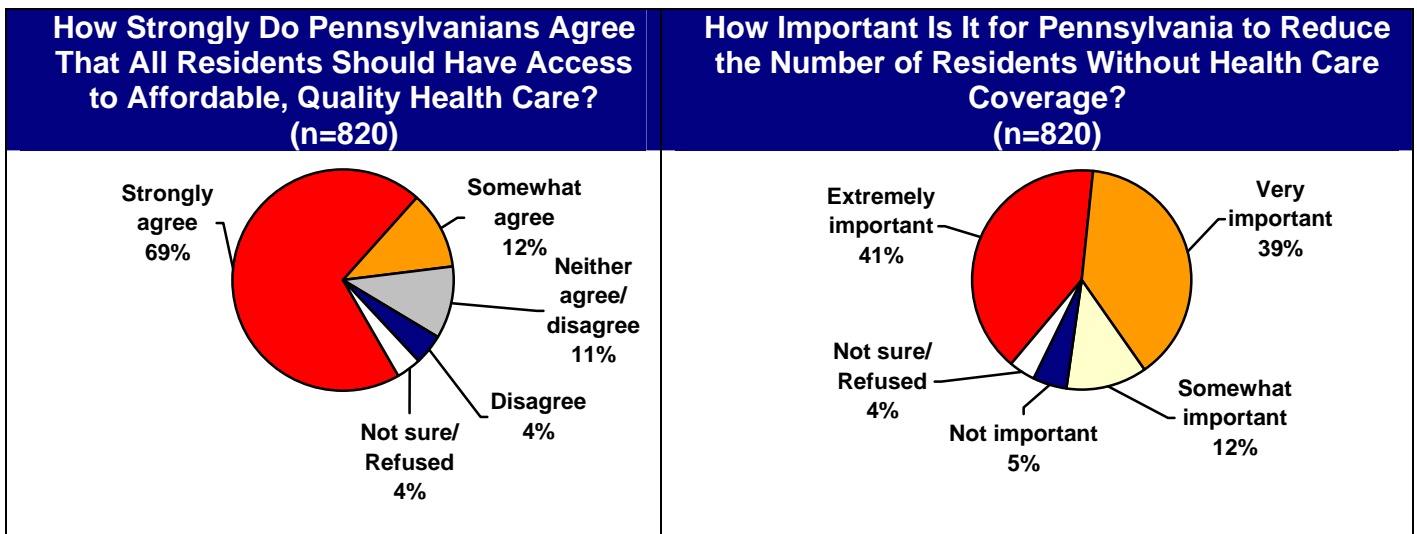
Pennsylvanian worries about decreasing coverage revolve around fewer services being covered and more health care providers not accepting their insurance. Three in five are extremely or very concerned about having fewer services covered, and half are concerned about not having providers who accept their insurance.



Note: Each of these questions had 1% of "not sure" responses and refusals of 1% or less.

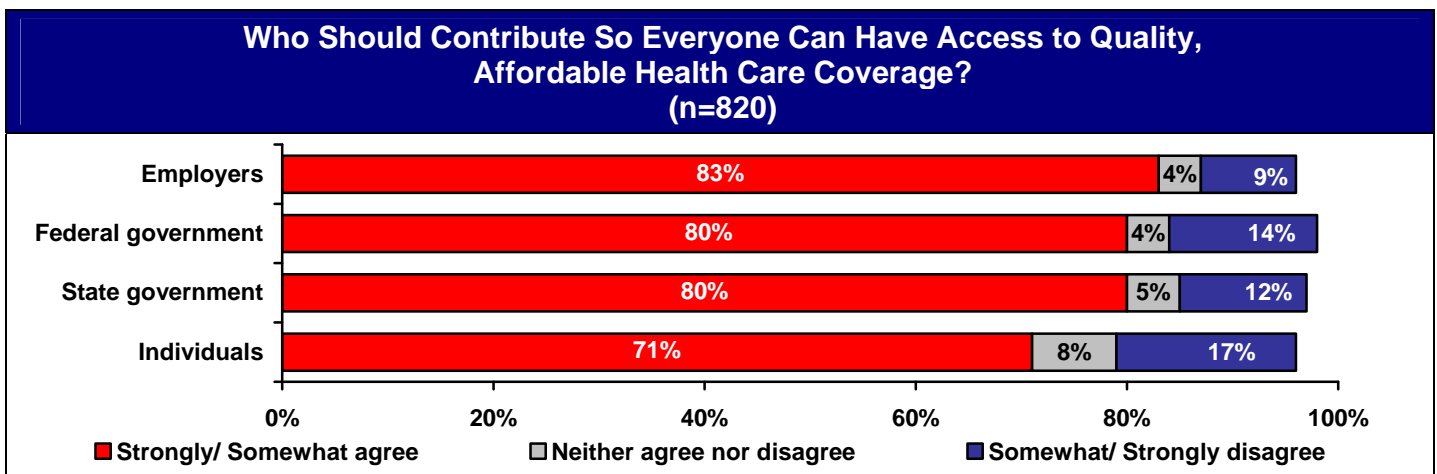
Eight in ten say it is important to reduce the number of Pennsylvania residents without health care coverage.

