

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

**Rural Listening Sessions Summary Data Sheet
Hattiesburg, MS
March 30, 2006**

SPONSORS:

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

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Citizens' Health Care Working Group

**HEALTH CARE
THAT WORKS FOR ALL
AMERICANS**

**Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY
Extension
SERVICE**

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Percent	Total	A
		Are you male or female?
26.9%	7	1 Male
73.1%	19	2 Female
Percent	Total	B
		How old are you?
3.8%	1	1 Under 25
11.5%	3	2 25 to 44
76.9%	20	3 45 to 64
7.7%	2	4 Over 65
Percent	Total	C
		Are you Hispanic or Latino?
0.0%	0	1 Yes
92.3%	24	2 No
7.7%	2	3 No Response
Percent	Total	D
		Which of these groups best represents your race?
69.2%	18	1 White
26.9%	7	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
3.8%	1	7 Decline to answer
Percent	Total	E
		What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?
0.0%	0	1 Elementary (grades 1 to 8)
3.8%	1	2 Some high school
3.8%	1	3 High school graduate or GED
3.8%	1	4 Some college
7.7%	2	5 Associate Degree
34.6%	9	6 Bachelor's Degree
46.2%	12	7 Graduate or professional degree
0.0%	0	8 Decline to answer
Percent	Total	F
		What is your primary source of health care coverage?
65.4%	17	1 Employer-based insurance
23.1%	6	2 Self-purchased insurance
3.8%	1	3 Veterans'
3.8%	1	4 Medicare
0.0%	0	5 Medicaid
0.0%	0	6 Other
3.8%	1	7 None
0.0%	0	8 Not sure

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Percent	Total	G
		What is your employment status?
26.9%	7	1 Self-employed
61.5%	16	2 Employed - working full time
7.7%	2	3 Employed - working part-time
0.0%	0	4 Not employed / currently looking for work
0.0%	0	5 Homemaker
3.8%	1	6 Other

Percent	Total	H
		Which one of these statements do you think best describes the U.S. health care system today?
34.6%	9	1 It is in a state of crisis
57.7%	15	2 It has major problems
3.8%	1	3 It has minor problems
0.0%	0	4 It does not have any problems
3.8%	1	5 No opinion

Percent	Total	I
		Which one of the following do you think is the MOST important reason to have health insurance?
46.2%	12	1 To pay for everyday medical expenses
53.8%	14	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
9.5	Affordability
8.7	Equality for all (inc. non-citizen)
8.9	Right to choose providers, plans, services
9.1	Accessibility
8.7	Importance of accountability (providers, consumers, insurance companies, etc.)
8.6	Cost effectiveness; competition between plans to minimize cost
9.4	Quality of care
7.4	Need for transportation
8.8	Preventive services including mental health services
8.9	Availability – locally available doctors and providers willing to treat all patients all the time

Rating	
	SESSION B
6.8	Emphasis on prevention
7.2	Availability of services
8.4	Affordability
6.8	Accessibility
8.4	Quality of care
6.0	Individual choices
4.6	Who gets preference for health care services
6.6	Consumer choices for treatment plans

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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.]

69.2%	18	1 Yes
30.8%	8	2 No

Percent Total L

Which of the following statements most accurately represents your views?

30.8%	8	1 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
69.2%	18	2 Defining a level of services for everyone, regardless of their status, but with coverage assured only for that defined set of services

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?

M-1

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

Rating	SESSION A
7.9	Vision
7.7	Home care for the elderly
7.0	Long-term care
8.7	Durable medical equipment
7.7	Full dental coverage
7.9	Organ transplantation
6.6	Experimental Treatments
8.5	Hospice
7.2	Allergies
6.8	Sleep disorders
7.8	Corrective developmental surgery
9.4	Chronic illnesses (diabetes)

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Rating	SESSION B
7.2	FNP/PA Coverage
7.8	Long-term care and rehabilitation
8.6	Home health care
7.4	Hospice
7.6	Ambulance and patient transport service
7.0	Pathology
7.6	Radiology (readings, administration, etc.)
5.0	Aid-in-home care (bathing, transportation, etc.)
5.6	Vision (exams, glasses, lens)
6.8	Hearing (exams, hearing aids)
5.7	Dental (including dentures)

Total M-2

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

Rating	SESSION A
3.9	Substance abuse
5.4	Limited dental care
5.0	Chiropractic care
7.3	Home visits

