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SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Toplines

NPR/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

Public Views on SCHIP Reauthorization

October 2007

Methodology

The NPR/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Survey, *Public Views of SCHIP Reauthorization*, is part of a series of projects about health-related issues by National Public Radio, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Harvard School of Public Health. Representatives of the three organizations worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and to analyze the results, with NPR maintaining sole editorial control over its broadcasts on the surveys. The survey research team included Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., Claudia Deane, M.A. and Liz Hamel from the Kaiser Family Foundation; Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., and John Benson, M.A. of the Harvard School of Public Health; and Anne Gudenkauf, Joe Neel, Julie Rovner, and Joanne Silberner from NPR. Fieldwork was done by telephone October 8 through 13, 2007 among a nationally representative sample of 1,527 randomly selected respondents ages 18 and over by ICR/International Communications Research.

The margin of sampling error for results based on the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of sampling error is somewhat higher.

Please note: (1) Table percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. (2) Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (*). (3) "Vol" indicates that a response was volunteered by the respondent and not an explicitly offered choice. (4) Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

1. In general, do you think the government is doing (too much), (too little) or about the right amount in providing health insurance to children who don't have it?¹

6 Too much
67 Too little
20 About the right amount
6 Don't know
***** Refused

2. In general, how much do you trust (INSERT) to handle the issue of providing health insurance for uninsured children: a lot, some, not much or not at all?

[SCRAMBLE ITEMS]

	A lot	Some	Not much	Not at all	Don't know	Refused
a. President Bush	12	20	23	43	2	*
b. the Democrats in Congress	15	38	23	20	3	*
c. the Republicans in Congress	10	29	28	29	4	*

3. Over the past couple of weeks, Congress and the President have been debating the renewal of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, also known as SCHIP (ess-chip). Would you say you have heard a lot, some, not too much or nothing at all about this issue?

20 A lot
28 Some
21 Not too much
31 Nothing at all
***** Don't know
-- Refused

READ TO ALL:

The State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP (ess-chip), is a program in which the federal government joins with states to fund health insurance for children whose parents make too much to qualify for Medicaid. Currently, approximately 6 million children get health insurance through this program at a cost to the federal government of \$25 billion over 5 years.

4. Congress is proposing to spend an additional \$35 billion over the next 5 years in order to maintain coverage for those already in the program and expand coverage to an additional 3.8 million uninsured children. The expansion would be financed by an increase in cigarette taxes. In general, would you say you support or oppose the increased funding for this program?

70 Support
26 Oppose
3 Don't know
***** Refused

¹ Phrases appearing in parentheses, as in this item, were rotated.

5. (Supporters say the expansion would prevent children who are already covered from losing their coverage and provide health insurance for millions of low-income children who are currently uninsured. They also say the program has been shown to be effective over the past ten years). (Opponents say the expansion would encourage some families who have private health insurance to drop it in favor of government-funded coverage. They also say the expansion will wind up covering some children in middle-class families). After hearing these arguments, would you say you support or oppose the increased funding for this program?

65 Support
28 Oppose
6 Don't know
***** Refused

6. Which worries you more: (that the law will not go far enough and some children who need health insurance won't get it), or (that the law will go too far and end up providing health insurance to some children whose families can afford it)

Based on one half of total respondents (N = 762)

55 The law will not go far enough
33 The law will go too far
3 (Vol) Both equally
3 (Vol) Neither
6 Don't know
***** Refused

7. Which worries you more: (that the law will not go far enough and some children who need health insurance won't get it), or (that the law will go too far and end up encouraging those who already have private insurance to drop it in favor of government-funded coverage)?

Based on one half of total respondents (N = 765)

54 The law will not go far enough
37 The law will go too far
2 (Vol) Both equally
1 (Vol) Neither
5 Don't know
-- Refused

8. Do you think the expansion of the SCHIP (ess-chip) program to cover more uninsured children is a step toward a system where the government runs all the country's health care, or don't you think so?

- 40** Yes, think so
- 52** No, do not think so
- 8** Don't know
- *** Refused

8a. Do you think that is mostly a (good) thing, or mostly a (bad) thing?

Based on total asked who say expansion is a step toward government run health care (N = 438)²

- 50** Mostly a good thing
- 44** Mostly a bad thing
- (Vol) Both equally
- 3** (Vol) Neither
- 3** Don't know
- 1** Refused

8/8a Combo table

- 40** Yes, step to government run health care
- 20** Mostly a good thing
- 18** Mostly a bad thing
- 2** Don't know whether good or bad
- 52** No, not a step to government run health care
- 8** Don't know
- *** Refused

9. Thinking now about who should be eligible for the program ...(INSERT)?

Based on one half of total respondents (N = 762)

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
a. Do you think children in a family of four making about \$20,000 per year should be eligible for the SCHIP program or not	90	7	3	*
b. What about children in a family of four making about \$40,000 per year, should they be eligible or not	66	29	4	*
c. What about children in a family of four making about \$60,000 per year, should they be eligible or not	32	65	3	*
d. What about children in a family of four making about \$80,000 per year, should they be eligible or not	15	82	3	*

² Note: This question was added after two days of interviewing were completed.