In 2006, ten percent of all Pennsylvania residents did not have health care coverage.² An overwhelming majority of Pennsylvanians age 50+ think this is ten percent too many. Eight in ten respondents say that all Pennsylvania residents should have access to affordable, quality health care, and that it is extremely or very important for the state of Pennsylvania to reduce the number of residents without health care coverage.



Equal proportions of Pennsylvania residents say employers, federal government, and state government should contribute to health care coverage for all.

Pennsylvanians age 50+ understand the complexities of health care coverage. More than seven in ten agree that employers, federal and state governments, and individuals should all contribute to a system that provides access to affordable, quality health care coverage for Americans.

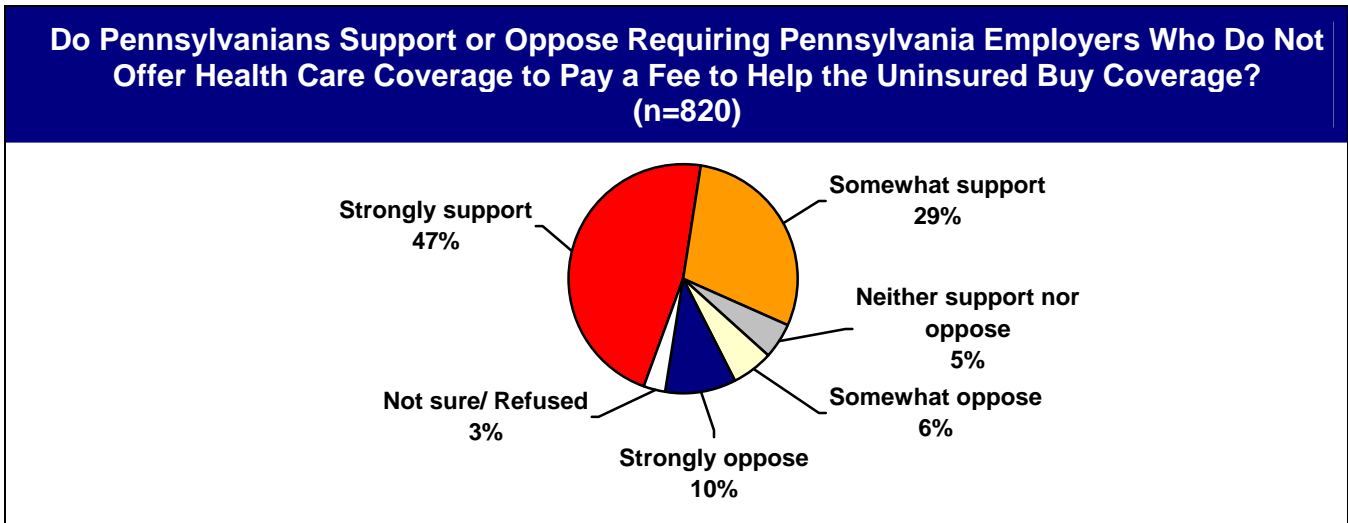


Note: Each of these items had 3% or less "not sure" responses and 2% refusals.

² U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Table HI05. Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State and Age for All People: 2006 http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032007/health/h05_000.htm

