



Taking the Pulse: Where Americans Agree on Improving Health Care

A Hidden Common Ground Report

Washington, DC, February 5, 2020 – This report draws on a Public Agenda/USA Today/Ipsos Hidden Common Ground nationally representative survey of American adults as well as four focus groups exploring the views and values of the American public on health care, including how much change people think the health care system needs, their goals and priorities for changing it, and their views on various proposals for doing so.

The research finds that nearly all Americans across the political spectrum want the health care system to change. Even people who currently have what they consider to be satisfactory health insurance nonetheless think the system needs substantial change. Americans across party lines also largely agree on what the goals for the health care system ought to be -- starting with making it more affordable and ensuring that people are not penalized for pre-existing conditions.

Republicans and Democrats differ from each other on how to achieve those goals somewhat, while people who identify as Independents and those who have no political affiliation typically fall somewhere in between. Few of these differences involve huge or unbridgeable gaps. Moreover, for each of the four approaches to health care reform that this survey asked people to consider (see Finding 3), around a quarter of Americans say they do not have enough information to give an opinion, suggesting that there is substantial room for public opinion to evolve as people learn more.

The main findings from this research are:

- 1. Americans across political affiliations are calling for substantial changes to the health care system, including those who are satisfied with their current insurance.
- Americans across the political spectrum share many of the same goals for health care, beginning with making it more affordable for ordinary people -- perhaps because half of Americans have experienced serious financial difficulties due to health care or know someone who has. Other important shared goals include covering pre-existing conditions and covering long-term care.
- 3. The survey asked people to consider four approaches to health care reform. Of those, a public option-type plan is supported by a majority of Democrats while Republicans are split on it. A Medicare for All-type plan is also popular with Democrats but opposed by most Republicans. A market-based approach appeals to about half of Republicans and a plurality of Democrats. Giving states more responsibility for health care garners the least support overall.









4. As people grapple with the four approaches, common ground on protecting people with preexisting conditions emerges strongly. Democrats are more comfortable with using tax increases to fund health care and with a larger role for the federal government than Republicans are, while Republicans particularly value consumer choice.

Given the public's desire for substantial change in health care, findings from this survey suggest that leaders should focus pragmatically on achieving the many goals that attract strong cross-partisan agreement. While partisanship plays a role in influencing how people believe these goals should be achieved, findings from this research provide an outline for a workable public conversation about improving health care in the United States. It is our hope that this report, along with the other Hidden Common Ground activities that accompany it, can help focus, frame, stimulate, and contribute to that conversation.

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For full results, please refer to the following questionnaire.









Public Agenda/Ipsos Poll: Common Ground Wave 2 Health Care

Conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs' KnowledgePanel® **A survey of Americans (ages 18+)** Interview dates: December 19-26, 2019 Number of interviews: N=1,020 Number of interviews: those who self-identify as Republican N=286 Number of interviews: those who self-identify as Democrat N=355 Number of interviews: Independent (Independent + Another party) N=249 Number of interviews: Apolitical (No preference + Skipped) N=130

Margin of error among total: +/- 3.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level Margin of error among Republicans: +/- 6.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level Margin of error among Democrats: +/- 5.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level Margin of error among Independents: +/- 6.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level Margin of error among Apolitical: +/- 9.5 percentage points at 95% confidence level

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

NOTE: * = less than 0.5%, - = no respondents

Annotated Questionnaire:

1. As you may know, there are several proposals to make changes to the nation's health care system. In general, which of the following comes closest to your opinion about the country's current health care system overall?

| | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|----------------------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Leave it the way it is | 7 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 14 |
| Make minor changes to improve it | 30 | 32 | 31 | 30 | 20 |
| Make major changes to improve it | 40 | 36 | 50 | 34 | 35 |
| Redesign it completely | 22 | 24 | 14 | 31 | 27 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 5 |









2. In order to achieve a health care system that provides affordable, high-quality care for all Americans, which of these do you think needs to be improved the most?

| | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Health <u>insurance</u> (e.g., premium and deductible costs, coverage options, affordability) | 30 | 39 | 27 | 30 | 21 |
| The health care system (e.g., quality of care, accessibility of doctors and hospitals, access to care) | 9 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 6 |
| Both equally | 60 | 51 | 63 | 61 | 70 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | * | * | 3 |

3. In the past 12 months, how much contact have you had with the health care system, including visits to doctors, hospitals, urgent care, emergency rooms, tests, and procedures?

| | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| A lot | 21 | 20 | 21 | 23 | 19 |
| Some | 44 | 44 | 45 | 48 | 32 |
| Not much | 27 | 31 | 26 | 20 | 29 |
| None at all | 9 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 18 |
| Skipped | * | - | - | - | 1 |
| A lot + Some (Net) | 65 | 64 | 67 | 71 | 51 |
| Not much + None (Net) | 35 | 36 | 33 | 29 | 48 |









4. In order to improve health care in the United States, how important are the following to you?

| | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Summary | Total Important | Total Important | Total Important | Total Important | Total Important |
| Lowering the cost of prescription drugs | 94 | 91 | 98 | 96 | 92 |
| Improving the quality of health care | 90 | 83 | 95 | 90 | 87 |
| Making sure all Americans have health insurance coverage | 85 | 72 | 95 | 83 | 87 |
| Making sure all communities have access to enough doctors and hospitals | 93 | 89 | 97 | 93 | 87 |
| Covering treatment for mental health and addiction services | 90 | 82 | 98 | 88 | 87 |
| Covering long-term care for the elderly and disabled | 94 | 91 | 98 | 94 | 89 |
| Making sure people with pre- existing medical conditions can get affordable health insurance | 94 | 90 | 98 | 95 | 88 |
| Making health care more affordable for ordinary Americans | 95 | 92 | 98 | 97 | 89 |
| Making sure that lower-income people have about the same quality of basic care as higher- income people | 90 | 84 | 97 | 87 | 88 |







