

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

**Rural Listening Sessions Summary Data Sheet  
Starkville, MS  
March 21, 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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<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>A</b>
		<b>Are you male or female?</b>
45.0%	9	1 Male
55.0%	11	2 Female
<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>B</b>
		<b>How old are you?</b>
5.0%	1	1 Under 25
40.0%	8	2 25 to 44
35.0%	7	3 45 to 64
20.0%	4	4 Over 65
<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>C</b>
		<b>Are you Hispanic or Latino?</b>
0.0%	0	1 Yes
100.0%	20	2 No
0.0%	0	3 No Response
<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>D</b>
		<b>Which of these groups best represents your race?</b>
90.0%	18	1 White
10.0%	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
0.0%	0	7 Decline to answer
<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>E</b>
		<b>What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?</b>
0.0%	0	1 Elementary (grades 1 to 8)
5.0%	1	2 Some high school
5.0%	1	3 High school graduate or GED
0.0%	0	4 Some college
0.0%	0	5 Associate Degree
15.0%	3	6 Bachelor's Degree
75.0%	15	7 Graduate or professional degree
0.0%	0	8 Decline to answer
<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>F</b>
		<b>What is your primary source of health care coverage?</b>
77.8%	14	1 Employer-based insurance
5.6%	1	2 Self-purchased insurance
0.0%	0	3 Veterans'
5.6%	1	4 Medicare
0.0%	0	5 Medicaid
0.0%	0	6 Other
11.1%	2	7 None
0.0%	0	8 Not sure

**Citizens Health Care Working Group  
Listening Session  
Starkville, MS  
March 21, 2006**

Percent	Total	G
		<b>What is your employment status?</b>
10.0%	2	1 Self-employed
45.0%	9	2 Employed - working full time
20.0%	4	3 Employed - working part-time
5.0%	1	4 Not employed / currently looking for work
0.0%	0	5 Homemaker
20.0%	4	6 Other

Percent	Total	H
		<b>Which one of these statements do you think best describes the U.S. health care system today?</b>
45.0%	9	1 It is in a state of crisis
50.0%	10	2 It has major problems
0.0%	0	3 It has minor problems
0.0%	0	4 It does not have any problems
5.0%	1	5 No opinion

Percent	Total	I
		<b>Which one of the following do you think is the MOST important reason to have health insurance?</b>
55.0%	11	1 To pay for everyday medical expenses
45.0%	9	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
9.2	Access to doctor
8.2	Available without regard to income level
9.7	Quality
7.0	Partnership: public/private
9.5	Good emergency care
9.3	Preventive care
8.5	Everyone contributes - personal responsibility
8.3	Incentives for healthy behavior
8.2	Portability
8.7	Access to affordable insurance
7.3	Urban/rural differences
8.7	Efficient medical care

**Citizens Health Care Working Group  
Listening Session  
Starkville, MS  
March 21, 2006**

Rating	<b>SESSION B</b>
7.4	Accessibility
9.7	Fair pricing
8.0	Competence
8.3	Remove layers of bureaucracy
7.1	Right to choose type of coverage
7.7	Maintenance & preventive care
6.0	More early education
8.6	Eliminate excessive lawyer influence (medical people making medical decisions)
7.7	Patient accountability
8.6	Care for truly needy
7.9	Right to choose providers (non-HMO/self management)

**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.]**

70.0%	14	1 Yes
30.0%	6	2 No

**Percent Total L**

**Which of the following statements most accurately represents your views?**

45.0%	9	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
55.0%	11	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?**

**Citizens Health Care Working Group  
Listening Session  
Starkville, MS  
March 21, 2006**

**M-1**

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

<b>Rating</b>	<b>Session A</b>
6.3	Hearing
7.3	Sight
5.6	Comprehensive dental
5.2	Fertility/infertility treatment
3.9	Obesity treatment-including bariatric surgery
7.7	Home health care
7.9	Long-term care/Nursing home
8.1	Hospice
7.7	Nurse Practitioners/Physician assistants
6.7	Ambulance
6.1	Genetic testing - disease prevention/treatment
5.6	Nutrition counseling/education
<b>Rating</b>	<b>Session B</b>
7.9	Routine gynecological care
6.4	Home health care as needed
4.0	Preventive weight programs (wellness center, trainer, etc.)
7.9	Limited eye care
8.0	Routine dental care (maintenance, cleaning, caps, cavities)
3.1	Orthodontic services
4.0	Maintenance and chronic chiropractic care
5.3	Exercise prescriptions
7.0	Long term care
7.9	Broad scope rehabilitation (cardiac, post surgery, post neuro, etc.)

**M-2**

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

7.3	Chiropractic care
6.1	Substance abuse (conditionally)
2.9	Routine physicals
3.9	Limited prescription drug benefit
4.1	Limited mental health 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?**

4.5	<b>N-1</b> Government
7.3	<b>N-2</b> Medical professionals
3.5	<b>N-3</b> Insurance companies
6.3	<b>N-4</b> Employers
9.1	<b>N-5</b> Consumers

**Citizens Health Care Working Group  
Listening Session  
Starkville, MS  
March 21, 2006**

**O-1**

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

<b>Rating</b>	<b>SESSION A</b>
9.4	Affordable
9.5	Access to quality
8.3	More comprehensive coverage
7.1	Trauma treatment
8.8	Personal choices (doctors and facilities)
8.8	Covered personal choices (network vs non-network coverage)

<b>Rating</b>	<b>SESSION B</b>
9.7	Provider competence
6.9	Defining the health care plan
8.6	Accessibility
9.6	Affordability
8.6	Accountability (consumer & provider)
8.9	Provider choice
7.5	Portability
6.3	Easy access to individual records by the individual
7.4	Preventive & maintenance care
7.7	Privacy of information (privacy in filling out information sheets in MDs offices, etc.)
7.4	Schedule appointments in a reasonable amount of time
8.7	Clarity and promptness in who is paying for what