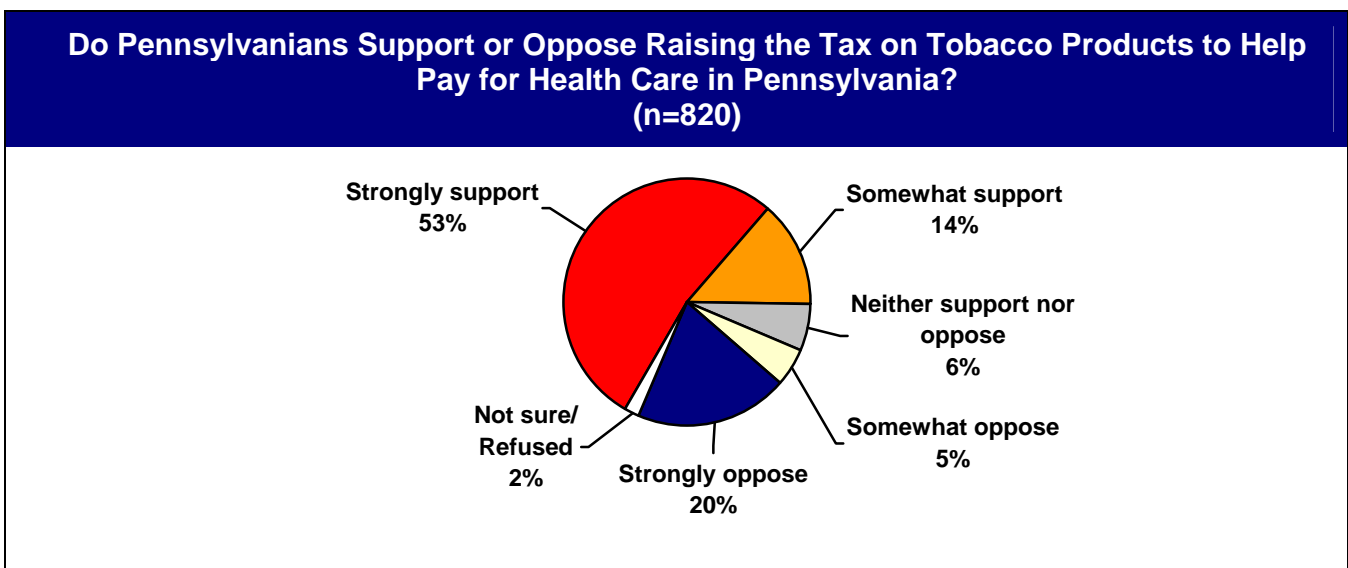
Three in four Pennsylvanians age 50+ support requiring employers who do not offer health insurance coverage to pay a fee so the State can help these uninsured employees buy health insurance.

Although employers would like to provide health care coverage to their employees, many cannot afford the expense. An alternative to employer-provided health insurance coverage is to require employers to pay a fee to the State to fund coverage for uninsured employees. This alternative has strong support among the survey respondents. Two-thirds of residents age 50+ support the idea of requiring Pennsylvania employers who do not offer health care coverage to pay a fee to help their uninsured employees buy coverage.



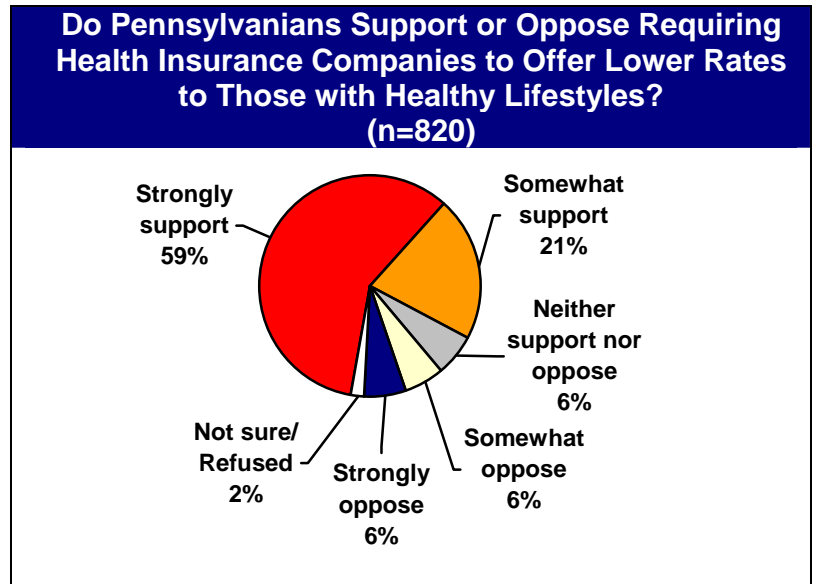
Two in three Pennsylvanians age 50+ support using tobacco taxes to fund health care in Pennsylvania.

There are several proposals to fund health care expenses for Pennsylvanians, including one to increase the state tax on cigarettes and begin a state tax on chewing tobacco. Nearly seven in ten Pennsylvania residents age 50+ strongly or somewhat support this proposal while only 26 percent strongly or somewhat oppose using tobacco taxes to fund health care for Pennsylvania residents.



Four in five respondents support lower health insurance rates for people who practice healthy lifestyle behaviors.

While many major illnesses and injuries are unpredictable, practicing healthy lifestyle behaviors, such as exercising regularly and not smoking, can facilitate good health. Pennsylvania residents age 50+ believe people who practice healthy lifestyles should be rewarded. Four in five support the idea of Pennsylvania requiring health insurance companies to offer lower rates to those who make healthy lifestyle choices. Only twelve percent of respondents oppose such a proposal.

