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

Presented to:
National Press Club
July 15, 2009
Background

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percent Uninsured</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gallup November 15, 2008</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumer Reports April 6, 2009</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABC News/Washington Post June 21, 2009</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zogby/Casscells June 22, 2009</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quinnipiac June 29, 2009</td>
<td>11%</td>
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Overall, about 8% are uninsured.
Insurance, Satisfaction, and Priorities

- Satisfied with health care?: 84%
- Health care costs hurting business?: 79%
- Health care a human right?: 53%
- Public plan to "keep insurance honest"?: 46%
- Gvmnt expand health care role?: 44%
Promoting Quality Care

**How to best promote quality care?**

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

*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

Agree: 22%  Disagree: 36%

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

Agree: 68%  Disagree: 22%

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

Agree: 25%  Disagree: 44%
How to Pay for New Programs and Services

Percentage in Favor

- Eliminate Fraud: 88%
- Standardize Forms: 77%
- Promote Living Wills: 73%
- Reduce Unnecessary Care: 72%
- Incentivize Prevention: 71%
- Cap Prescription Drug Prices: 60%
- Reduce Medical Errors: 58%
- Reduce Care of Illegal Aliens: 55%
- Increase Cigarette Tax: 52%
- High Premiums for Unhealthy Behavior: 50%
- Increase Alcohol Tax: 49%
- Increase Medicare Age to 66: 43%
- Tax Medicare Advantage Plans: 41%
- Increase Co-pays, Deductibles: 35%
- Tax Employees with Expensive Health Plans: 31%
- Elimination Medicare Advantage Plans: 17%
- Increase Hospital Reimbursement: 14%
- Restrict Care of Illegal Aliens: 14%
- Decrease Hospital Reimbursement: 13%
- Decrease Home Care Reimbursement: 12%
- Ration Useful but Expensive Care: 10%
Declining Support for Proposal to Tax Benefits of Expensive Employee Plans
Support for increasing income 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.”
- Support for a national health insurance plan ("single payor") has peaked.
- Support for a new health insurance plan (“Medicare for <65”) has peaked.
Taxing Families with Incomes Greater than $250,000

- Support for taxing high-income families to cover uninsured may be falling.
Support for employee mandates fluctuates, but support for individual mandates is declining.
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

- 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.