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Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters
Healthcare Policy 10.26.2017

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted October 14-23, 2017 on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For the survey, a sample of roughly 3,865 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 1594 Democrats, 1313 Republicans and 537 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Amparo Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 1.8 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=3,865, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=3.3).

The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 3.1 percentage points for Republicans and plus or minus 4.8 percentage points for Independents.

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.

		Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
TM1347Y17 - What is the status of the Affordable Care Act, also known as 'Obamacare', a program that allows people to shop for health insurance online and provides subsidies to make plans more affordable for low and middle-income families?	It is still operating	67%	72%	72%	63%
	It has ended	11%	12%	12%	6%
	Other	5%	4%	6%	7%
	Don't know	17%	11%	10%	25%
	Total	1545	646	498	212
TM1348Y17 - In your opinion, has the ACA, or 'Obamacare', been successful or unsuccessful in achieving its goal of expanding health insurance coverage in the U.S.?	Very successful	18%	29%	5%	14%
	Somewhat successful	42%	52%	28%	40%
	Somewhat unsuccessful	21%	13%	27%	29%
	Very unsuccessful	19%	5%	40%	17%
	Total	1545	646	498	212

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TM1282Y17 - What should Congressional Republicans prioritize?	Tax reform	13%	9%	23%	12%
	Infrastructure	8%	10%	5%	9%
	Immigration	10%	9%	12%	9%
	Unemployment	9%	11%	5%	7%
	Terrorism / foreign relations	15%	15%	17%	12%
	Energy issues	4%	7%	1%	4%
	Continue working on a new healthcare bill	25%	24%	31%	27%
	Other	5%	6%	2%	7%
	Don't know	12%	8%	4%	12%
	Total	1869	756	611	270
TM1260Y17 - How would you rate the current state of the American healthcare system?	Excellent	3%	3%	4%	2%
	Good	13%	14%	14%	12%
	Average	32%	32%	29%	32%
	Poor	37%	38%	36%	37%
	Terrible	15%	13%	17%	17%
	Total	3865	1594	1313	537
TM1261Y17 - Who is most responsible for the current state of the American healthcare system?	Congressional Democrats	5%	2%	9%	5%
	Congressional Republicans	6%	9%	3%	4%
	President Barack Obama	26%	16%	42%	24%
	President Donald Trump	13%	19%	6%	13%
	The media	1%	1%	1%	0%
	Pharmaceutical companies	8%	10%	7%	9%
	Health insurance companies	21%	27%	18%	20%
	The American public	4%	3%	4%	3%
	Other	3%	3%	3%	3%
	Don't know	14%	10%	6%	19%
	Total	3865	1594	1313	537
TM1116Y17 - When it comes to the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) should Congress…?	Repeal the ACA immediately	17%	4%	33%	17%
	Repeal the ACA once an alternative health law is passed	21%	8%	38%	24%
	Keep the ACA and fix the problem parts	53%	76%	26%	51%
	Keep the ACA entirely as is	9%	11%	3%	9%
	Total	3865	1594	1313	537
TM1334Y17 - Which of the below do you think would do the best job at improving the healthcare system?	Democrats in Congress	16%	35%	2%	5%
	Republicans in Congress	10%	2%	26%	5%
	A bipartisan group of Republicans and Democrats in Congress	50%	51%	56%	55%
	Don't know	24%	12%	16%	35%
	Total	2186	888	721	314
TM1335Y17 - And, generally speaking, which of the following do you think would	The federal government	27%	37%	22%	19%
	Individual states	31%	24%	42%	37%
	Insurance industry	12%	13%	12%	10%
	Don't know	31%	25%	24%	34%

do the best job at improving the healthcare system?	Total	2186	888	721	314
TM1336Y17 - The Trump administration concluded that Congress didn't authorize Obamacare subsidies making medical costs more affordable for lower-income people. Do you support/oppose President Trump's decision to stop paying the subsidies?	Strongly support	13%	1%	31%	11%
	Somewhat support	16%	6%	31%	12%
	Somewhat oppose	14%	13%	14%	22%
	Strongly oppose	42%	73%	9%	38%
	Don’t know	16%	7%	15%	17%
	Total	2186	888	721	314

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How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ\, i.e., Y|θ~Bin(n,θ), where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the number of "yes", or "1", observed in the sample, so that the sample mean ($\bar{y}$) is a natural estimate of the true population proportion θ. This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian [1] statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one's knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution (π(θ/y)~β(y+a,n-y+b)), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on π(θ/y). Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that a=1 and b=1 and y=$n/2$. Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\bar{y} \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect 1+L=1.3 to account for complex weighting[2]

Examples of credibility intervals for different base sizes are below. Ipsos does not publish data for base sizes (sample sizes) below 100.

Sample size	Credibility intervals
2,000	2.5
1,500	2.9
1,000	3.5
750	4.1
500	5.0
350	6.0
200	7.9
100	11.2