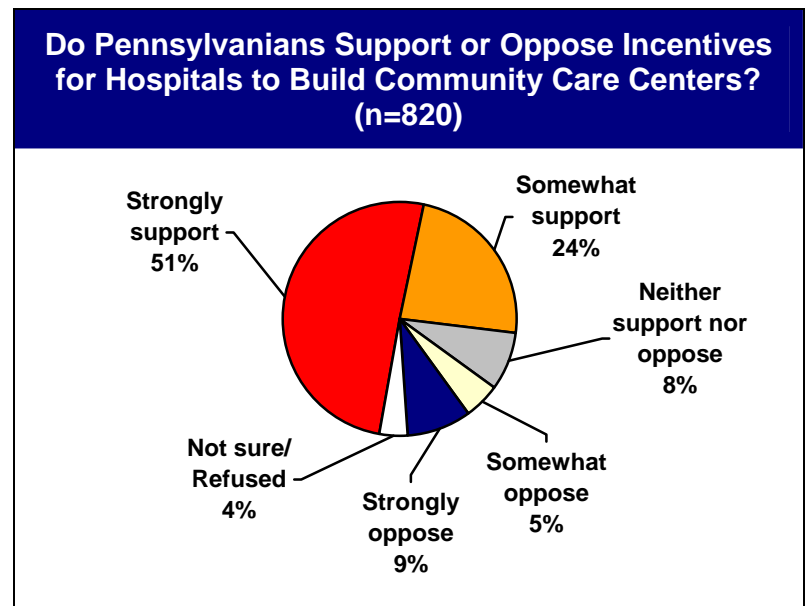


Two out of three respondents support smoking ban.

Support for rewarding healthy behaviors is comparable to support for banning smoking in all bars, restaurants, and public buildings in Pennsylvania. About two-thirds of Pennsylvania residents age 50+ strongly (53%) or somewhat (11%) support this proposal while only three in ten strongly (22%) or somewhat (7%) oppose banning smoking in these places.

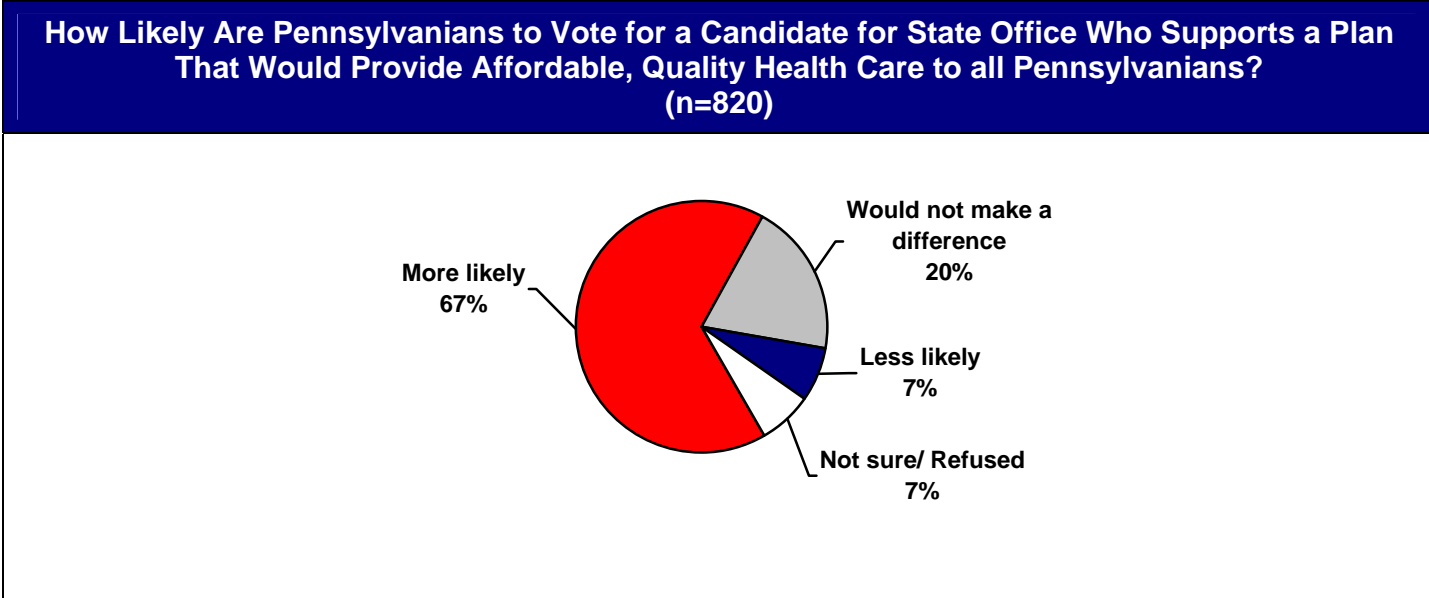
Three in four Pennsylvanians age 50+ support the State creating incentives for hospitals to build community care centers.