10. Thinking now about who should be eligible for the program...(INSERT)?
Based on one half of total respondents (N = 765)

	Total			
	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
a. Do you think children in working families who are at the federal poverty level should be eligible for the SCHIP program or not	89	7	3	*
b. What about those in working families who are at two times the federal poverty level, should they be eligible or not	64	29	7	*
c. What about those in working families who are at three times the federal poverty level, should they be eligible or not	43	49	8	*
d. What about those in working families who are at four times the federal poverty level, should they be eligible or not	32	60	8	*

19. As you may know, President Bush has vetoed the expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Do you approve or disapprove of Bush's decision to veto the bill?
(GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat approve/disapprove?)

- 14** Strongly approve
- 13** Somewhat approve
- 18** Somewhat disapprove
- 49** Strongly disapprove
- 5** Don't know
- *** Refused

20. Do you think Congress should vote to overturn President Bush's veto, or not?

- 64** Yes, should
- 30** No, should not
- 5** Don't know
- *** Refused

21. If your Member of Congress was OPPOSED to the expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program, would that make you more likely (to vote FOR them) in the next election, more likely (to vote AGAINST them), or wouldn't it make much of a difference to your vote?
(GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that much more likely or somewhat more likely?)

- 8** Much more likely to vote for them
- 6** Somewhat more likely to vote for them
- 14** Somewhat more likely to vote against them
- 21** Much more likely to vote against them
- 46** Wouldn't make much difference to your vote
- 5** Don't know
- 1** Refused

11. I'd like to know what income level you think makes a family poor. Would you consider a family of four that makes (INSERT 1st AMOUNT) a year to be poor?
How about (INSERT NEXT AMOUNT)?
Would you consider a family of four making (INSERT AMOUNT) a year to be poor?

Based on one half of total respondents (N = 761)

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
a. \$10,000	96	3	1	*
b. \$20,000	89	10	1	*
c. \$30,000	68	31	1	*
d. \$40,000	35	63	2	*
e. \$50,000	15	83	1	*
f. \$60,000	6	92	1	*

12. I'd like to know what income level you think makes a family middle class. Would you consider a family of four that makes (INSERT 1st AMOUNT) a year to be middle class?
How about (INSERT NEXT AMOUNT)?
Would you consider a family of four making (INSERT AMOUNT) a year to be middle class?

Based on one half of total respondents (N = 766)

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
b. \$30,000	21	77	1	*
c. \$40,000	42	57	1	1
d. \$50,000	60	39	1	*
e. \$60,000	62	35	2	*
f. \$80,000	48	51	1	*
g. \$100,000	34	65	1	*

13. For people who don't get health insurance through their jobs, about how much do you think it would cost to buy a health insurance policy on their own for a family of four?
You can tell me your best guess, either how much it would cost per month or per year?

13	Less than \$3,000 a year / Less than \$250 a month
23	\$3,000 to less than \$6,000 a year / \$250 to less than \$500 a month
20	\$6,000 to less than \$9,000 a year / \$500 to less than \$750 a month
9	\$9,000 to less than \$12,000 a year / \$750 to less than \$1,000 a month
11	\$12,000 to less than \$15,000 a year / \$1,000 to less than \$1,250 a month
12	\$15,000 or more a year / \$1,250 or more a month
11	Don't know
*	Refused

Median = \$6,000 a year / \$500 a month

14. Do you think a family of four making \$40,000 a year that doesn't get health insurance through an employer can afford to buy their family health insurance coverage ON THEIR OWN, or don't you think they could afford that?

Based on one half of total respondents (N = 762)

- 26** Yes, they can afford that
- 70** No, they cannot afford that
- 4** Don't know
- *** Refused

15. What if you heard that a health insurance policy could cost up to \$10,000 a year for a family of four. Would you still think that a family making \$40,000 could afford to buy coverage, or don't you think they could afford it?

Based on total who think a family of 4 making \$40k/year can afford to buy their family health insurance coverage on their own (N = 180)

- 35** Yes, they can afford that
- 59** No, they cannot afford that
- 5** Don't know
- 1** Refused

- 14/15. Combo Table based on one half of total (N = 762)

- 26** Family making \$40K can afford (NET)
- 9** Family can afford if it costs up to \$10K
- 15** Family can't afford if costs up to \$10K
- 1** Don't know/Refused
- 70** Family making \$40K cannot afford
- 4** Don't know
- *** Refused

16. Do you think a family of four making \$60,000 a year that doesn't get health insurance through an employer can afford to buy their family health insurance coverage ON THEIR OWN, or don't you think they could afford that?

