

**CITIZENS HEALTH CARE
WORKING GROUP
HEALTH CARE THAT WORKS
FOR ALL AMERICANS**

**Rural Listening Sessions Summary Data Sheet
Greenville, MS
April 18, 2006**

SPONSORS:

**Citizens Health Care Working Group
Mississippi State University Extension Service**

CONTACT:

**Alan Barefield
Department of Agricultural Economics
Mississippi State University Extension Service
P.O. Box 5187
Mississippi State, MS 39762-5187
(662) 325-3144
alanb@srdc.msstate.edu**

Citizens' Health Care Working Group

**HEALTH CARE
THAT WORKS FOR ALL
AMERICANS**

**Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY
Extension
SERVICE**

**Citizens Health Care Working Group
Listening Session
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Percent	Total	A
		Are you male or female?
14.3%	8	1 Male
85.7%	48	2 Female

Percent	Total	B
		How old are you?
1.8%	1	1 Under 25
17.9%	10	2 25 to 44
57.1%	32	3 45 to 64
23.2%	13	4 Over 65

Percent	Total	C
		Are you Hispanic or Latino?
1.8%	1	1 Yes
92.9%	52	2 No
5.4%	3	3 No Response

Percent	Total	D
		Which of these groups best represents your race?
17.9%	10	1 White
82.1%	46	2 Black or African American
0.0%	0	3 Asian
0.0%	0	4 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
0.0%	0	5 American Indian or Alaska Native
0.0%	0	6 Other
0.0%	0	7 Decline to answer

Percent	Total	E
		What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?
8.9%	5	1 Elementary (grades 1 to 8)
17.9%	10	2 Some high school
17.9%	10	3 High school graduate or GED
10.7%	6	4 Some college
3.6%	2	5 Associate Degree
14.3%	8	6 Bachelor's Degree
26.8%	15	7 Graduate or professional degree
0.0%	0	8 Decline to answer

Percent	Total	F
		What is your primary source of health care coverage?
43.9%	25	1 Employer-based insurance
5.3%	3	2 Self-purchased insurance
0.0%	0	3 Veterans'
24.6%	14	4 Medicare
8.8%	5	5 Medicaid
1.8%	1	6 Other
14.0%	8	7 None
1.8%	1	8 Not sure

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Percent	Total	G
		What is your employment status?
1.8%	1	1 Self-employed
44.6%	25	2 Employed - working full time
37.5%	21	3 Employed - working part-time
5.4%	3	4 Not employed / currently looking for work
1.8%	1	5 Homemaker
8.9%	5	6 Other (eg., Retired)

Percent	Total	H
		Which one of these statements do you think best describes the U.S. health care system today?
58.9%	33	1 It is in a state of crisis
35.7%	20	2 It has major problems
5.4%	3	3 It has minor problems
0.0%	0	4 It does not have any problems
0.0%	0	5 No opinion

Percent	Total	I
		Which one of the following do you think is the MOST important reason to have health insurance?
39.3%	22	1 To pay for everyday medical expenses
60.7%	34	2 To protect against high medical costs
0.0%	0	3 No opinion

J	
As we consider ways to improve our health care system, what values and/or principles do you believe are fundamental? And which of the following values/principles is most important to you?	
Rating	SESSION A
9.8	Providing equal, quality care for all
9.1	Prevention and wellness
9.7	Available to everyone
9.1	Insurance system that covers all costs
9.7	Affordability
8.8	System that allows choice of providers
9.0	Comprehensive pre-existing coverage
9.2	Elimination of health disparities
9.6	Quality
9.2	Right number of doctors per population
9.5	Accessible
9.4	Preventive education

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Rating	SESSION B
9.8	More medical asst for the uninsured
9.9	Ability to choose your own doctor
10.0	Affordability
9.1	Doctors should accept what-ever insurance a patient has
8.9	Healthcare should be family centered
9.7	Accessibility – including access to specialty care
9.4	Choice on prescription drugs; should not have to use generics
9.3	Unlimited prescription coverage
9.5	Provide timely services
9.2	Privacy – people under treatment may have no privacy – lined up in carts in the hall
9.9	No insurance should not mean no health care
9.9	Medicaid needs to be expanded for uninsured

Percent Total K

**Should it be public policy that all Americans have affordable health care coverage?
[By public policy we mean that the stated public goal is set out in federal or state law.]**

85.7%	48	1	Yes
14.3%	8	2	No

Percent Total L

Which of the following statements most accurately represents your views?