Currently, many people who don't have health insurance go to emergency rooms when they need medical care for non-emergency conditions. Typically, some or all of the cost of these emergency room visits are paid either by the government or by the hospital. Some people have suggested that this increases taxes and hospital fees for those with insurance. A suggested proposal to help reduce health care costs for all is for the State to create incentives for hospitals to build community care centers to serve those currently using emergency rooms for non-emergency care. Three in four support such a proposal and only one in seven oppose such a plan.



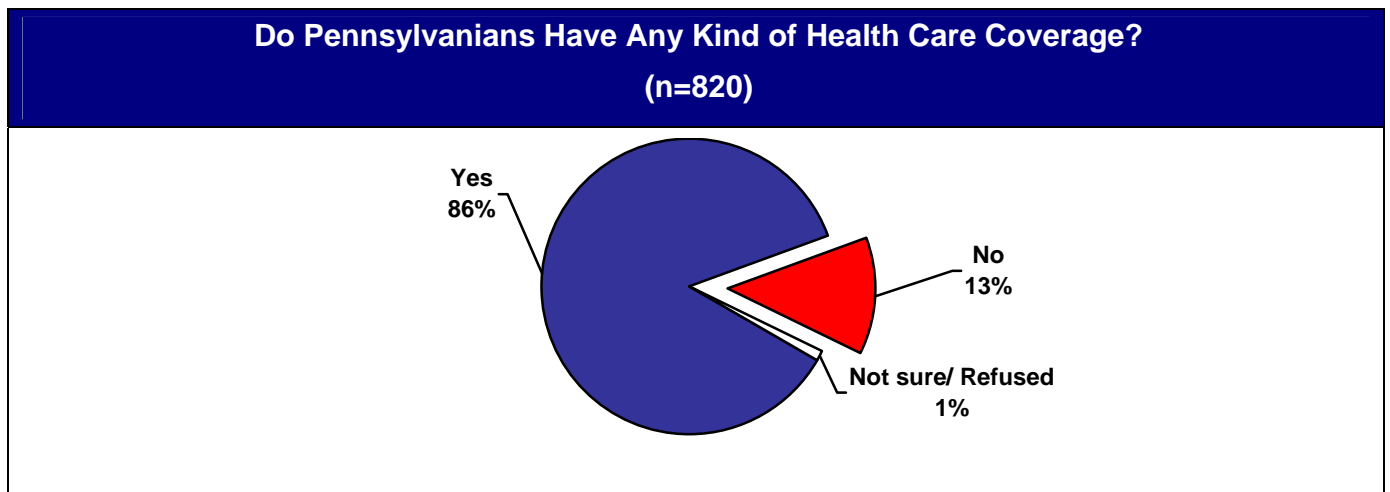
Two in three residents age 50+ say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who supports providing health care to all Pennsylvanians.

Pennsylvanians age 50+ understand that strong leadership is required to broker a plan that would provide affordable, quality health care to all Pennsylvania residents. Given the importance of reducing the number of Pennsylvania residents without health care, the robust support for affordable, quality health care for all residents, and support for proposals that could fund health care in the state, two in three Pennsylvanians age 50+ say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who supports providing affordable, quality health care to all Pennsylvania residents.



