



# Majority of Americans Believe the Government is Financially Responsible for the Healthcare Services of the Poor

## Ipsos Global Health Perspectives Survey

**Washington, DC, June 22, 2017** — In the first Ipsos Global Health Perspectives Survey, global respondents revealed their thoughts on who should be financially responsible for healthcare services. Ipsos asked consumers in 18 developed countries about whether responsibility for a range of healthcare services, including vaccinations, mental health counseling, annual check-ups, emergency room visits, hospital stays, contraception, and medicine to treat chronic conditions should be paid for by individuals or by governments. Omar Pedraza, a public health researcher at Ipsos observed, “It’s noteworthy that, even as Republican healthcare legislation with dramatic cuts to Medicaid moves through Congress, a large majority of Americans think that the government has the primary responsibility for paying for healthcare costs for the poor.”

For poor individuals, a majority of Americans (55% - 66%, depending on the specific healthcare service) believe that healthcare services should be paid for by the government. About three to four times as many Americans believe that healthcare services, except for contraception, for poor individuals should be paid for by the government compared to those that believe it should be paid for by the individual. A significant contingent of Americans (35% - 43%) believes that healthcare services for poor individuals should be paid for completely by the government. Alternatively, half of Americans (47% - 55%) believe healthcare services for wealthy individuals should be paid for by the individual, while around one in four Americans thinks the government should pay for healthcare services for these individuals as well.

A plurality (38% - 52%) of Americans believe healthcare services for individuals with average incomes should be covered by the government. Only a quarter of Americans (25% - 32%) believe healthcare services, except for contraception, should be paid for by the individual when the individual has an average income. Four in ten Americans (40%) believe contraception should be paid for by the individual when they have an average income.

With a rising anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States, it is not surprising that a majority of Americans (56% - 62%) believe non-citizens should be responsible for mostly or completely paying for their own healthcare services. Four in ten Americans (40% - 45%) believe healthcare services for non-citizens should be paid for completely by the individual.

Out of the healthcare services asked about, the highest number of Americans believe vaccines should be paid for mostly or completely by the government. This is sentiment is shared for individuals with all levels of income and for non-citizens. Contraception received the lowest level of support as a service that should be paid for by the government for individuals with average or low incomes.

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In comparison to the other G7 nations, the United States had the highest proportion respondents believing that healthcare services should be paid for mostly or completely by the individual. This was true regardless of whether healthcare services were being paid for an individual with average income, a poor individual, a wealthy individual, or a non-citizen. The only instances where the other G7 nations had similar levels of support for the individual paying for healthcare services was when respondents were asked about who should pay for contraception, or in the case of Great Britain when respondents were asked about paying for healthcare services for a non-citizen. The United States also had amongst the lowest proportion of respondents believing that healthcare services should be paid for the government. Only Japan consistently displayed similar or lower levels of support for healthcare services being paid for by government when asked about individuals with average incomes, poor individuals, and wealthy individuals. When asked about non-citizens, Canada, Great Britain, and Japan displayed similar levels of support for healthcare services being paid for by government as the United States.

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## About the Study

*For the results of the survey, an international sample of 17,068 adults aged 18-64 in the US and Canada, and age 16-64 in all other countries, were interviewed between April 21st and May 5th. Approximately 1000+ individuals participated on a country by country basis via the Ipsos Online Panel with the exception of Argentina, Belgium, Hungary, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden and Turkey, where each have a sample approximately 500+.*

*The precision of Ipsos online polls are calculated using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of 500 accurate to +/- 5.0 percentage points. For more information on the Ipsos use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website. 18 of the 28 countries surveyed online generate nationally representative samples in their countries (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile\*, Colombia\*, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and United States). Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa and Turkey produce a national sample that is more urban & educated, and with higher incomes than their fellow citizens. We refer to these respondents as "Upper Deck Consumer Citizens". They are not nationally representative of their country.*

*For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.*

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## About Ipsos

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With offices in 88 countries, Ipsos delivers insightful expertise across five research specializations: brand, advertising and media; customer loyalty; marketing; public affairs research; and survey management.

Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,782.7 million in 2016.

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