

*Americans on Health Care Reform:  
Results from the recent Casscells/Zogby Poll*

Presented to:

**National Press Club**

July 15, 2009



**THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS**  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER  
AT HOUSTON

## Background

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- Online poll on American attitudes on health care reform conducted by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in collaboration with Zogby International, Inc.
- Why? Health polls (notoriously fickle, personal, complex, phrase-dependent, and sponsored by the passionate) influence Congress
- In past, support for reform has waned as deadlines approached.
- We asked if this was occurring once again
- 3,862 respondents from June 18-22, 2009
  - Slight weight added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, and education to more accurately reflect the population
- Margin of error: +/- 1.6%



## Percentage Uninsured

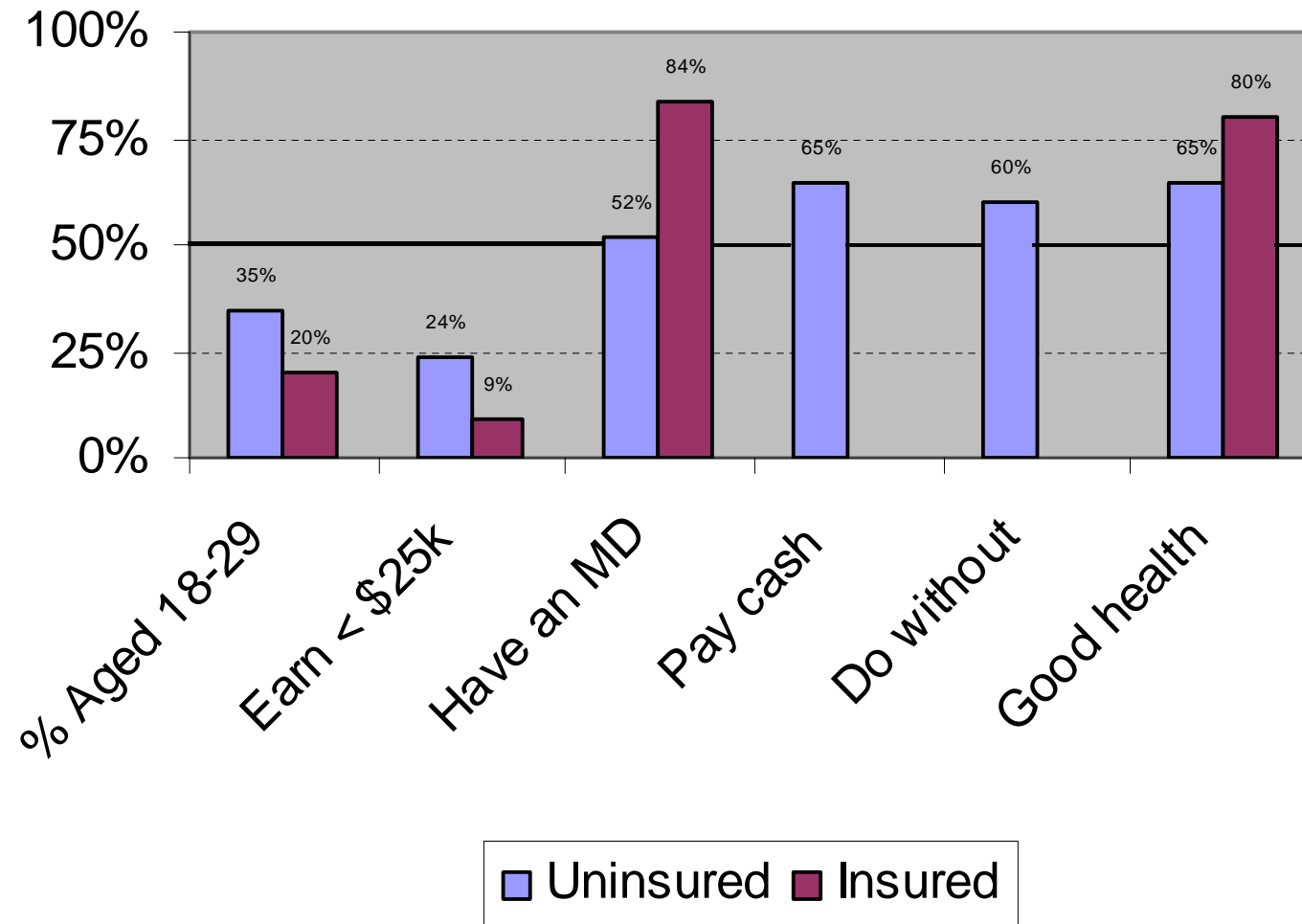
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- Polls have estimated the percentage of uninsured Americans to be in the range of 7-16%.

	Date	Percent Uninsured
Gallup	November 15, 2008	11%
Consumer Reports	April 6, 2009	7%
ABC News/Washington Post	June 21, 2009	16%
Zogby/Casscells	June 22, 2009	8%
Quinnipiac	June 29, 2009	11%