Rating	SESSION B
4.8	Chiropractic care

Avg. 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
7.5	N-2 Medical professionals
5.5	N-3 Insurance companies
6.7	N-4 Employers
8.4	N-5 Consumers

O-1

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

Rating	SESSION A
9.3	Reasonable & prompt access
9.5	Adequate coverage
7.6	Legitimate need for care (may not need what is being pushed)
9.6	Affordability
9.3	Quality
9.7	Accessibility
8.4	Good communication w/ providers
6.9	Advocate to help you through the system
9.2	Affordable co-pay
8.6	Getting what you think you're paying for (having insurance doesn't mean coverage)
8.8	Clean facilities
8.7	Office hours availability

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Rating	SESSION B
9.0	Quality
8.2	Affordability
6.6	Accessibility (location)
6.6	Consumer choice of coverage
6.8	Individual choices
7.4	Consumer choice of services and preferences

Percent	Total	P
		Should everyone be required to enroll in basic health care coverage - either private or public?
61.5%	16	1 Yes
38.5%	10	2 No

Percent	Total	Q
		Should some people be responsible for paying more than others?
57.7%	15	1 Yes
42.3%	11	2 No

		R
		What criteria should be used for making some people pay more?
34.1%	15	1 Family size
31.8%	14	2 Health behaviors
25.0%	11	3 Income
9.1%	4	4 None

Percent	Total	S
		Should public policy continue to use tax rules to encourage employer-based health insurance?
76.9%	20	1 Yes
23.1%	6	2 No

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?
84.6%	22	1 Yes
15.4%	4	2 No

		U-x
		What should the responsibilities of individuals and families be in paying for health care?
Rating	Session A	
8.42	Assume percentage of affordable premium	
8.17	Know what they are paying for	
8.67	Wise use of services; avoid frivolous use of healthcare	
9.08	Following the directions of the doctor	
6.36	Provide volunteer svc if you can't make monetary payments	
8.83	Assume healthy behaviors	
7.00	Attend preventive health ed classes	

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Rating	Session B
9.00	Engage in preventive health measures
7.80	Utilize flex accounts
6.40	Choose appropriate levels of coverage (semi-private rooms vs private or wards)
8.00	Reduce/eliminate abuse by providers and consumers
7.20	Requirement to pay (something) for services utilized based on income
7.00	No entitlement to health care (must work for the care)
7.00	Establish health care accounts
7.20	Reimbursements or incentives for proper use of health care coverage

Percent Total W

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?

22.2%	4	1 \$0
11.1%	2	2 \$1 - \$100
16.7%	3	3 \$100 - \$299
16.7%	3	4 \$300 - \$999
16.7%	3	5 \$1000 or more
16.7%	3	6 Don't know

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.

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

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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).
9.1	Z-1	Offer uninsured Americans income tax deductions, credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase of private health insurance on their own.
6.4	Z-2	Expand state government programs for low-income people (eg. Medicaid & S-CHIP) to provide coverage for more people without health insurance.
5.2	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.
6.8	Z-4	Open up enrollment in national federal programs like Medicare or the federal employees' health benefit program
8.1	Z-5	Expand current tax incentives available to employers & their employees to encourage employers to offer insurance to more workers & families
5.6	Z-6	Require businesses to offer health insurance to their employees
7.5	Z-7	Expand neighborhood health clinics
5.5	Z-8	Create a national health insurance program, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance
6.4	Z-9	Require that all Americans enroll in basic health care coverage, either private or public
5.8	Z-10	Increase flexibility afforded states in how they use federal funds for state programs (such as Medicaid and S-CHIP) to maximize coverage

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

Rating	SESSION A
8.6	Healthy lifestyles; patient responsibility for followup & medical compliance
8.8	Use of preventive medicine
8.3	Form national assns for different industries to make insurance accessible and affordable
7.0	Limit Public Relations practices of pharmaceutical companies
7.1	Increase research funding
6.2	Get insurance companies to pay what they should
8.3	Improve "shared electronic medical records"
9.0	Tort reform; Reduce liability insurance costs;
7.5	Increase use of generic drugs
9.2	Prevent abuses within the system
8.4	Know what you are paying for

Rating	SESSION B
8.4	Making consumers accountable
9.0	Put real physical education back in the schools
7.6	Changing nutritional environment in schools and the workplace
6.4	Educational series on healthy living for community populations
6.8	Health education for adults and children in the home, school, and workplace
7.8	Preventive care (including early detection and education)
6.0	Marketing strategies for healthy behaviors that compete with mkting strategies for unhealthy behaviors