Respondent Profile

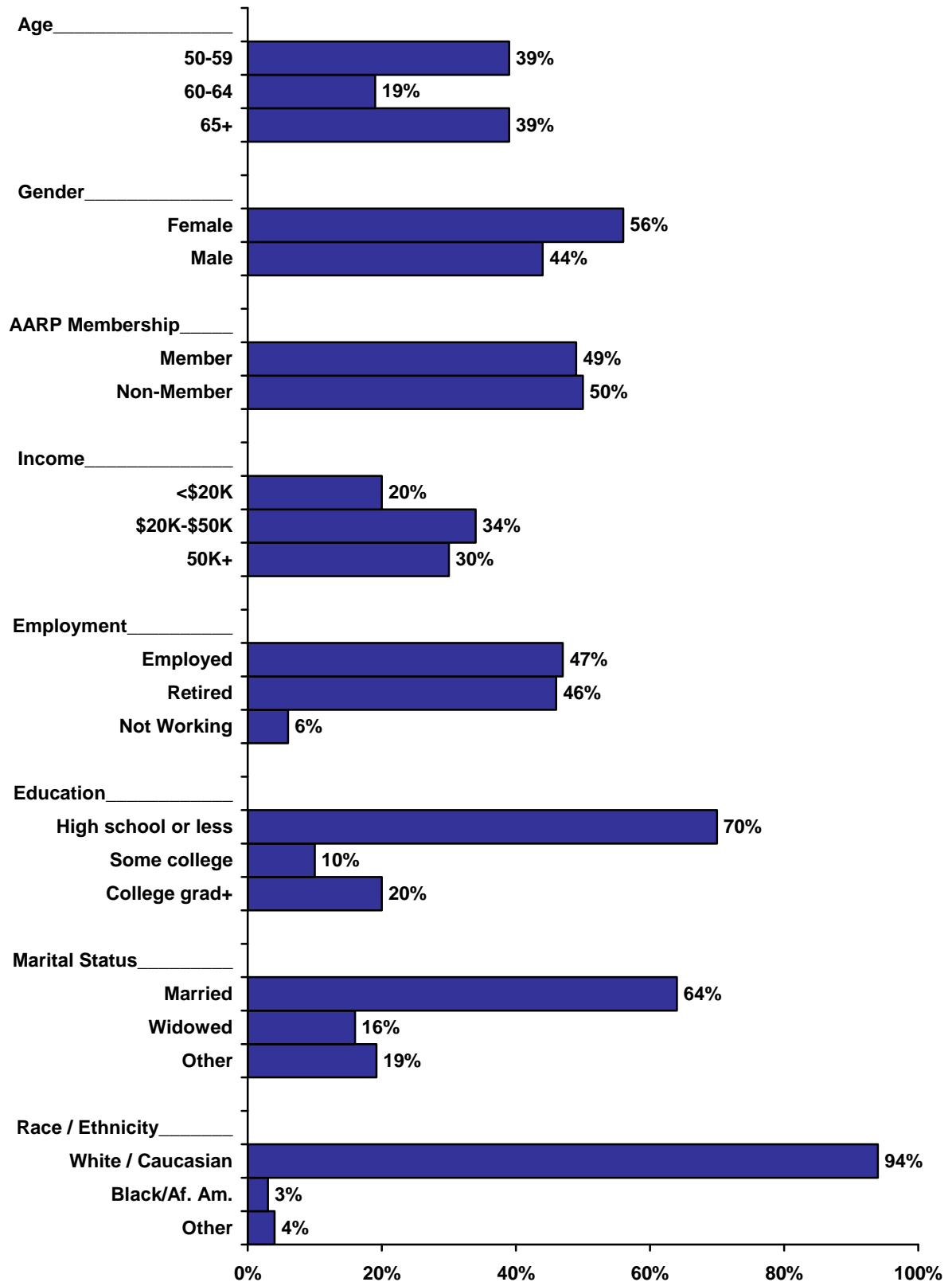
One in eight respondents does not have any kind of health care coverage.



- ✚ Most respondents have some kind of health care coverage. The major sources of health care coverage are Medicare (49%), a current employer (37%), or an individually purchased health care policy (12%).³
- ✚ Seven in ten (70%) employed respondents have health care coverage through their employer, yet three in ten (29%) do not.
- ✚ Chronic medical conditions are evenly distributed among respondents. Half (48%) do not have any chronic medical condition while half (51%) do have a chronic medical condition.
- ✚ The respondents have diverse political views. Four in ten (42%) characterize their political views as moderate, four in ten (38%) characterize their views as conservative, and one in seven (13%) characterize their political views as being liberal.
- ✚ Four in five respondents say they vote always (53%) or most of the time (25%) in state elections.

³ Respondents were given the option to answer yes to multiple sources of health care coverage. See the annotation for a complete listing of this question wording.

Demographics



Methodology

AARP Pennsylvania commissioned this study to assess public opinion on health care, specifically their concerns about the future and their support for reform efforts to expand and improve health care coverage in the Commonwealth. AARP commissioned FGI Research, Inc. to conduct a telephone survey of Pennsylvania residents age 50 and older. The survey was conducted between December 19, 2007 through January 5, 2008, and a total of 820 interviews were completed.⁴ A sample of this size has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.⁵ Survey responses were weighted to reflect the actual distribution of age and gender for the population of residents age 50 and older in Pennsylvania. 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.

⁴ The response rate is 19 percent and the cooperation rate is 29 percent using Response Rate 3 and Cooperation Rate 3 AAPOR calculations (AAPOR, 2007).

⁵ 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 everyone in the 50 and older population in Pennsylvania had been interviewed.

2007 Pennsylvania Health Care Reform Survey

Survey Sample: N= 820; 50+ General Population; 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 Pennsylvania 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:

43% Male
57% 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 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 64, or are you 65 or older?

-- 18 – 39 (TERMINATE)
-- 40 – 49 (TERMINATE)
59% 50-64
41% 65+
-- DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
-- REFUSED

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

100% Yes
-- No →

[ASK TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN HH WHO IS A PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENT AGE 50+. IF NONE IN HH, TERMINATE]

Main Questionnaire

1. Which of these statements do you think best describes the state of health care in Pennsylvania today? Would you say...

- 14% It is in a state of crisis
- 52% It has major problems
- 24% 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?