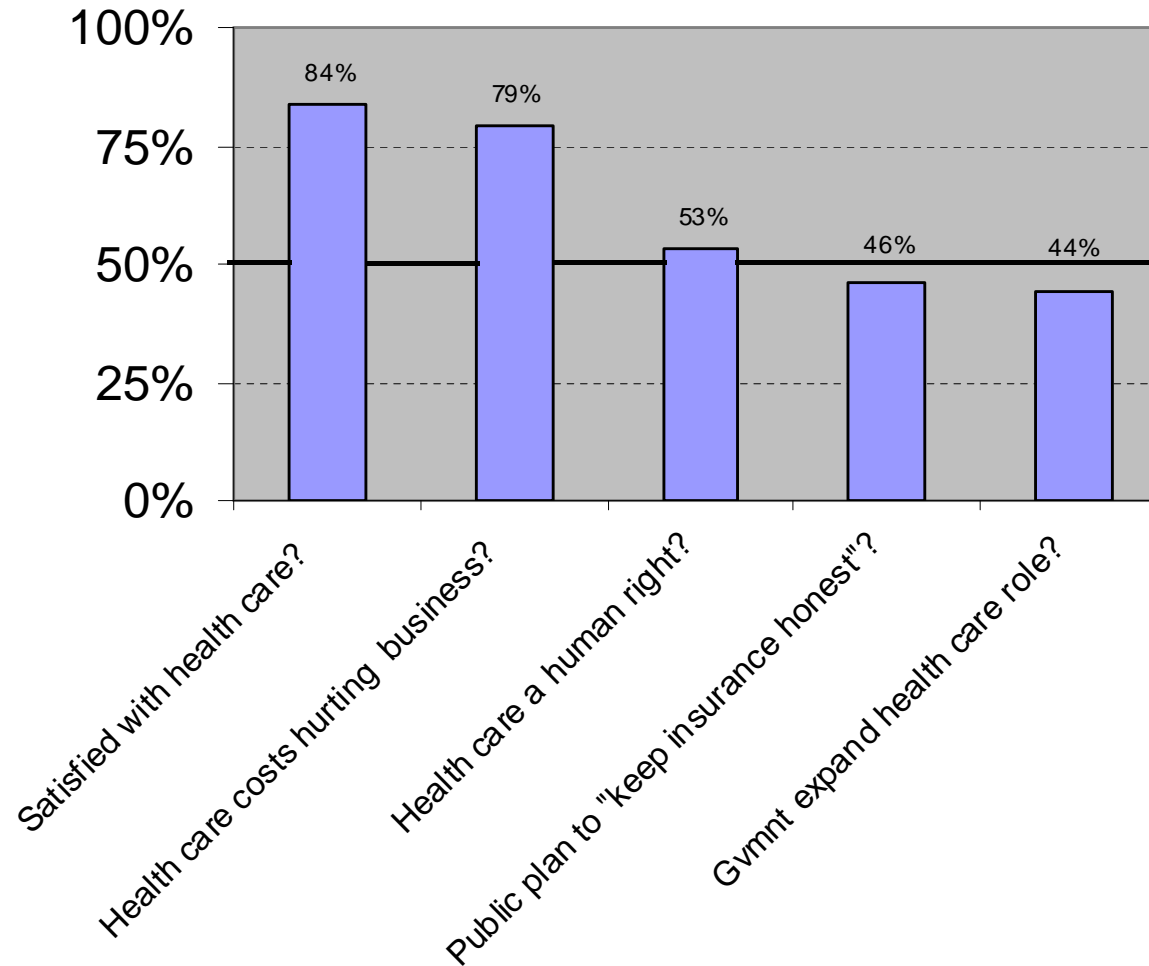
# The Uninsured

- Overall, about 8% are uninsured.



# Insurance, Satisfaction, and Priorities

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# Promoting Quality Care

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## How to best promote quality care?

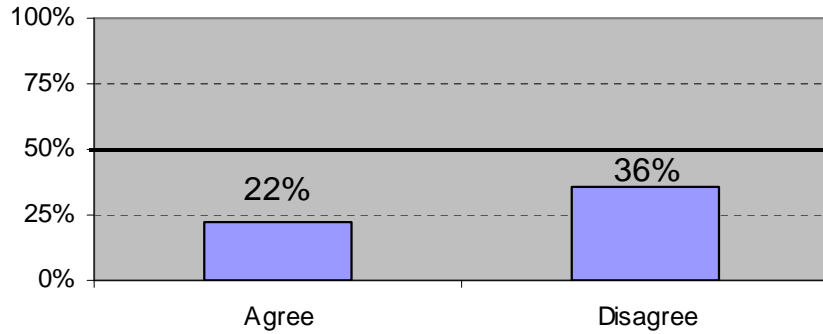
## Excellent Rating

1. Patient Incentives for Prevention, such as wellness programs to promote weight control, vaccinations, etc.*	43%
2. More government investment in basic research	30%
3. Post risk-adjusted procedure outcomes	28%
4. Government investment in clinical patient research	28%
5. Pay MDs for better outcomes	28%
6. Reduced co-pay for those who rate medical encounters	17%
7. Use of Personal Health Records	15%
8. Pay MDs to use electronic records	9%

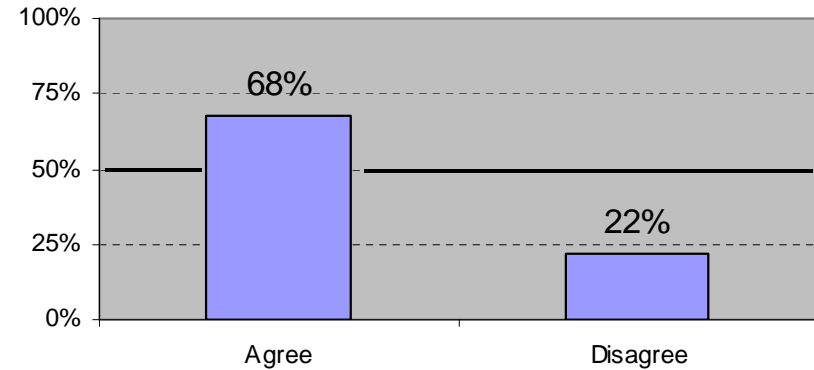
\*66% answered yes to, “For \$1000 a year, would you stop smoking (or not start), lose ten pounds, exercise 30 minutes three times a week, get all vaccinations and standard cancer screening?”

