



**AARP,
American Medical Association,
and
American Nurses Association
Survey**



September 2009



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Survey**

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Introduction

AARP commissioned a nationwide survey to understand the opinions and experiences of people at least 50 years of age about issues related to health care and health care insurance. Woelfel Research Inc. conducted the RDD survey of 1,001 United States residents aged 50+ from September 4-7, 2009. The results from the study were weighted by age and gender. The margin of sampling error is $\pm 3.1\%$. AARP released the survey jointly with the American Medical Association and the American Nurses Association.

The findings from the survey suggest that people who are at least 50 years old recognize the need for more nurses and doctors. It also suggests an interest in avoiding cuts in payments to doctors for services they provide to Medicare patients. Finally, the survey suggests that the ability to choose one's own doctor is of utmost importance to those at least 50 years old. Detailed findings from the survey follow.

Key Survey Findings

Nearly seven in ten (69%) respondents report having heard "a lot" about health care reform in the media, including on TV, the radio, the internet, and in newspapers and magazines. An additional 18% report having heard "some" about it.

Over four in ten (42%) respondents report that they or someone they know has spent time trying to get a health insurance company to pay a bill for covered medical services. Respondents aged 50-64 years old are more likely than those aged 65+ to report this (53% vs. 26%).

Over half of respondents believe there are not enough nurses to support our health care system today (66%) and do not think there will be enough nurses to provide care to the American population in the near future (54%). Respondents aged 50-64 years old are more likely to feel this way than those aged 65+. Seventy-two percent of respondents aged 50-64 believe there are not enough nurses to support our health care system today, compared with 59% of respondents aged 65+. And 60% of respondents aged 50-64 think there will not be enough nurses to provide care to the American population in the near future, compared with 46% of respondents aged 65+.

Similarly, half (50%) of respondents do not think there will be enough doctors to provide care to the American population in the near future. Again, respondents aged 50-64 are more likely to feel this way than respondents aged 65+ (53% vs. 46%).

Over eight in ten (87%) respondents feel it is "very" or "somewhat" important for doctors to get reimburse adequately so they can continue to accept patients on Medicare. Specifically, 69% feel it is "very" important while 18% feel it is "somewhat" important.

Being able to choose one's own doctor is "very" or "somewhat" important to nearly all (97%) respondents. In fact, for almost nine in ten (87%) respondents it is "very" important.

When thinking about the current health care system, over six in ten (66%) respondents are "very" or "somewhat" concerned about not being able to see the doctor of their choice. Specifically, nearly half (48%) are "very" concerned.

ANNOTATED SURVEY
N=1,001, Sampling Error =±3.1%

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling from WRI, a national research firm. We are conducting a survey to find out about opinions on some important issues. Your views are important, and we would greatly appreciate your participation. Let me assure you, this is NOT a sales call and you will NOT be asked to buy anything either now or later. Your responses are kept entirely confidential.

1. What best describes your current healthcare coverage? Are you not covered by health insurance, covered by health insurance through you or your spouse's current or former employer, covered by a private health insurance plan you purchased yourself, covered by Medicare, or covered by some government program other than Medicare?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
7%	Not covered
41%	Own or spouse's current or former employer
10%	Self-purchased private plan
35%	Medicare
7%	Government program other than Medicare
1%	Don't know [VOL]
<0.5%	Refused [VOL]

2. How much have you heard about health care reform in the media, including TV, radio, the Internet, newspapers and magazines? Have you heard a lot, some, not too much, or none at all?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
69%	A lot
18%	Some
8%	Not too much
4%	None at all
1%	Don't know [VOL]
<0.5%	Refused [VOL]

3. What is your opinion of (INSERT)? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, not too favorable, or not at all favorable. [ROTATE ORDER]

N=1,001	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Not too favorable	Not at all favorable	Don't know/ Refused [VOL]
Your local hospital	54%	30%	7%	5%	5%
Your family doctor	73%	16%	3%	1%	6%
Nurses	68%	24%	2%	1%	5%
Health insurance companies	23%	35%	20%	14%	8%
Pharmacists	64%	26%	3%	2%	5%
Drug companies	14%	33%	25%	18%	10%