<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>P</b>
		<b>Should everyone be required to enroll in basic health care coverage - either private or public?</b>
60.0%	12	1 Yes
40.0%	8	2 No

<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Q</b>
		<b>Should some people be responsible for paying more than others?</b>
75.0%	15	1 Yes
25.0%	5	2 No

<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>R</b>
		<b>What criteria should be used for making some people pay more?</b>
33.3%	15	1 Family size
37.8%	17	2 Health behaviors
26.7%	12	3 Income
2.2%	1	4 None

<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>S</b>
		<b>Should public policy continue to use tax rules to encourage employer-based health insurance?</b>
80.0%	16	1 Yes
20.0%	4	2 No

**Citizens Health Care Working Group  
Listening Session  
Starkville, MS  
March 21, 2006**

Percent	Total	T
		<b>Do you think government resources should be used to continue current programs that cover some people who can't otherwise afford it?</b>
90.0%	18	1 Yes
10.0%	2	2 No

**U-x**  
**What should the responsibilities of individuals and families be in paying for health care?**

Rating	Session A
9.0	Requirement to pay or perform community service
9.2	Healthy behaviors – focus on all unhealthy behaviors
9.5	Become knowledgeable about healthy lifestyles - Practice what you learn
7.1	Maintain Flexibility, etc.
7.3	Maintain Med Savings Accts
	Health care tax – sliding scale based on income in addition to FICA (assume reallocation of SS)
7.1	
8.3	Unhealthy behaviors result in higher “premiums”
7.5	Increase knowledge of how effective procedures and tests are

Rating	Session B
8.3	Fee for each visit & prescription (could be weighted fee)
7.9	Individual cost weighted by usage (conditioned by behavior vs. disease)
8.9	Individual healthy behaviors
9.1	Personal accountability
8.9	Paying for the level of care desired
6.1	Diet (caregiver responsibility for children)
6.9	Understanding deductible amount and coverage options and managing these

Percent	Total	W
		<b>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?</b>
10.5%	2	1 \$0
15.8%	3	2 \$1 - \$100
10.5%	2	3 \$100 - \$299
36.8%	7	4 \$300 - \$999
21.1%	4	5 \$1000 or more
5.3%	1	6 Don't know

**Citizens Health Care Working Group  
Listening Session  
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March 21, 2006**

**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.**

- |     |            |   |
|-----|------------|---|
| 8.2 | <b>X-1</b> | Guaranteeing that there are enough health care providers, especially in areas such as inner cities & rural areas                                  |
| 9.4 | <b>X-2</b> | Investing in public health programs to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect the public in the event of epidemics or disasters |
| 7.0 | <b>X-3</b> | Guaranteeing that all Americans have health insurance   |
| 7.2 | <b>X-4</b> | Funding the development of computerized health information to improve the quality & efficiency of health care                                     |
| 6.5 | <b>X-5</b> | Funding programs that help eliminate problems in access to or quality of care for minorities  |
| 8.3 | <b>X-6</b> | Funding biomedical & technological research that can lead to advancements in the treatment & prevention of disease                                |
| 7.5 | <b>X-7</b> | Guaranteeing that all Americans get health care when they need it, through public safety net" programs (if they can not afford it)."              |
| 8.2 | <b>X-8</b> | 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).**

- |     |             |   |
|-----|-------------|---|
| 6.6 | <b>Z-1</b>  | Offer uninsured Americans income tax deductions, credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase of private health insurance on their own.                     |
| 5.6 | <b>Z-2</b>  | Expand state government programs for low-income people (eg. Medicaid & S-CHIP) to provide coverage for more people without health insurance.                                |
| 5.8 | <b>Z-3</b>  | Rely on free-market competition among doctors, hospitals, other health care providers and insurance companies rather than having government define benefits and set prices. |
| 6.3 | <b>Z-4</b>  | Open up enrollment in national federal programs like Medicare or the federal employees' health benefit program  |
| 8.2 | <b>Z-5</b>  | Expand current tax incentives available to employers & their employees to encourage employers to offer insurance to more workers & families                                 |
| 4.5 | <b>Z-6</b>  | Require businesses to offer health insurance to their employees   |
| 7.7 | <b>Z-7</b>  | Expand neighborhood health clinics  |
| 5.2 | <b>Z-8</b>  | Create a national health insurance program, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance   |
| 5.9 | <b>Z-9</b>  | Require that all Americans enroll in basic health care coverage, either private or public   |
| 6.5 | <b>Z-10</b> | 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**

	<b>SESSION A</b>
7.5	Use of small business networks for insurance
7.9	Reduce red tape
8.2	Do away with limited enrollments in medical schools
7.2	Higher deductibles
7.0	Regulate cost of drugs
9.5	Encourage use of generics
7.6	Decrease cost of medical equipment
8.4	Shared usage of medical equipment
8.8	Legal reform
9.7	Preventive measures

**Rating**

	<b>SESSION B</b>
7.7	Incentives for healthy behavior
7.0	Reasonable charges w/o having them inflated to cover people who won't or can't pay bills
8.1	Decreasing litigious behavior
7.7	Decrease patient expectations for use of technology
8.7	Providers order only appropriate tests or technologies
7.3	Regular preventive care
7.3	Education about healthy behaviors
8.9	Limit medical advertising to public
8.9	Limit legal class action advertising
7.7	Public policy promoting healthy behaviors and standards
7.6	Best practices by all health care providers (evidence based practices)
6.4	Use of sin taxes for direct health care