Based on one half of total respondents (N = 765)

- 53** Yes, they can afford that
- 42** No, they cannot afford that
- 4** Don't know
- *** Refused

17. What if you heard that a health insurance policy could cost up to \$10,000 a year for a family of four. Would you still think that a family making \$60,000 could afford to buy coverage, or don't you think they could afford it?

Based on total who think a family of 4 making \$60k/year can afford to buy their family health insurance coverage on their own (N = 403)

- 56** Yes, they can afford that
- 38** No, they cannot afford that
- 6** Don't know
- *** Refused

- 16/17. Combo Table based on one half of total (N = 765)

- 53** Family making \$60K can afford (NET)
- 30** Family can afford if it costs up to \$10K
- 20** Family can't afford if costs up to \$10K
- 3** Don't know/Refused
- 42** Family making \$60K cannot afford
- 4** Don't know
- *** Refused

18. When it comes to deciding how much a family can make and still be eligible for the children's health insurance program, do you think (each state should set their own standards) or (the federal government should set some basic limits on how much a family can earn and still be eligible)?

- 65** Each state should set their own standards
- 30** The federal government should set some basic limits
- 4** Don't know
- 1** Refused

Standard Demographics

22. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

- 34** Democrat
- 23** Republican
- 35** Independent
- 3** Something else
- 3** Don't know
- 2** Refused

23. Do you lean more towards the: (Democratic) or (Republican) Party?

Leaned Party Table based on total

51 Democrat/Leaned Democrat
33 Republican/Leaned Republican
10 Non-Lean Independent
1 Something else
3 Don't know
1 Refused

24. Would you say your views on most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative...?

23 Liberal
40 Moderate
32 Conservative
3 Don't think in those terms
2 Don't know
***** Refused

25. Are you registered to vote at your present address?

80 Yes
19 No
1 Don't know
1 Refused

26. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchase yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid?

85 Yes
15 No
***** Don't know
***** Refused

27. Was there anytime in the past 12 months when you were without health insurance?

Based on total who are currently insured (N = 1360)

12 Yes
88 No
***** Don't know
***** Refused

26/27. Combo Table based on total

25 Uninsured now or at any time in the past 12 months (NET)
15 Currently uninsured
10 Uninsured at some time in past 12 months
75 Insured now and for past 12 months
* Don't know
* Refused

28. How difficult is it for you and your family to pay for your health care costs, including health insurance premiums and all other out-of-pocket costs? Is it very difficult, somewhat difficult, not too difficult, or not at all difficult?

24 Very difficult
27 Somewhat difficult
20 Not too difficult
27 Not at all difficult
1 Don't know
1 Refused

29/29a. What is your age?

22 18-29
38 30-49
23 50-64
16 65+
1 Refused

30. Are you: (READ LIST)

56 Married and living with your spouse
6 Living with a partner but not married
2 Separated
9 Divorced
8 Widowed
17 Never married
-- Don't know
2 Refused

31. Do you have any children under age 18 living at home, or not?
 32. How many?
 31/32. Combo Table

40 Have children under 18 at home
16 1 child
15 2 children
6 3 children
2 4 + children
59 Do not have children under 18 at home
 * Don't know
1 Refused

33. Which of the following best describe the type of area in which you live: a large city, a suburb of a large city, a small town or a rural area?

22 A large city
27 A suburb of a large
32 A small town
17 A rural area
1 Don't know
1 Refused

35. What is the last grade of school you completed?
 36. (Asked of those who say they graduated college) Was that an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, or what?

5 8th grade or less
11 Some high school
31 Graduated high school
27 Some college
14 College graduate
11 Post graduate training
 * Don't know
1 Refused

37. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?
 38. (Asked of those who say they are of Hispanic origin) Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?
 39. (Asked of those who say they are not of Hispanic origin) Are you white, black, or some other race?

68 White (non-Hispanic)
11 Black (non-Hispanic)
2 Asian (non-Hispanic)
13 Hispanic
4 Some other race
 * Don't know
3 Refused

40/40a. Last year, that is in 2006, what was your total family income from all sources, BEFORE taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

- 14 Less than \$20K
- 12 \$20K but less than \$30K
- 13 \$30K but less than 40K
- 9 \$40K but less than \$50K
- 7 \$50K but less than \$60K
- 12 \$60K but less than \$80K
- 8 \$80K but less than \$100K
- 12 \$100K or more (NET)
- 7 \$100 to under \$150K
- 3 \$150K to under \$200K
- 2 \$200K or more
- 3 Don't know
- 8 Refused

42. REGION

- 19 Northeast
- 22 North central
- 36 South
- 23 West

D01. RESPONDENT GENDER

- 48 Male
- 52 Female



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