# Insuring the Uninsured

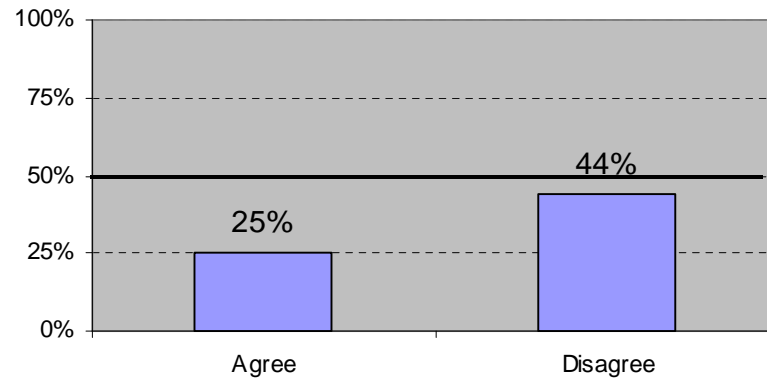
Require everyone in the USA to have health insurance, with federal help for those who cannot pay the premiums



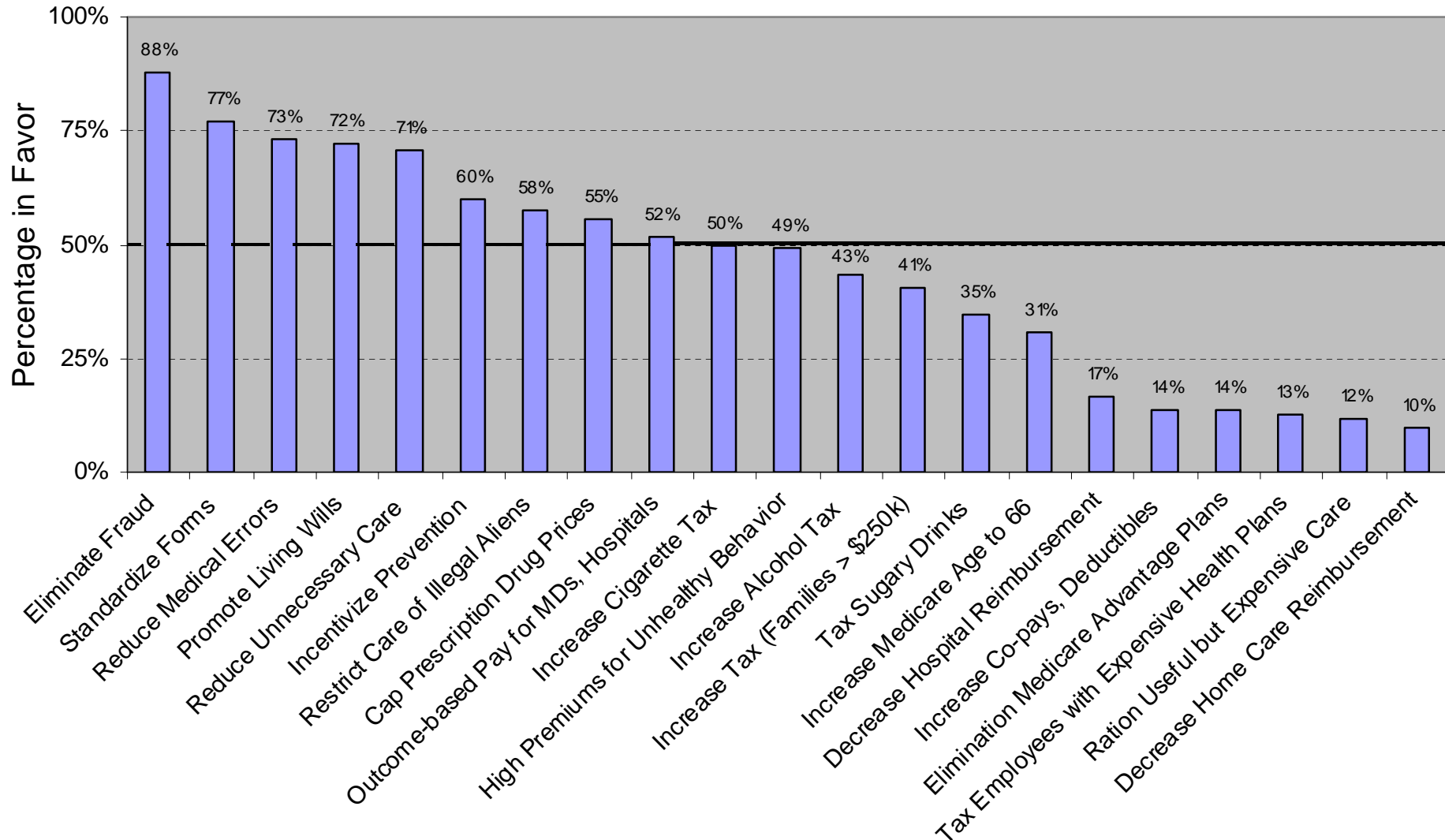
Require all employers to offer insurance choices and to cover two-thirds of the costs



