

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

**Rural Listening Sessions Summary Data Sheet
Newton, MS
April 20, 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**

**Citizens Health Care Working Group
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Percent	Total	A
		Are you male or female?
25.0%	2	1 Male
62.5%	5	2 Female
12.5%	1	3 Decline to answer

Percent	Total	B
		How old are you?
0.0%	0	1 Under 25
37.5%	3	2 25 to 44
37.5%	3	3 45 to 64
12.5%	1	4 Over 65
12.5%	1	5 Decline to answer

Percent	Total	C
		Are you Hispanic or Latino?
0.0%	0	1 Yes
87.5%	7	2 No
12.5%	1	3 No Response

Percent	Total	D
		Which of these groups best represents your race?
62.5%	5	1 White
25.0%	2	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
12.5%	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)
0.0%	0	2 Some high school
12.5%	1	3 High school graduate or GED
25.0%	2	4 Some college
25.0%	2	5 Associate Degree
12.5%	1	6 Bachelor's Degree
12.5%	1	7 Graduate or professional degree
12.5%	1	8 Decline to answer

Percent	Total	F
		What is your primary source of health care coverage?
71.4%	5	1 Employer-based insurance
0.0%	0	2 Self-purchased insurance
0.0%	0	3 Veterans'
14.3%	1	4 Medicare
0.0%	0	5 Medicaid
14.3%	1	6 Other
0.0%	0	7 None
0.0%	0	8 Not sure

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Percent	Total	G
		What is your employment status?
12.5%	1	1 Self-employed
50.0%	4	2 Employed - working full time
12.5%	1	3 Employed - working part-time
0.0%	0	4 Not employed / currently looking for work
0.0%	0	5 Homemaker
12.5%	1	6 Other (eg., Retired)
12.5%	1	7 Declined to answer

Percent	Total	H
		Which one of these statements do you think best describes the U.S. health care system today?
0.0%	0	1 It is in a state of crisis
87.5%	7	2 It has major problems
0.0%	0	3 It has minor problems
0.0%	0	4 It does not have any problems
0.0%	0	5 No opinion
12.5%	1	6 Declined to answer

Percent	Total	I
		Which one of the following do you think is the MOST important reason to have health insurance?
25.0%	2	1 To pay for everyday medical expenses
62.5%	5	2 To protect against high medical costs
0.0%	0	3 No opinion
12.5%	1	4 Declined to answer

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	
9.2	Provides the treatment that the patient needs
9.0	Access
7.3	Choice of provider
8.2	Cost-effectiveness
7.2	Standardized quality – evidence based medicine
7.9	Accessibility of patient medical records between providers
	No disparity of costs between insured and uninsured – standard & equitable charges
6.3	
9.3	Affordability

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.]
75.0%	6	1 Yes
25.0%	2	2 No

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Percent Total L

Which of the following statements most accurately represents your views?

0.0%	0	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
100.0%	8	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

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

8.0	Home health
7.6	Hospice
7.7	Comprehensive dental
6.9	Optical care
7.0	Health education
8.6	Prescriptions should include birth control
8.0	Specialists’ care
6.3	Transplants and donor svcs
8.4	Mammograms

Rating M-2

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

7.7	Chiropractic care
7.1	Unlimited substance abuse care

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?

4.6	N-1 Government
8.2	N-2 Medical professionals
5.5	N-3 Insurance companies
6.8	N-4 Employers
8.7	N-5 Consumers

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Rating	O-1
	In getting health care, what is most important to you?
9.4	Quality of care
7.3	Consistency of care
8.4	Affordability
8.4	Choice of physicians
7.8	Being able to keep physicians if you change your health care plan
8.3	Confidentiality
8.1	Portability of health care records
8.0	Access

Percent	Total	P
		Should everyone be required to enroll in basic health care coverage - either private or public?
87.5%	7	1 Yes
12.5%	1	2 No

Percent	Total	Q
		Should some people be responsible for paying more than others?
75.0%	6	1 Yes
25.0%	2	2 No

Percent	Total	R
		What criteria should be used for making some people pay more?
28.6%	4	1 Family size
42.9%	6	2 Health behaviors
21.4%	3	3 Income
7.1%	1	4 None

Percent	Total	S
		Should public policy continue to use tax rules to encourage employer-based health insurance?
75.0%	6	1 Yes
25.0%	2	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?
50.0%	4	1 Yes
50.0%	4	2 No

Rating	U-x
	What should the responsibilities of individuals and families be in paying for health care?
8.0	Prioritize health care over luxury items
7.8	Budget for family health care needs
8.5	Hold people liable for high risk behaviors
7.5	Educate oneself on good health practices
7.5	Withhold health care insurance payments from individuals' paychecks (payroll deductions)
7.8	Practice healthy behaviors

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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?

0.0%	0	1 \$0
0.0%	0	2 \$1 - \$100
37.5%	3	3 \$100 - \$299
25.0%	2	4 \$300 - \$999
0.0%	0	5 \$1000 or more
0.0%	0	6 Don't know
37.5%	3	7 Decline to answer

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.

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

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 4.8 | Z-1 Offer uninsured Americans income tax deductions, credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase of private health insurance on their own. |
| 6.2 | Z-2 Expand state government programs for low-income people (eg. Medicaid & S-CHIP) to provide coverage for more people without health insurance. |
| 2.2 | 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. |
| 5.0 | Z-4 Open up enrollment in national federal programs like Medicare or the federal employees' health benefit program |
| 5.4 | Z-5 Expand current tax incentives available to employers & their employees to encourage employers to offer insurance to more workers & families |
| 6.8 | Z-6 Require businesses to offer health insurance to their employees |
| 7.2 | Z-7 Expand neighborhood health clinics |
| 7.0 | Z-8 Create a national health insurance program, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance |
| 8.2 | Z-9 Require that all Americans enroll in basic health care coverage, either private or public |
| 5.4 | Z-10 Increase flexibility afforded states in how they use federal funds for state programs (such as Medicaid and S-CHIP) to maximize coverage |

Rating

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

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 7.6 | Tort reform |
| 7.8 | Reduce bureaucracy & complexity of health care system |
| 8.2 | Standardization within insurance industry |
| 8.2 | Early intervention |
| 7.2 | Health education |
| 6.4 | Physical education in the schools |
| 6.2 | Promotion of health awareness and healthy habits – advertising/promotion |
| 9 | Profit control of pharmaceutical industry |
| 6.8 | Profit control of non-profit hospitals and non-profit providers |