

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

**Rural Listening Sessions Summary Data Sheet
Wesson, MS
March 29, 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?
42.9%	3	1 Male
57.1%	4	2 Female
		B
		How old are you?
0.0%		1 Under 25
14.3%	1	2 25 to 44
85.7%	6	3 45 to 64
0.0%		4 Over 65
		C
		Are you Hispanic or Latino?
0.0%	0	1 Yes
100.0%	6	2 No
0.0%	0	3 No Response
		D
		Which of these groups best represents your race?
100.0%	7	1 White
0.0%	0	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
		E
		What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?
0.0%	0	1 Elementary (grades 1 to 8)
28.6%	2	2 Some high school
14.3%	1	3 High school graduate or GED
0.0%	0	4 Some college
14.3%	1	5 Associate Degree
0.0%	0	6 Bachelor's Degree
42.9%	3	7 Graduate or professional degree
0.0%	0	8 Decline to answer
		F
		What is your primary source of health care coverage?
42.9%	3	1 Employer-based insurance
42.9%	3	2 Self-purchased insurance
0.0%	0	3 Veterans'
0.0%	0	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?
57.1%	4	1 Self-employed
14.3%	1	2 Employed - working full time
14.3%	1	3 Employed - working part-time
0.0%	0	4 Not employed / currently looking for work
0.0%	0	5 Homemaker
14.3%	1	6 Other

Percent	Total	H
		Which one of these statements do you think best describes the U.S. health care system today?
14.3%	1	1 It is in a state of crisis
85.7%	6	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?
57.1%	4	1 To pay for everyday medical expenses
42.9%	3	2 To protect against high medical costs
0.0%	0	3 No opinion

Rating	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?
8.6	Affordable for all Americans
9.3	Accessible (available to whoever w/o limitations)
7.4	Managed quality care
8.7	Portability (Medicaid is not portable from state to state)
8.9	Comprehensive health care (mental illness)
8.1	Eliminate discrimination, bias
8.4	Universal coverage (coverage for people who can't afford, pre-existing conditions)
9.4	Basic preventive care for all
8.1	Proactive, not reactive
8.0	Flexibility of plans to fit individual needs
9.0	Uniform standards for all
9.9	Personal responsibility

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.]
42.9%	3	1 Yes
57.1%	4	2 No

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

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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?

Total M-1

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

- 7.7 Catastrophic coverage (including transplant coverage)
- 6.1 Vision
- 7.4 Hearing
- 7.9 Long-term care (alternative care like assisted living)
- 9.0 Radiation and chemotherapy
- 7.1 Home health care and hospice services (24 hour sitters)
- 6.0 TMJ (tempular mandibular joint) coverage
- 7.2 Durable medical equipment
- 8.7 Plastic surgery for congenital and medically necessary reasons (not cosmetic)

Total M-2

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

- 8.7 Home & office physician visits
- 3.9 Chiropractic care
- 6.6 Substance abuse

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?

- 4.0 **N-1** Government
- 7.7 **N-2** Medical professionals
- 4.1 **N-3** Insurance companies
- 4.3 **N-4** Employers
- 8.0 **N-5** Consumers

Rating O-1

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

- 9.7 Access to health care providers and services
- 8.0 Quality
- 7.4 Provider choice (MD, hospital, etc.)
- 8.6 Prescription coverage
- 9.0 Education, access to data
- 7.4 Healthcare service comparison of costs – pricing visibility
- 10.0 Adequate supply of health care professionals

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Percent	Total	P
		Should everyone be required to enroll in basic health care coverage - either private or public?
33.3%	2	1 Yes
66.7%	4	2 No
Percent	Total	Q
		Should some people be responsible for paying more than others?
33.3%	2	1 Yes
66.7%	4	2 No
Total	R	
		What criteria should be used for making some people pay more?
1	1	1 Family size
1	2	2 Health behaviors
2	3	3 Income
4	5	5 None
Percent	Total	S
		Should public policy continue to use tax rules to encourage employer-based health insurance?
83.3%	5	1 Yes
16.7%	1	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?
66.7%	4	1 Yes
33.3%	2	2 No
Avg	U-x	
		What should the responsibilities of individuals and families be in paying for health care?
8.7		Preventive health care (health & wellness)
7.7		Individual & Family Responsibility to have health care (includes paying the cost)
7.8		Responsibility for living a healthy lifestyle
7.3		Being responsible for obtaining education
8.7		Should not expect first-dollar coverage
9.3		Has to be some monetary cost to the consumer of the service
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?
50.0%	3	1 \$0
16.7%	1	2 \$1 - \$100
0.0%	0	3 \$100 - \$299
16.7%	1	4 \$300 - \$999
16.7%	1	5 \$1000 or more
0.0%	0	6 Don't know

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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.

- 9.3 X-1 Guaranteeing that there are enough health care providers, especially in areas such as inner cities & rural areas
- 7.5 X-2 Investing in public health programs to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect the public in the event of epidemics or disasters
- 6.0 X-3 Guaranteeing that all Americans have health insurance
- 6.0 X-4 Funding the development of computerized health information to improve the quality & efficiency of health care
- 5.3 X-5 Funding programs that help eliminate problems in access to or quality of care for minorities
- 8.3 X-6 Funding biomedical & technological research that can lead to advancements in the treatment & prevention of disease
- 5.5 X-7 Guaranteeing that all Americans get health care when they need it, through public safety net" programs (if they can not afford it)."
- 5.8 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).

- 6.5 Z-1 Offer uninsured Americans income tax deductions, credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase of private health insurance on their own.
- 5.5 Z-2 Expand state government programs for low-income people (eg. Medicaid & S-CHIP) to provide coverage for more people without health insurance.
- 6.8 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.
- 5.5 Z-4 Open up enrollment in national federal programs like Medicare or the federal employees' health benefit program
- 7.7 Z-5 Expand current tax incentives available to employers & their employees to encourage employers to offer insurance to more workers & families
- 2.7 Z-6 Require businesses to offer health insurance to their employees
- 8.0 Z-7 Expand neighborhood health clinics
- 6.8 Z-8 Create a national health insurance program, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance
- 6.2 Z-9 Require that all Americans enroll in basic health care coverage, either private or public
- 5.2 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?

- 8.3 Modify eligibility and reimbursement rules
- 8.2 Uniform prescription monitoring system for drug abuse and physician monitoring
- 7.8 Adoption of evidence-based medicine
- 8.0 Increase preventive care accessibility
- 6.8 Comprehensive health care
- 8.7 Alternative elderly and disabled care
- 6.3 Tort reform
- 8.2 Create Centers of Excellence for specific and special treatments (spinal cord, burn centers, etc.)
- 9.0 Complementary medicine (holistic medicine)
- 7.7 Target more Medicaid funds for health care
- 6.5 Examine generic regulations and patent laws Reduce Medicare/Medicaid abuse
- 8.8 Reduce Medicare/Medicaid abuse