			Providing coverage based on who you are (for example, people who have coverage through their employers or people who qualify for public programs because of age or because they are poor) as is the case currently
5.4%	3	1	
			Defining a level of services for everyone, regardless of their status, but with coverage assured only for that defined set of services
94.6%	53	2	

M-x

It would be difficult to define a level of services for everyone. A health plan that many people view as “typical” now covers these types of benefits, many of which are subject to copayments and deductibles:

- Preventive Care—screenings, routine physicals, influenza and pneumonia**
- immunizations, well child care, limited dental care**
- Physicians’ Care—inpatient services, outpatient surgery, related tests, home and office visits, medical emergency care**
- Chiropractic Care**
- Maternity Care**
- Prescription Drugs**
- Hospital/Facility Care—inpatient and outpatient services**
- Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy**
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse—inpatient and outpatient facility and professional care**

How would a basic package compare to this “typical” plan?

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M-1

Of the most frequent answers the group gave, what would you add?

Rating	SESSION A
8.2	Hearing aids
9.5	Unconditional prescription drug coverage
9.6	Vision care
9.3	Catastrophic care
8.7	Preventive health education (from nutritionist point)
9.8	Complete cancer care
9.3	Hospice and home health
9.1	More extensive dental including orthodontics, root canal
8.4	Wellness and exercise service
8.8	Durable medical equipment
9.2	Assisted living/nursing home
8.9	Respiratory care

Rating	SESSION B
9.9	Unlimited dental care for entire family
9.4	Vision care
9.4	Coverage for CAT scans and x-rays
9.9	Radiation/chemotherapy
9.4	Hospice
9.8	Coverage for mentally/physically challenged
9.1	Obesity programs and treatments
9.8	Nursing home/long term care
8.5	Comprehensive prescription drug coverage
9.4	Podiatrist
8.5	Comprehensive diabetic care
9.1	Comprehensive care for HIV

M-2

Of the most frequent answers the group gave, what would you take out?

Rating	SESSION A
5.4	Chiropractic

	SESSION B
	Nothing

Rating N

On a scale of 1 (no input) to 10 (exclusive input), how much input should each of the following have in deciding what is in a basic benefit package?

5.2	N-1 Government
6.7	N-2 Medical professionals
4.1	N-3 Insurance companies
6.9	N-4 Employers
9.1	N-5 Consumers

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O-1

In getting health care, what is most important to you?

Rating	Session A
9.7	Care in a timely manner
9.6	High quality services
9.5	Choice of provider
8.9	Transportation
9.1	Healthcare insurance provider integrity
9.9	Affordability/deductible
9.2	Health Education
9.9	Having insurance
9.7	Eliminate exclusion of pre-existing conditions
9.1	Increase staffing and reduce waiting times in Ers

Rating	Session B
10.0	Cost/Affordability
9.8	Access to specialty care when needed
9.9	Ability to meet deductible
9.9	Quality of care provided
8.8	Improved transportation
9.5	Elimination of treatment disparities (Medicaid vs Insured patients)
9.4	Quality of insurance benefits
9.9	Acceptance of insurance by providers
9.5	Timeliness of care
9.1	Provider choice (hospital)
9.7	Equity in the provision of health svcs

Percent	Total	P
		Should everyone be required to enroll in basic health care coverage - either private or public?
78.6%	44	1 Yes
21.4%	12	2 No

Percent	Total	Q
		Should some people be responsible for paying more than others?
37.5%	21	1 Yes
62.5%	35	2 No

Percent	Total	R
		What criteria should be used for making some people pay more?
12.0%	9	1 Family size
22.7%	17	2 Health behaviors
38.7%	29	3 Income
26.7%	20	4 None

Percent	Total	S
		Should public policy continue to use tax rules to encourage employer-based health insurance?
75.0%	42	1 Yes
25.0%	14	2 No

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Percent	Total	T
		Do you think government resources should be used to continue current programs that cover some people who can't otherwise afford it?
85.7%	48	1 Yes
14.3%	8	2 No

U-x

What should the responsibilities of individuals and families be in paying for health care?

