

Statewide Household Survey #1

March, 2001

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____, and I am calling from Portland State University. We are conducting a survey for the State of Oregon on residents' views about important health care issues. The results of this survey will help guide health policy decisions that affect the people of Oregon.

Questions

[Respondent screening questions have been excluded from this version.]

Q1. Of all the issues facing Oregon today, including education, the economy, the environment, crime, taxes and other issues, please think about where health care fits in relation to other important issues.

In terms of importance, would you say health care is near the top of the list in importance, in the middle, or near the bottom of the list in importance?

- 1 Top
- 2 Middle
- 3 Bottom
- 8 Don't know/no opinion
- 9 Refused

Q2. Now, I am going to read you four statements. Please tell me which one best summarizes your feelings about how the overall health care system is working today.

- 1 The health care system is fine just the way it is, no changes are needed.
- 2 The health care system works pretty well and only minor changes are needed.
- 3 There are good things about the health care system, but fundamental changes are needed.
- 4 There is so much wrong with the health care system that it needs to be completely rebuilt.
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q3. In general, when you think about health care in Oregon, what do you think is the number one problem that needs to be solved? *[Interviewer records verbatim response.]*

Now, I'd like to ask you about your experiences with getting health care in the last year, that is, since March of 2000.

Q4. In the last 12 months how much of a problem, if any, was it to get the medical care you believed to be necessary? Was it a big problem, a small problem, not a problem, or did you not need any medical care?

- 1 A big problem
- 2 A small problem
- 3 Not a problem
- 7 Does not apply; have not needed
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q5. In the last 12 months have you received a routine physical examination or check up? By routine, we mean a check-up when you are not sick or injured.

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q6. In the past 12 months have you visited a doctor or health clinic for an illness or injury?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q7. In the last 12 months have you received care in an emergency room?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q8. Do you currently have a regular doctor or clinic to go to when you are sick or want medical advice?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q9. Because of cost, in the last 12 months have you or someone in your household gone without a needed medical test or treatment?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 7 Does not apply; have not needed
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q10. Because of cost, in the last 12 months have you or someone in your household gone without filling a prescription for medicine?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 7 Does not apply; have not needed
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q11. Because of cost, in the last 12 months did you have any problems paying medical bills, including doctor, hospital or prescription drug bills?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 7 Does not apply; have not needed
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Now, I would like to read a series of statements about health care values. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each one. If you have no opinion about a statement, please just say so.

Q12A. Do you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree that:

Access to health care should be a basic right for all just as education is a basic right.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Somewhat agree
- 4 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know/no opinion
- 9 Refused

Q12B. Do you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree that:

People should be required to have health insurance, just as automobile drivers are required to have car insurance.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Somewhat agree
- 4 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know/no opinion
- 9 Refused

Q12C. The Oregon Health Plan is a publicly funded health insurance program for low-income residents of Oregon.

Do you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree that:

The Oregon Health Plan should be open to all qualified low-income Oregon residents, even if they are not U.S. citizens.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Somewhat agree
- 4 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know/no opinion
- 9 Refused

Because many Oregon residents do not have health insurance, state officials are considering ways to expand coverage to more people. Now, I'm going to ask you about several options for doing this. As I read each one, please tell me whether you favor or oppose it. If you have no opinion, please just say so.

Q13A. Would you favor or oppose using state funding to help small employers offer health insurance to their employees?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 No opinion/don't know
- 9 Refused

Q13B. What about this option — would you favor or oppose requiring all employers to offer health insurance to their employees?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 No opinion/don't know
- 9 Refused

Q13C. Would you favor or oppose a national health plan, financed by taxpayers, that would cover everyone?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 No opinion/don't know
- 9 Refused

Q13D. Would you favor or oppose helping uninsured people to buy health insurance on their own by offering them income tax deductions, tax credits, or other financial assistance?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 No opinion/don't know
- 9 Refused

Q13E. What about expanding Medicare to cover people aged 55 and older, not just those 65 and older — would you favor or oppose this?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 No opinion/don't know
- 9 Refused

Q13F. Would you favor or oppose expanding public programs such as the Oregon Health Plan that provide insurance for low-income people without health insurance?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 No opinion/don't know
- 9 Refused

Q13G. Would you favor or oppose increasing state funding to expand community health clinics that serve low-income people who do not have health insurance?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 No opinion/don't know
- 9 Refused

Q14. Would you be willing to pay any extra money — either in higher health insurance premiums or higher taxes — in order to increase the number of Oregon residents who have access to medical care?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q14A. Would you be willing to pay an extra \$50 more per month to increase the number of Oregon residents who have access to medical care?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes → *[Skip to Q15.]*
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q14B. Would you be willing to pay an extra \$30 a month?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes → *[Skip to Q15.]*
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q14C. Would you be willing to pay an extra \$5 a month to increase the number of Oregon residents who have access to medical care?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Next, I'd like to ask you some questions about choices the Oregon Health Plan needs to make. As I mentioned earlier, the Oregon Health Plan provides medical coverage for many low-income residents of Oregon.

Q15. In order to cover more people, Oregon officials are considering reductions to the medical benefits provided to some adults in the program. I would like to read a few possible options. These options would not affect children, pregnant women, blind, disabled or elderly people. As I read each strategy please tell me if you favor or oppose it as a way to expand coverage to more low-income adults.