4. Thinking about the current health care system, how concerned are you that some day you or somebody you know may need a medical treatment or prescription drugs that your insurance might not pay for? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
55%	Very concerned
23%	Somewhat concerned
11%	Not too concerned
9%	Not at all concerned
2%	Don't know [VOL]
<0.5%	Refused [VOL]

5. (Ask of those with health care coverage) Thinking about your current health insurance coverage, if you have or were to develop a major illness, how confident are you that you would get needed health care services or prescription drugs without having financial hardships? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

N=932	Base: Respondents with insurance
41%	Very confident
36%	Somewhat confident
12%	Not too confident
8%	Not at all confident
2%	Don't know [VOL]
1%	Refused [VOL]

6. Have you or someone you know ever had to spend time trying to get a health insurance company to pay a bill for covered medical services?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
42%	Yes
57%	No
1%	Don't know [VOL]
<0.5%	Refused [VOL]

7. Do you believe there are more than enough, just enough, or not enough nurses to support our healthcare system today?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
2%	More than enough
19%	Just enough
66%	Not enough
12%	Don't know [VOL]
1%	Refused [VOL]

8. Do you think there will be enough nurses to provide care to the American population in the near future?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
27%	Yes
54%	No
19%	Don't know [VOL]
1%	Refused [VOL]

9. Do you think there will be enough doctors to provide care to the American population in the near future?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
37%	Yes
50%	No
13%	Don't know [VOL]
<0.5%	Refused [VOL]

10. Without changes to the health care system, many doctors will be paid less than they are currently paid for the services they provide to Medicare patients—as much as 40% less over the next few years. How important is it to you that doctors get reimbursed adequately so they can continue to accept patients on Medicare? Is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
69%	Very important
18%	Somewhat important
5%	Not too important
2%	Not at all important
4%	Don't know [VOL]
2%	Refused [VOL]

11. How important to you is being able to choose your own doctor? Is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
87%	Very important
9%	Somewhat important
2%	Not too important
1%	Not at all important
1%	Don't know [VOL]
<0.5%	Refused [VOL]

12. Thinking about the current healthcare system, how concerned are you about not being able to see the doctor of your choice? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
48%	Very concerned
18%	Somewhat concerned
14%	Not too concerned
17%	Not at all concerned
2%	Don't know [VOL]
1%	Refused [VOL]

13. What is your age as of your last birthday? [Record exact age]

14. For statistical purposes only, please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household's income before taxes in 2008. Was it...[Read list]

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
6%	Less than \$10,000
11%	\$10,000 but less than \$20,000
14%	\$20,000 but less than \$35,000
14%	\$35,000 but less than \$50,000
8%	\$50,000 but less than \$60,000
8%	\$60,000 but less than \$75,000
7%	\$75,000 but less than \$100,000
14%	\$100,000 or more
4%	[Do not read] Don't know
15%	[Do not read] Refused

15. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [Read list]

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
8%	0 to 12 th grade, but with no diploma
29%	High school graduate or equivalent
16%	Post high school education, but with no degree
11%	2 year degree
15%	4 year degree
5%	Post graduate study, but with no degree
15%	Graduate or professional degree
2%	[Do not read] Refused

16. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
3%	Yes
95%	No
1%	Don't know [VOL]
2%	Refused [VOL]

17. What is your race?

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
85%	White or Caucasian
8%	Black or African-American
1%	Asian
1%	American Indian or Alaska native
3%	Other (specify)
3%	[Do not read] Refused

18. Do you consider yourself to be a...

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
34%	A Democrat
24%	A Republican, or
27%	An Independent
7%	Or something else
3%	[Do not read] Don't know
5%	[Do not read] Refused

[Record gender]

N=1,001	Base: Total respondents
45%	Male
55%	Female