Rating

Rating	Session A
9.2	Train family in good eating habits and exercise
6.3	Save money from income to support health insurance
6.6	Pay according to family size
9.1	Look for affordable insurance w/ decent benefits
8.1	Limit individual and family responsibility to deductibles
9.4	Medication compliance per medical professionals
8.1	Require attendance at community educational sessions
7.8	Pay some affordable premium
5.7	Take responsibility for extended family members
7.5	Individuals and families be supportive of faith based health efforts

Rating

Rating	Session B
9.2	Healthy lifestyle behaviors
8.9	Comply w/ physician's care and treatment plan
8.3	Not overusing the system with every little ache and pain
9.1	Taking prescriptions as prescribed
9.5	People should take responsibility for reducing their own health risks
7.4	Paying a certain pct of medical expenses
8.7	Individuals should pay a higher cost for riskier behaviors

Percent	Total	W
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How much more would you personally be willing to pay in a year (in premiums, taxes, or through other means) to support efforts that would result in every American having access to affordable, high quality health care coverage and services?

37.5%	21	1 \$0
12.5%	7	2 \$1 - \$100
10.7%	6	3 \$100 - \$299
3.6%	2	4 \$300 - \$999
3.6%	2	5 \$1000 or more
17.9%	10	6 Don't know
14.3%	8	7 Declined to answer

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Rating X-x

On a scale from 1 (low) to 10 (high), please rate each of the following public spending priorities to reach the goal of health care that works for all Americans.

- 9.1 X-1 Guaranteeing that there are enough health care providers, especially in areas such as inner cities & rural areas
- 9.7 X-2 Investing in public health programs to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect the public in the event of epidemics or disasters
- 9.7 X-3 Guaranteeing that all Americans have health insurance
- 8.9 X-4 Funding the development of computerized health information to improve the quality & efficiency of health care
- 9.0 X-5 Funding programs that help eliminate problems in access to or quality of care for minorities
- 9.3 X-6 Funding biomedical & technological research that can lead to advancements in the treatment & prevention of disease
- 9.8 X-7 Guaranteeing that all Americans get health care when they need it, through public safety net" programs (if they can not afford it)."
- 9.7 X-8 Preserving Medicare & Medicaid

Rating Z-x

If you believe it is important to ensure access to affordable, high quality health care coverage and services for all Americans, which of these proposals would you suggest for doing this? Please rate each of the following proposals on a scale from 1 (low) to 10 (high).

- 8.1 Z-1 Offer uninsured Americans income tax deductions, credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase of private health insurance on their own.
- 9.5 Z-2 Expand state government programs for low-income people (eg. Medicaid & S-CHIP) to provide coverage for more people without health insurance.
- 4.8 Z-3 Rely on free-market competition among doctors, hospitals, other health care providers and insurance companies rather than having government define benefits and set prices.
- 8.6 Z-4 Open up enrollment in national federal programs like Medicare or the federal employees' health benefit program
- 9.0 Z-5 Expand current tax incentives available to employers & their employees to encourage employers to offer insurance to more workers & families
- 9.1 Z-6 Require businesses to offer health insurance to their employees
- 8.7 Z-7 Expand neighborhood health clinics
- 7.8 Z-8 Create a national health insurance program, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance
- 7.6 Z-9 Require that all Americans enroll in basic health care coverage, either private or public
- 8.4 Z-10 Increase flexibility afforded states in how they use federal funds for state programs (such as Medicaid and S-CHIP) to maximize coverage

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What should be done to slow the growth of health care costs in America?

Rating

- | |
|---|
| SESSION A |
| 7.9 Insurance companies and govt negotiate costs |
| 8.7 Capping charges for services |
| 9.3 Participants with healthy behaviors get discounts on health insurance |
| 7.0 Limit damages on malpractice lawsuits |
| 8.9 Employer wellness programs |
| 9.0 Annual checkups |
| 8.7 Tax deductions for individual insurance premiums |
| 7.1 Abolish HMOs |
| 9.5 Change eating and exercise habits |
| 9.0 Govt support for education and prevention |
| 8.9 Cap medication costs |
| 9.2 See the doctor early in the disease process |

Rating

- | |
|---|
| SESSION B |
| 8.5 More preventive care |
| 8.6 Cap payment reimbursements to specialists |
| 8.7 Health care education |
| 9.2 Lower the cost of doctors' visits |
| 9.1 Caps on end-of-life care spending |
| 8.9 Funded wellness programs for employees |
| 8.9 Don't reward kids with junk food |
| 9.0 Cap payments to pharmaceutical companies |
| 8.7 Eliminate excessive and unnecessary doctor visits |
| 9.3 Insurers should offer incentives for those sustaining adequate or good health |