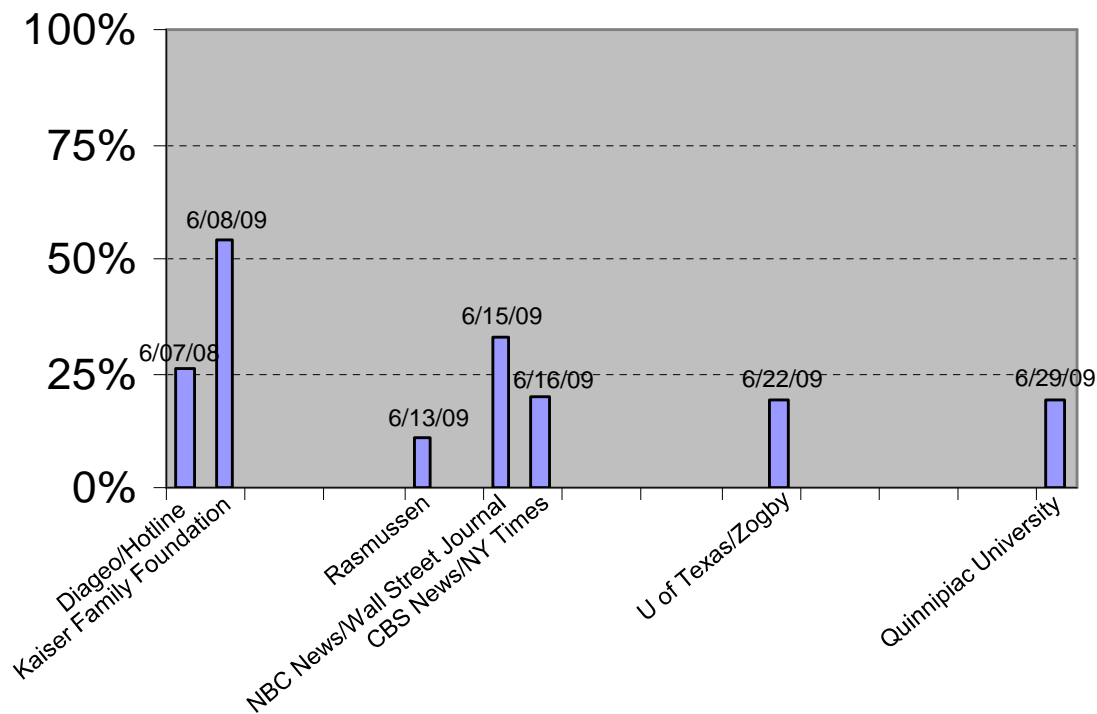
Provide health insurance for everyone in the U.S. on a single-payer program, similar to Medicare