- 87% Yes
- 13% No → [SKIP TO Q4]
- Not sure [DO NOT READ] → [SKIP TO Q4]
- <0.5% Refused [DO NOT READ] → [SKIP TO Q4]

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 = 714, Respondents with health care coverage	Yes	No	NAME ONLY	NOT SURE
a.	A health care plan sponsored by a current employer? IF YES ASK: "Do you have any other type of coverage?" [IF NO, SKIP OUT OF SERIES TO NEXT QUESTION, OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO NEXT ITEM] (n=267).....	37%	61%	<0.5%	2%
		7%	92%	<0.5%	1%
b.	A health care plan sponsored by your spouse's current employer? IF YES ASK: "Do you have any other type of coverage?" [IF NO, SKIP OUT OF SERIES TO NEXT QUESTION, OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO NEXT ITEM] (n=39).....	5%	93%	--	2%
		13%	87%	--	--
c.	A health care plan sponsored by a previous employer (or spouse's previous employer), such as a retirement benefit or COBRA?	9%	89%	--	2%
d1.	Medicare, the program that provides health insurance primarily to people age 65 and older?	49%	51%	--	<0.5%
d2.	<i>[ASK ONLY IF d1 = 'YES']</i> Do you also have a Medicare supplement plan, such as one that pays the co-payments and deductibles of Medicare? (n=347)	75%	22%	--	3%
d3.	<i>[ASK ONLY IF d1 = 'YES']</i> Do you also have a Medicare Part D plan that covers prescription drugs? (n=347).....	56%	42%	--	2%
d4.	"Do you have any other type of coverage?"(n=327) [IF NO, SKIP OUT OF SERIES TO NEXT QUESTION, OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO NEXT ITEM]	28%	69%	3%	<0.5%
e.	Veterans Administration or military benefits?	4%	95%	--	2%
f.	Medicaid, the program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain low-income individual	2%	95%	--	3%
g.	An individually purchased health care policy on your own? IF YES: "Do you have any other type of coverage?" [IF NO SKIP OUT OF SERIES TO NEXT QUESTION, OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO NEXT ITEM]	12%	86%	<0.5%	2%
		1%	97%	<0.5%	2%
h.	Any other insurance coverage or policy?..... [RECORD] [SKIP OUT OF SERIES TO NEXT QUESTION] (n=22)	3%	97%	--	--

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]? (n=714)

28%	Completely satisfied
30%	Very satisfied
30%	Somewhat satisfied
6%	Not very satisfied
3%	Not at all satisfied
2%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
<0.5%	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...

80%	Increased over the past five years
2%	Decreased over the past five years
15%	Stayed about the same
2%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
<0.5%	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: “Are you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?”**

	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure [DO NOT READ]	Refused/ N/A [DO NOT READ]
a. Having to pay more for your health care.....	33%	34%	21%	6%	5%	1%	0%
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need.....	28%	31%	21%	10%	9%	1%	<0.5%
c. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need.....	28%	29%	20%	11%	11%	1%	<0.5%
d. Not having health care providers that are conveniently located	16%	23%	24%	19%	17%	1%	1%
e. Not having health care providers that accepts your health insurance ...	22%	27%	24%	12%	13%	1%	1%
f. Not being able to pay for the costs associated with a major illness or injury.....	32%	28%	21%	10%	8%	1%	--
g. Having adequate health coverage at a cost you can afford.....	32%	33%	17%	8%	9%	1%	<0.5%
h. Having fewer health care services being covered.....	24%	37%	22%	8%	9%	1%	1%
i. Having to stay in your current job in order to maintain insurance coverage.....	16%	18%	11%	8%	19%	1%	28%

8. How important do you think it is for Pennsylvania to reduce the number of residents without health care coverage? Would you say it is...

- 41% Extremely important
- 39% Very important
- 12% Somewhat important
- 2% Not very important
- 3% Not at all important
- 3% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

9. How strongly do you agree or disagree that all Pennsylvania residents should have access to affordable, quality health care? Would you say you...

- 79% Strongly agree
- 13% Somewhat agree
- 2% Neither agree nor disagree
- 3% Somewhat disagree
- 2% Strongly disagree
- 1% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- <0.5% Refused [DO NOT READ]

10. If a candidate for state office supported a plan that would provide affordable, quality health care for all Pennsylvania 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?

- 67% More likely
- 7% Less likely
- 20% Would not make a difference
- 5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 2% Refused [DO NOT READ]

11. 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	Strongly disagree	Not sure [Do Not Read]	Refused [Do Not Read]
a. Employers	50%	33%	4%	5%	5%	2%	2%
b. Fed. Government.....	56%	24%	4%	5%	8%	1%	2%
c. State Government.....	49%	31%	5%	6%	7%	2%	2%
d. Individuals.....	36%	35%	8%	7%	10%	3%	2%

12. How strongly do you support or oppose requiring Pennsylvania employers who do not offer health insurance coverage to their workers to pay a fee so the State can help these uninsured employees buy health insurance at an affordable cost? READ IF NECESSARY: “Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this?”]

