

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 yellow square located at the bottom-right of the page, ending in a small yellow square. A thin grey line also extends from the bottom-left corner of the yellow square at the bottom-right of the page, ending in a small yellow square. A large, thin, light-brown arc curves from the top-right towards the bottom-right of the page, passing behind the main text.

**Overnight Poll of the
45+ Population Following the
Presidential Speech to a
Joint Session of Congress on
September 9, 2009**

September 10, 2009



**Overnight Poll of the 45+ Population
Following the Presidential Speech to a
Joint Session of Congress on
September 9, 2009**

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All media inquiries about this report should be directed to Drew Nannis at (202) 434-2592. All other inquiries about this report should be directed to Chuck Rainville at grainville@aarp.org or (202) 434-6295.

Introduction

AARP commissioned a nationwide survey of people age 45 or older directly after a presidential address to a joint session of Congress (September 9, 2009) related to health care reform. Woelfel Research Inc. conducted the RDD survey of 522 United States residents aged 45+ on the evening of September 9, 2009 immediately after the address. For full sample results, the margin of sampling error is $\pm 4.3\%$.

Key Survey Findings

- Seventy percent of those 45 or older said they had at least some questions or concerns about what was being proposed by either party with regard to health care reform. This includes 77% of Independents.
- Of those who had questions and concerns prior to the address, nearly three quarters said that their questions and concerns were talked about or addressed during the speech. This includes 72% of Independents.
- Nearly 7 in 10 of those who reported hearing their questions and concerns talked about or addressed said that they were more supportive of the proposals being talked about related to health care. This includes 63% of Independents.
- For each political affiliation, a majority of 45+ respondents said that reform of the health care system should be a priority for political leaders to address this year. This includes 70% of Independents.

Detailed Data Tables

Overnight Poll Following President Obama's Speech to A Joint Session of Congress September 9, 2009

Adults 45+ who watched the speech (N=522, sampling error = ±4.3%)

1. Before this evening did you have at least some questions or concerns about what was being proposed by either party with regard to health care reform?

Base: Total = 522	ALL	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	70	59	85	77
No	28	38	14	22
Don't know	2	3	1	1

2. After watching the address on health care reform, would you say some of these questions and concerns were talked about or were addressed?

Base: Had concerns	ALL	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	73	88	56	72
No	24	7	42	26
Don't know	3	5	3	3
Refused	<0.5			

3. After some of the things you were concerned or worried about were addressed would you say you are [READ RESPONSES]

Base: Questions were addressed by speech	ALL	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
more supportive of the proposals being talked about related to health care	68	86	43	63
unchanged in my opinion about the proposals being talked about related to health care	17	11	23	20
less supportive of the proposals being talked about related to health care	13	3	32	14
[DON'T READ] Don't know	2	0	2	4

4. After watching the health care reform address, do you feel that reform of the health care system should be a priority for our leaders to address this year or not?

Base:	ALL	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Total				
Yes	76	95	56	70
No	21	3	40	27
Don't know	3	1	4	3
Refused	<0.5			

**Overnight Poll Following President Obama's Speech to A Joint Session of Congress
September 9, 2009**

**Adults 45+ who watched the speech
(N=522, sampling error = ±4.3%)**

Hello, this is _____ calling from Woelfel Research, Inc., a national opinion research firm. We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We would like to find out your opinions on some important issues. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation. All your responses will be kept entirely confidential. [IF ASKED: This will take less than 5 minutes]

Screener

S1. Are you between the ages of 18 and 44, 45 and 49, 50-64 or are you 65 years of age or older?
[TERMINATE IF YOUNGER THAN 45 YEARS OLD]

1. 18-44
2. 45-49
3. 50-64
4. 65 or older
5. [DO NOT READ] Under 44 [ASK TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE 45 OR OLDER AND REPEAT S1. IF NO ONE 45 OR OLDER, TERMINATE]
6. [DO NOT READ] Refused [TERMINATE]

S2. Did you watch the President's address tonight?

N=522	Base: Total	
%		
100	Yes	[CONTINUE]
-	No	[THANK & TERMINATE]
-	Don't know	[THANK & TERMINATE]
-	Refused	[THANK & TERMINATE]

Main Questionnaire

1. Before this evening did you have at least some questions or concerns about what was being proposed by either party with regard to health care reform? [If No = GO TO Q4]

N=522	Base: Total	
%		
70	Yes	[CONTINUE]
28	No	[GO TO Q. 4]
2	Don't know	[GO TO Q. 4]
-	Refused	[GO TO Q. 4]

2. After watching the address on health care reform, would you say some of these questions and concerns were talked about or were addressed? [If No = GO TO Q4]

N=366	Base: Had	
%	concerns	
73	Yes	[CONTINUE]
24	No	[GO TO Q. 4]
3	Don't know	[GO TO Q. 4]
<0.5	Refused	[GO TO Q. 4]

3. After some of the things you were concerned or worried about were addressed would you say you are [READ RESPONSES]

N=267	Base: Questions were addressed by speech	
%		
68	more supportive of the proposals being talked about related to health care	
17	unchanged in my opinion about the proposals being talked about related to health care	
13	less supportive of the proposals being talked about related to health care	
2	[DON'T READ] Don't know	
-	[DON'T READ] Refused	

4. After watching the health care reform address, do you feel that reform of the health care system should be a priority for our leaders to address this year or not?

N=522	Base: Total	
%		
76	Yes	
21	No	
3	Don't know	
<0.5	Refused	

I just have a few more questions to go. These are for background purposes, so we can be sure our sample is representative of the country.

D1. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

N=522

%	
42	Democrat
18	Republican
28	Independent
8	Other
1	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
4	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D2. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

N=522

%	
4	Yes
93	No
1	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
2	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D3. What is your race? Are you...[READ EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

N=522

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

D4. Record gender

N=522

%	
40	Male
60	Female