# How to Pay for New Programs and Services

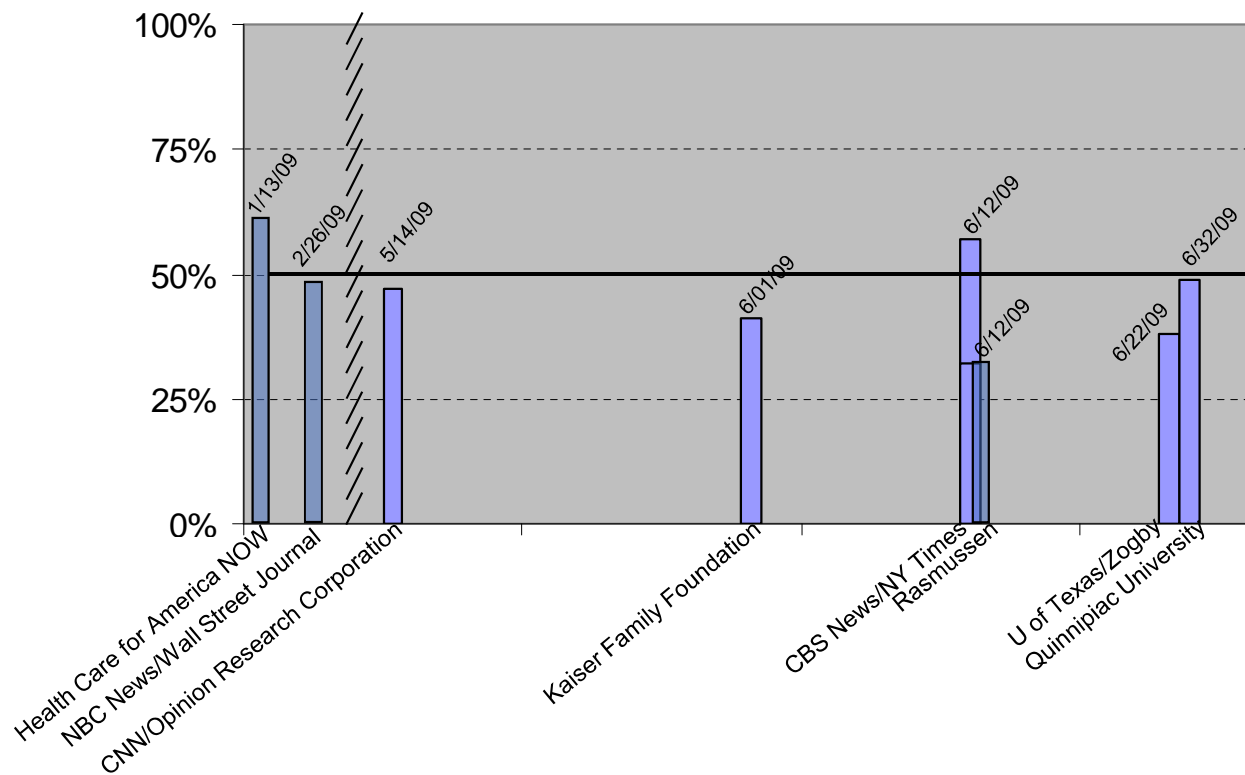


# Declining Support for Proposal to Tax Benefits of Expensive Employee Plans



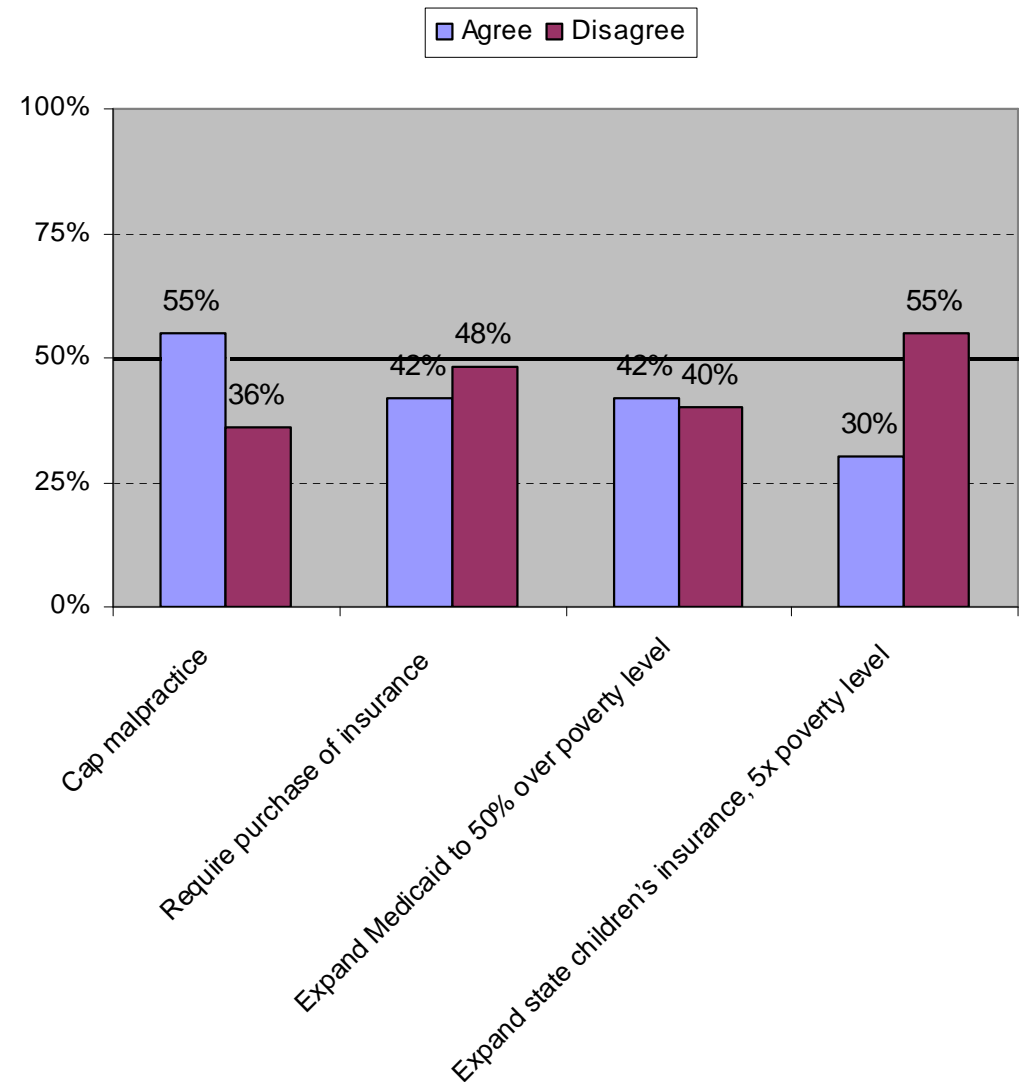
# Support for Increasing Income Taxes Remains Constant

- Support for “increasing taxes to insure all” may have peaked at 60%.