47%	Strongly support
29%	Somewhat support
5%	Neither support nor oppose
6%	Somewhat oppose
10%	Strongly oppose
2%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
<0.5%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

13. There is currently a proposal that would both increase the state cigarette tax AND begin taxing chewing tobacco products in order to fund health care in Pennsylvania. How strongly would you support or oppose Pennsylvania raising the tax on tobacco products to help pay for health care in the state? READ IF NECESSARY: “Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this?”]

53%	Strongly support
14%	Somewhat support
6%	Neither support nor oppose
5%	Somewhat oppose
20%	Strongly oppose
1%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

14. There is also a proposal to ban smoking in all bars, restaurants and public buildings in Pennsylvania. How strongly do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in these places? READ IF NECESSARY: “Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this?”]

53%	Strongly support
11%	Somewhat support
7%	Neither support nor oppose
7%	Somewhat oppose
22%	Strongly oppose
<0.5%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
<0.5%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

15. How strongly do you support or oppose requiring health insurance companies to offer lower rates to individuals who practice healthy lifestyles, such as exercising regularly or not smoking? READ IF NECESSARY: “Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this?”]

59%	Strongly support
21%	Somewhat support
6%	Neither support nor oppose
6%	Somewhat oppose
6%	Strongly oppose
1%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

16. Currently, many people who don't have health insurance go to emergency rooms when they need medical care for non-emergency conditions. Typically some or all of the cost of these emergency room visits are paid either by the government or by the hospital. Some people have suggested that this increases taxes and hospital fees for those with insurance. To help reduce health care costs for all, it has been suggested that alternatives should be created to serve these individuals. How strongly do you support or oppose the State creating incentives for hospitals to build community care centers to serve those currently using emergency rooms for non-emergency care?

- 51% Strongly support
- 24% Somewhat support
- 8% Neither support nor oppose
- 5% Somewhat oppose
- 9% Strongly oppose
- 3% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 1% 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?”

- 44% Male
- 56% Female

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

- 14% Excellent
- 36% Very good
- 30% Good
- 14% Fair
- 6% Poor
- <0.5% 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?

- 51% Yes
- 48% 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] _____

21%	50-54
18%	55-59
19%	60-64
39%	65+
4%	Refused

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

64%	Married
1%	Not married, living with your partner or significant other
1%	Separated
8%	Divorced
16%	Widowed
	<i>Or are you....</i>
9%	Currently single <u>and</u> never Married
<0.5%	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?”]

49%	Yes
50%	No
<0.5%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

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

10%	0 to 12 th grade, but with no diploma
52%	High school graduate or equivalent
8%	Post high school education, but with no degree
10%	2 year degree
8%	4 year degree
2%	Post graduate study, but with no degree
10%	Graduate or professional degree
<0.5%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

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

- 5% Self-employed full-time
- 3% Self-employed part-time
- 31% Employed full-time
- 8% Employed part-time
- 46% Retired and not working at all
- 1% Unemployed and looking for work
- Or are you....
- 6% Not in the labor force for other reasons
- <0.5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- <0.5% Refused [DO NOT READ]

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

- 1% Yes
- 98% No
- <0.5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D10. What is your race?

- 94% White or Caucasian
- 3% Black or African American
- <0.5% Native American or Alaskan Native
- <0.5% Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 1% Or are you some other race? [Please Specify: _____]
- 1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D11. Thinking about your state elections for Pennsylvania 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?

- 53% Always
- 25% Most of the time
- 9% About half of the time
- 4% Seldom
- 8% Never
- <0.5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- <0.5% Refused [DO NOT READ]

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

- 44% Democrat
- 32% Republican
- 14% Independent
- 5% Other
- 2% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 3% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D13. How would you characterize your political views?

- 38% Conservative
- 42% Moderate
- 13% Liberal
- 2% None of the above
- 4% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 2% 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?

- 23% Several times a day
- 13% About once a day
- 5% 3-5 days a week
- 9% 1-2 days a week
- 3% Once every few weeks
- 4% Once a month or less
- 42% Or do you never go online to use the Internet or World Wide Web?
- <0.5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 1% 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]

- 5% Less than \$10,000
- 15% \$10,000 to less than \$20,000
- 19% \$20,000 to less than \$35,000
- 15% \$35,000 to less than \$50,000
- 7% \$50,000 to less than \$60,000
- 7% \$60,000 to less than \$75,000
- 8% \$75,000 to less \$100,000
- 8% \$100,000 or more
- 3% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 12% 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!



**Copyright © 2008
AARP
Knowledge Management
601 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20049**

Reprinting with Permission

**For more information please contact Katherine Bridges at:
207.899.2094 or email kbridges@aarp.org**