

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

**Rural Listening Sessions Summary Data Sheet
Verona, MS
March 27, 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
Listening Session
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Percent	Total	A
		Are you male or female?
42.9%	3	1 Male
57.1%	4	2 Female

Percent	Total	B
		How old are you?
14.3%	1	1 Under 25
14.3%	1	2 25 to 44
57.1%	4	3 45 to 64
14.3%	1	4 Over 65

Percent	Total	C
		Are you Hispanic or Latino?
0.0%	0	1 Yes
85.7%	6	2 No
14.3%	1	3 No Response

Percent	Total	D
		Which of these groups best represents your race?
71.4%	5	1 White
28.6%	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

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
0.0%	0	3 High school graduate or GED
0.0%	0	4 Some college
0.0%	0	5 Associate Degree
42.9%	3	6 Bachelor's Degree
57.1%	4	7 Graduate or professional degree
0.0%	0	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?
28.6%	2	1 Self-employed
71.4%	5	2 Employed - working full time
0.0%	0	3 Employed - working part-time
0.0%	0	4 Not employed / currently looking for work
0.0%	0	5 Homemaker
0.0%	0	6 Other
Percent	Total	H
		Which one of these statements do you think best describes the U.S. health care system today?
28.6%	2	1 It is in a state of crisis
71.4%	5	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
Percent	Total	I
		Which one of the following do you think is the MOST important reason to have health insurance?
71.4%	5	1 To pay for everyday medical expenses
28.6%	2	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?
	Total	
	9.3	Simplify and organized
	9.5	Accessibility
	8.5	Educate the people as to why they are at the MD office (medications, etc.)
	8.3	Safety
	7.6	Education about insurance policies (what is and what isn't covered)
	9.7	Seamless and coordinated as possible (health records accessibility) to minimize confusion, cost and help the patient to get the best care
	8.2	Protection against abuse of the system
	9.7	Prescription drugs accessibility and at a "fair" price
	8.3	Give people incentives for healthy lifestyles
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.]
71.4%	5	1 Yes
28.6%	2	2 No

**Citizens Health Care Working Group
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Percent Total L

Which of the following statements most accurately represents your views?

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 42.9% | 3 | 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 |
| 57.1% | 4 | 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? |
| 9.9 | | Durable Medical Equipment (DME – walkers, wheelchairs, testing eqpt and monitors, etc) |
| 9.3 | | Plan for the terminally ill |
| 8.3 | | Hospice |
| 8.6 | | Sitters and care-givers for the seriously ill |

M-2

- | | | |
|---------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rating | | Of the most frequent answers the group gave, what would you take out? |
| 9.6 | | Chiropractic 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?

- | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 5.3 | N-1 Government |
| 8.7 | N-2 Medical professionals |
| 6.7 | N-3 Insurance companies |
| 8.1 | N-4 Employers |
| 9.4 | N-5 Consumers |

**Citizens Health Care Working Group
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Rating	O-1	
		In getting health care, what is most important to you?
9.7		Having providers that you choose
9.3		Get services when and where you want it (access)
8.2		Adequate transportation to services
8.0		Being educated on what's important, what type of health care you need, and how to get it
9.7		Affordability
9.3		Elimination or reduction of red tape
7.5		Proper screening - who should be getting in and who really doesn't need a particular level of care
7.3		Buy-in from patients to help reduce the cost

Percent	Total	P
		Should everyone be required to enroll in basic health care coverage - either private or public?
83.3%	5	1 Yes
16.7%	1	2 No

Percent	Total	Q
		Should some people be responsible for paying more than others?
83.3%	5	1 Yes
16.7%	1	2 No

Total	R
	What criteria should be used for making some people pay more?
1	1 Family size
5	2 Health behaviors
4	3 Income
1	5 None

Percent	Total	S
		Should public policy continue to use tax rules to encourage employer-based health insurance?
100.0%	6	1 Yes
0.0%	0	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?
100.0%	6	1 Yes
0.0%	0	2 No

Rating	U-x
	What should the responsibilities of individuals and families be in paying for health care?
9.5	Taking preventive measures - healthy lifestyles
9.3	Responsibility of parents in rearing their children
9.5	Using health care appropriately (not overusing it)
9.2	Not overusing emergency room care (caveat: some private clinics won't accept Medicaid; ER may be the only choice)

**Citizens Health Care Working Group
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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?

16.7%	1	1 \$0
16.7%	1	2 \$1 - \$100
0.0%	0	3 \$100 - \$299
50.0%	3	4 \$300 - \$999
0.0%	0	5 \$1000 or more
16.7%	1	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.

8.7	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
10.0	X-3 Guaranteeing that all Americans have health insurance
8.2	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
5.3	X-6 Funding biomedical & technological research that can lead to advancements in the treatment & prevention of disease
9.5	X-7 Guaranteeing that all Americans get health care when they need it, through public safety net" programs (if they can not afford it)."
8.5	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).

4.3	Z-1 Offer uninsured Americans income tax deductions, credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase of private health insurance on their own.
8.0	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.
7.2	Z-4 Open up enrollment in national federal programs like Medicare or the federal employees' health benefit program
9.3	Z-5 Expand current tax incentives available to employers & their employees to encourage employers to offer insurance to more workers & families
8.2	Z-6 Require businesses to offer health insurance to their employees
8.7	Z-7 Expand neighborhood health clinics
5.3	Z-8 Create a national health insurance program, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance

**Citizens Health Care Working Group
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- 9.2 **Z-9** Require that all Americans enroll in basic health care coverage, either private or public
- 4.3 **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?

- 9.2 Lowering the cost of health care administration
- 9.8 Eliminate pharmaceutical marketing (reduce advertising, use generic vs. brand name)
- 8.7 Encourage personal responsibility to minimize system cost resulting from inefficient use of system resources
- 8.2 Simplification of health care delivery system
- 8.8 Parents taking greater responsibility in rearing children
- 9.3 Assign personal value or price tag with health so that people will take greater responsibility and also be more judicious in use of HC system
- 8.8 Reimburse for preventive services to reduce long term costs
- 7.7 Make preventive health care as sexy as walking around the mall with a cell phone
- 7.2 Minimize length of time of MD education to reduce cost of ed so that they are more likely to practice in rural areas