# Public Options

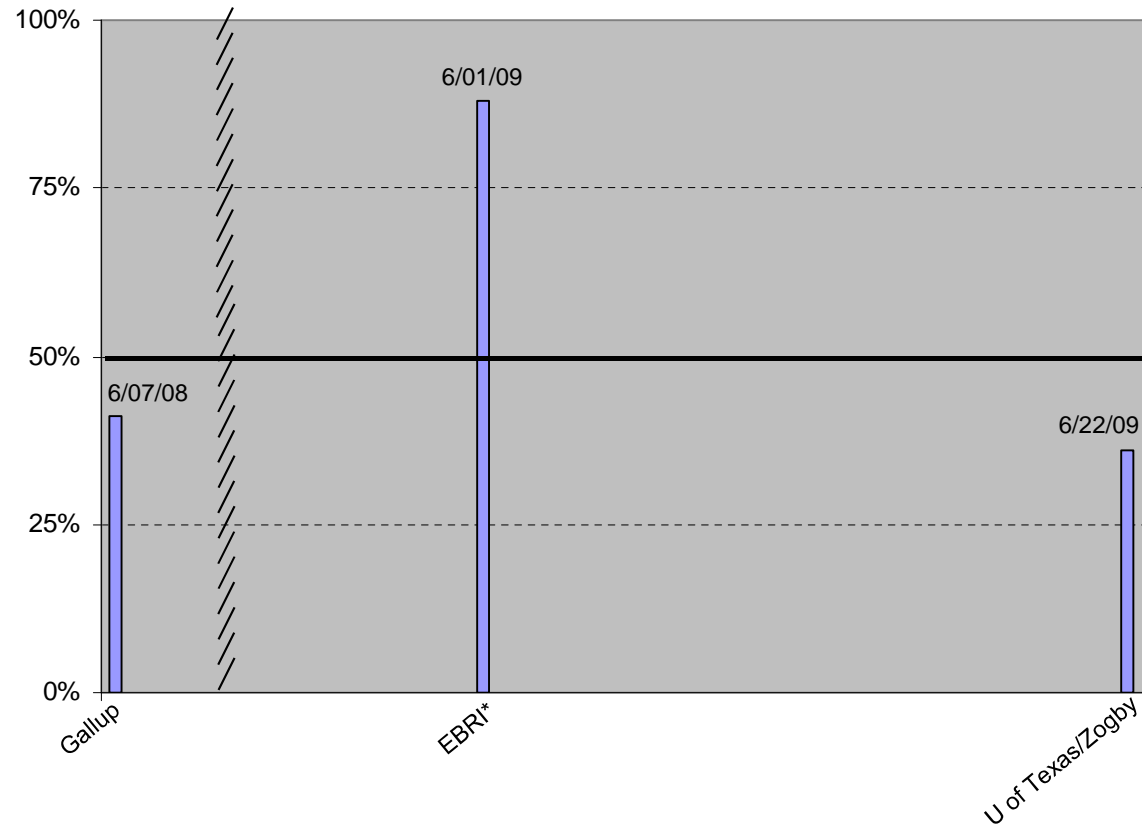
- 27% prefer a new public plan administered by the federal government while 28% prefer a privately-run, federally-sponsored health insurance cooperative.
- 59% believe “a Federal Health plan could undermine private insurance companies.”



# Single Payor Option

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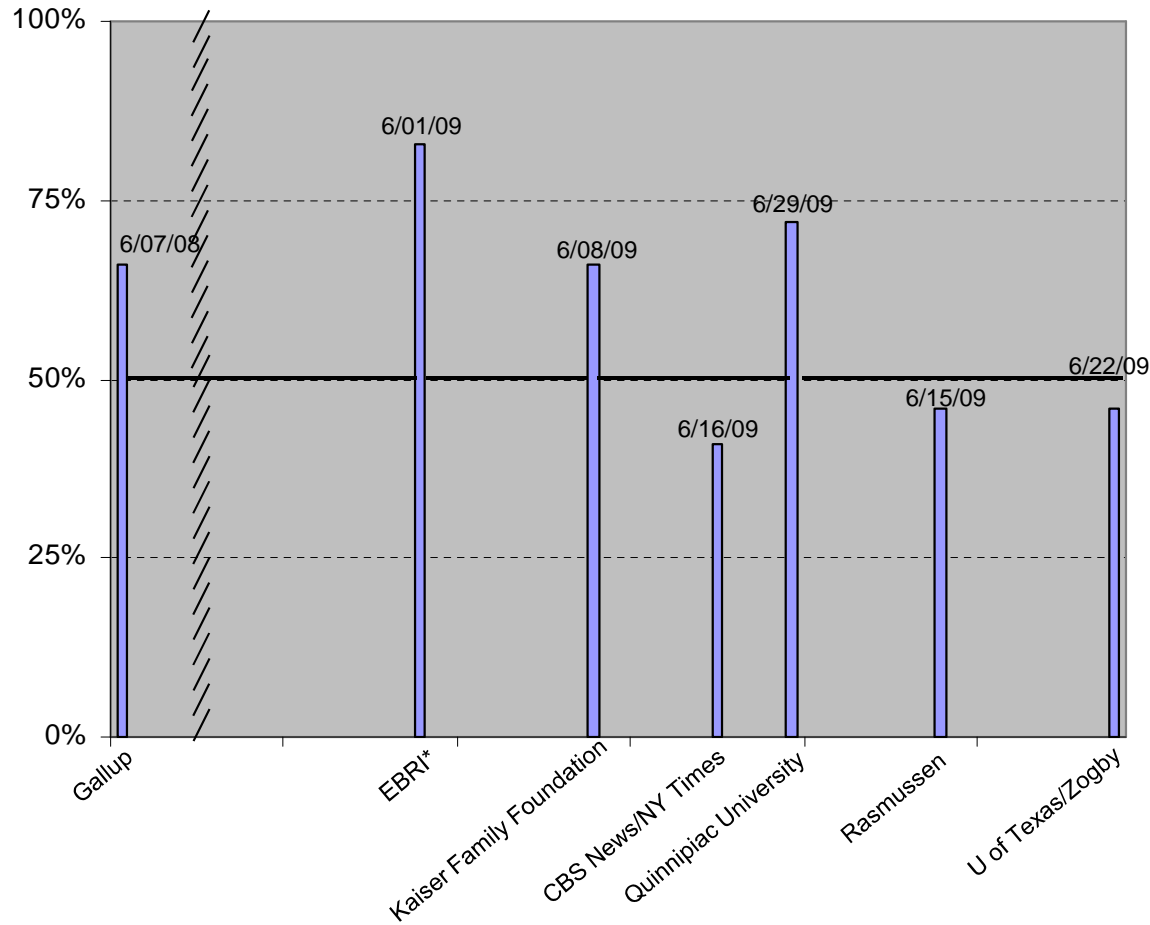
- Support for a national health insurance plan ("single payor") has peaked.