Q15A. Cover inpatient hospital care but do not cover outpatient medical care.

Do you favor or oppose that?

- 0 Oppose
- 1 Favor
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q15B. The next strategy is almost the opposite of the first one: Cover outpatient medical care but cover only a limited amount of inpatient hospital care.

Would you favor or oppose this strategy as a way to offer coverage to more low-income adults?

- 0 Oppose
- 1 Favor
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q15C. How about the strategy of asking Oregon Health Plan members to pay a larger share of the cost of their own medical care.

Would you favor or oppose this strategy?

- 0 Oppose
- 1 Favor
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q15D. How about this strategy: Reduce dental coverage so that routine dental care like check-ups and cleaning are covered but restorative dental services such as fillings or crowns are not covered.

- 0 Oppose
- 1 Favor
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q15E. How about this strategy: Eliminate coverage for routine eye exams and glasses.

- 0 Oppose
- 1 Favor
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q15F. Finally, this strategy: Change the pharmacy benefit so that Oregon Health Plan members would pay more for brand name drugs.

- 0 Oppose
- 1 Favor
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

My final questions are about you and your household.

Q16. In general, would you say your health is:

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Very good
- 3 Good
- 4 Fair
- 5 Poor
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q17. How many children and adults, including yourself, are living in your household? Please include anyone who normally lives in your household but who is now in the hospital for a short time, is in a nursing home or is away at school.

Q18. Of the people in your household, how many are 18 years of age or younger?

Q19. How would you describe your marital status?

- 1 Single, never married
- 2 Married
- 3 Living with a partner
- 4 Separated
- 5 Divorced
- 6 Widowed
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q20. Are you currently either employed or self-employed?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q21. About how many hours a week, on average, do you work?

Q22. Are you currently covered by some type of health insurance?

- 0 No
 - 1 Yes
 - 8 Don't know
 - 9 Refused
- } → *[Skip to Q25.]*

Q23. How long have you been uninsured?

Q24. There are many reasons why people do not have health insurance. Could you tell me why you do not currently have health insurance?

- 01 Can't afford/too expensive
- 02 Unemployed or between jobs
- 03 Employer doesn't offer to any employees
- 04 Not eligible through employer (due to part-time work or too few hours, etc.)
- 05 Can't get coverage or refused insurance (due to poor health, illness or age, etc.)
- 06 Too difficult/too much paper work
- 07 Don't need it
- 08 Other [*Record response.*] _____
- 88 Don't know
- 99 Refused

Q25. Is your primary health insurance plan obtained through:

- 1 Your employer
- 2 A family member's employer
- 3 Insurance you purchased privately
- 4 Medicare
- 5 Medicaid, including the Oregon Health Plan
- 6 Other [*Record response.*] _____
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q26. In the past 12 months, has there been any period of time in which you have been completely without any health insurance coverage?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q27. Thinking only about the children in your household who are 18 or younger, do they currently have health insurance coverage?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 2 Some do, some don't
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q28. In the past 12 months, has there been any period of time in which the children who are 18 or younger and living with you were completely without any health insurance coverage?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q29. In summary, of all the people in your household, how many are currently covered by some type of health insurance? Please include yourself in this count.

Q30. In what year were you born?

Q31. What is the highest grade or level of school you have completed?

- 01 Less than 8 years
- 02 Some high school (9–12 years), without a diploma
- 03 High school diploma or GED
- 04 Associate Degree (for example: AA, AS)
- 05 Some college, but no degree
- 06 Bachelor's degree (for example BA, AB, BS)
- 07 Some graduate or professional study but no degree
- 08 Graduate or professional degree (Master's, Professional, Doctorate)
- 88 Don't know
- 99 Refused

Q32. What language do you usually speak at home?

- 1 English
- 2 Spanish
- 3 Other [*Record response.*]_____
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q33. Are you male or female? [*Only ask if interviewer is unsure; otherwise record it.*]

- 0 Male
- 1 Female
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q34. Would you describe yourself as any of the following: Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q35. How would you describe your race?

Indicate only one:

- 1 American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 2 Asian
- 3 Black or African-American
- 4 White
- 5 Bi- or multi-racial
- 6 Other [*Record response.*]_____
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q36. Could you please tell me your zip code?

Q37. Which of the following four statements best describes your ability to get along on your household income:

- 1 You can't make ends meet
- 2 You have just enough, no more
- 3 You have enough, with a little extra sometimes
- 4 You always have money left over
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q38. Finally, my last question: Adding together the income of all the people in your household, approximately what was your total household income last year, from all sources, before taxes?

Thank you so much for your help with this study! I really appreciate your taking the time to share your views about health care issues in our state. The results from the survey will be used to guide policy decisions about health care in Oregon.

Do you have any questions that I could answer about the study, or would you like to write down the number of the director, in case you have any questions later about the study?

Jim Dameron, at the Office of Health Plan Policy and Research, 503/418-1072.

Thanks again. Goodbye.

This work is supported by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. Views and ideas expressed here are not intended to reflect those of any particular group, but are intended to inform and stimulate discussion and debate on critical health care coverage strategies. You can also find this document on the grant team's Web site: http://www.ohppr.org/hrsa/index_hrsa.htm, or you can call 503/418-1067 to request the paper in an alternate format.