\*Employee Benefits Research Institute

# Federal Health Insurance Plan

- Support for a new health insurance plan ("Medicare for <65") has peaked.



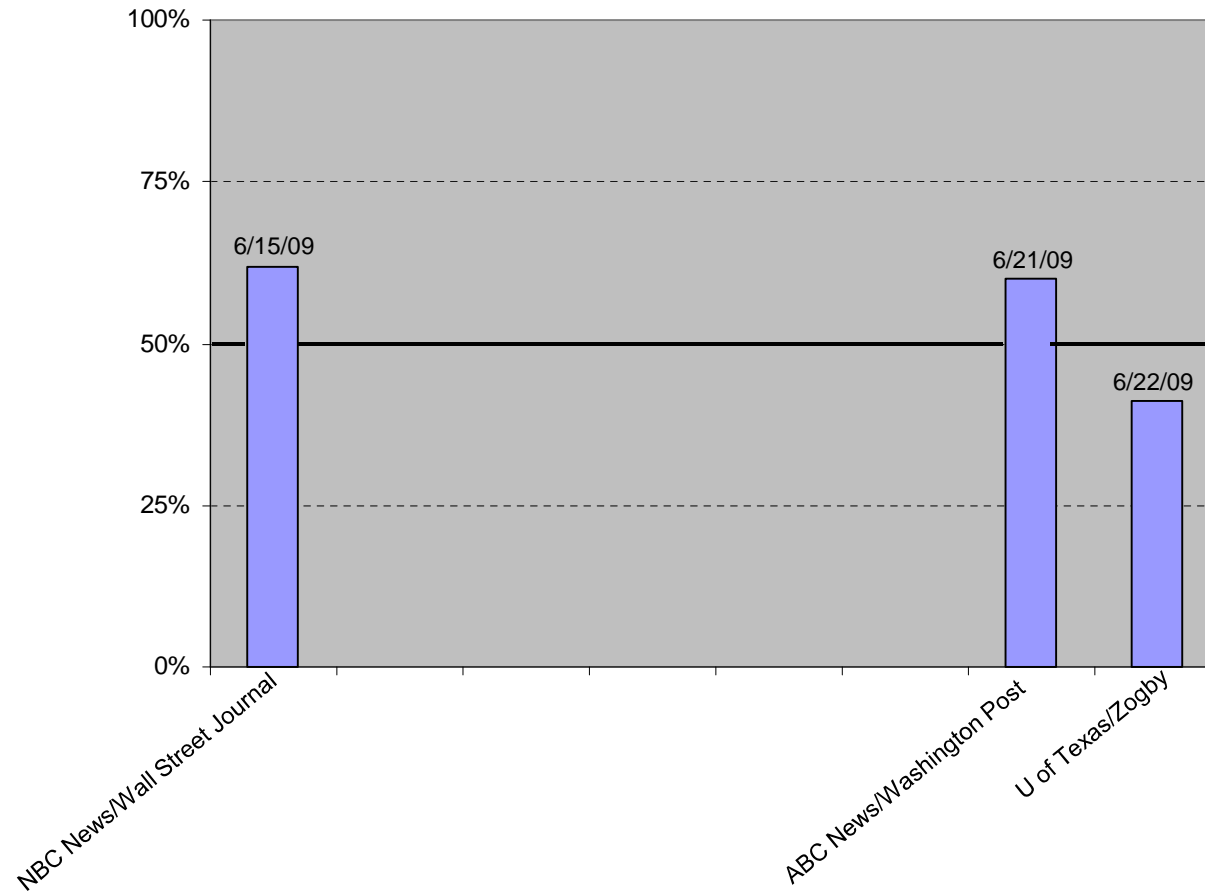
\*Employee Benefits Research Institute



# Taxing Families with Incomes Greater than \$250,000

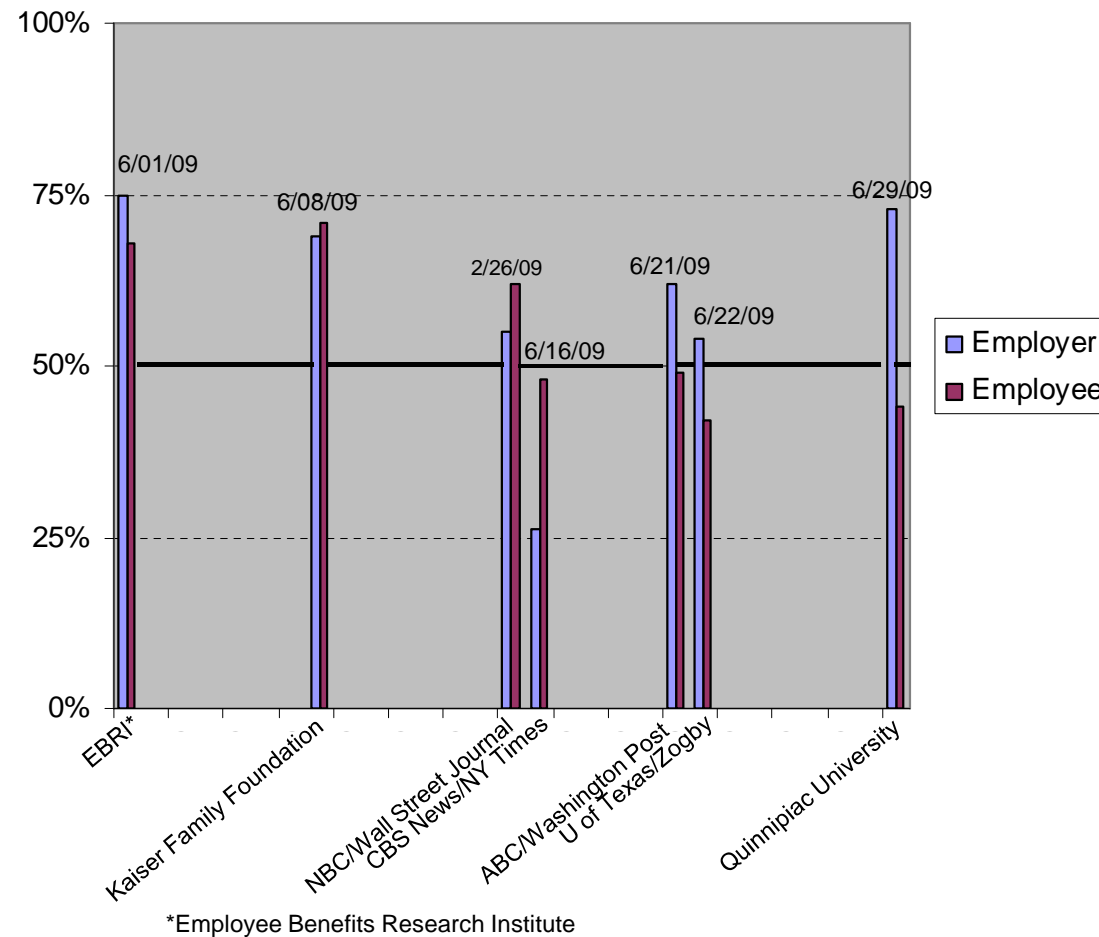
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- Support for taxing high-income families to cover uninsured may be falling.



# Health Insurance Mandates

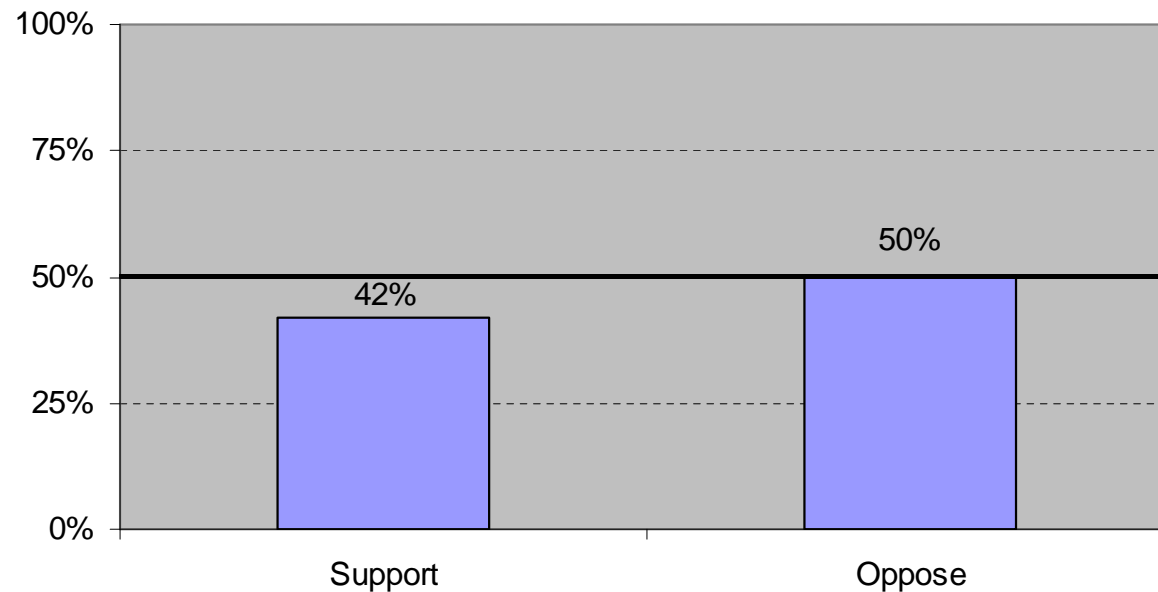
- Support for employee mandates fluctuates, but support for individual mandates is declining.



## Latest Poll on Legislation Introduced to House of Representatives on 7/14/09

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- 50% of the 2,059 adults Zogby International surveyed online opposed the House's Health Care Reform Bill; 42% supported it.



\*Participants were asked, "Do you support or oppose the House bill that would: 1. Require everyone to have health insurance. 2. Require all but the smallest employers to offer health insurance. 3. Establish a Medicare-like, public insurance program for those not covered by a private plan, Medicare, Medicaid, or Tricare. 4. Pay for the plan by raising taxes on individuals making more than \$250,000 a year, and couples making more than \$350,000?"

\*\* The margin of error is +/- 2.2 percentage points.

## Discussion

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- Support for Congress's legislative proposals (mandates, public options, and taxes) is trending down.
- There is widespread support for providing insurance for all Americans.
  - But none for rationing care, or increasing taxes.
  - Support was also weak for paying doctors to use electronic health records and only moderate for capping prescription drug prices.
- There is strong support for simplifying billing; decreasing fraud, medical errors, and unnecessary care; increasing biomedical research; capping malpractice awards; promoting living wills; and incentivizing clinicians and patients for performance, particularly disease prevention and good health outcomes.
- Overall, Americans are in favor of improving care and generating savings by incentivizing best practices.