4. In order to improve health care in the United States, how important are the following to you?

| Lowering the cost of prescription drugs | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Very important | 77 | 64 | 86 | 77 | 76 |
| Somewhat important | 18 | 26 | 12 | 19 | 16 |
| Not too important | 3 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Not at all important | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | - |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | 4 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Total Important | 94 | 91 | 98 | 96 | 92 |
| Total Not Important | 3 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 3 |

| Improving the quality of health care | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Very important | 67 | 56 | 76 | 60 | 76 |
| Somewhat important | 23 | 28 | 20 | 30 | 11 |
| Not too important | 6 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Not at all important | 1 | 1 | * | 2 | - |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Total Important | 90 | 83 | 95 | 90 | 87 |
| Total Not Important | 7 | 13 | 3 | 7 | 3 |

| Making sure all Americans have health insurance coverage | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Very important | 64 | 35 | 84 | 58 | 75 |
| Somewhat important | 21 | 37 | 10 | 24 | 12 |
| Not too important | 8 | 15 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| Not at all important | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 3 |
| Total Important | 85 | 72 | 95 | 83 | 87 |
| Total Not Important | 11 | 21 | 4 | 14 | 3 |







4. In order to improve health care in the United States, how important are the following to you?

| Making sure all communities have access to enough doctors and hospitals | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Very important | 71 | 55 | 82 | 70 | 72 |
| Somewhat important | 22 | 34 | 15 | 23 | 15 |
| Not too important | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Not at all important | 1 | 2 | * | 1 | - |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 |
| Total Important | 93 | 89 | 97 | 93 | 87 |
| Total Not Important | 4 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 4 |

| Covering treatment for mental health and addiction services | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Very important | 63 | 48 | 77 | 58 | 68 |
| Somewhat important | 26 | 35 | 21 | 30 | 20 |
| Not too important | 6 | 12 | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| Not at all important | 1 | 2 | * | 1 | - |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 |
| Total Important | 90 | 82 | 98 | 88 | 87 |
| Total Not Important | 7 | 14 | 1 | 9 | 6 |

| Covering long-term care for the elderly and disabled | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Very important | 73 | 66 | 81 | 66 | 76 |
| Somewhat important | 21 | 26 | 17 | 27 | 13 |
| Not too important | 3 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Not at all important | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 2 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Total Important | 94 | 91 | 98 | 94 | 89 |
| Total Not Important | 4 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 5 |







4. In order to improve health care in the United States, how important are the following to you?

| Making sure people with pre- existing medical conditions can get affordable health insurance | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Very important | 80 | 67 | 90 | 79 | 82 |
| Somewhat important | 14 | 23 | 9 | 16 | 6 |
| Not too important | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Not at all important | 1 | 3 | * | 1 | 1 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 2 | 3 | * | 1 | 4 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 3 |
| Total Important | 94 | 90 | 98 | 95 | 88 |
| Total Not Important | 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 |

| Making health care more affordable for ordinary Americans | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Very important | 80 | 65 | 89 | 84 | 81 |
| Somewhat important | 15 | 27 | 9 | 13 | 8 |
| Not too important | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Not at all important | 1 | 1 | 1 | * | 1 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Skipped | 1 | 2 | * | 1 | 3 |
| Total Important | 95 | 92 | 98 | 97 | 89 |
| Total Not Important | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

| Making sure that lower-income people have about the same quality of basic care as higher-income people | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Very important | 68 | 48 | 84 | 60 | 77 |
| Somewhat important | 22 | 36 | 13 | 26 | 12 |
| Not too important | 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| Not at all important | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | * |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 3 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 3 |
| Total Important | 90 | 84 | 97 | 87 | 88 |
| Total Not Important | 6 | 11 | 2 | 9 | 5 |









5. You listed the following as very important in the previous question. Which do you think should be the two biggest priorities for improving health care in the United States?

| Base: All respondents who ranked more than 2 options in Q4 as "Very important" | Total (N=895) | Republican (N=223) | Democrat (N=344) | Independent (N=214) | Apolitical (N=114) |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Lowering the cost of prescription drugs | 31% | 36% | 26% | 37% | 26% |
| Improving the quality of health care | 11% | 14% | 10% | 11% | 11% |
| Making sure all Americans have health insurance coverage | 29% | 11% | 44% | 29% | 29% |
| Making sure all communities have access to enough doctors and hospitals | 10% | 11% | 12% | 9% | 6% |
| Covering treatment for mental health and addiction services | 8% | 11% | 6% | 8% | 6% |
| Covering long-term care for the elderly and disabled | 13% | 18% | 11% | 11% | 9% |
| Making sure people with pre-existing medical conditions can get affordable health insurance | 24% | 25% | 24% | 22% | 22% |
| Making health care more affordable for ordinary Americans | 40% | 38% | 38% | 50% | 37% |
| Making sure that lower-income people have about the same quality of basic care as higher-income people | 16% | 8% | 22% | 10% | 24% |







6. ["One" IF SHOWN FIRST] ["Another" IF NOT SHOWN FIRST] idea would create a new federal health insurance program that gives people a new option beyond what's currently available in the private insurance marketplace. Any adult could buy into the program on a sliding scale (those with less money pay less, those with more money pay more).

Which of following comes closest to how you feel about this idea?

| | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| It sounds very good to me, and I would support it | 14 | 9 | 18 | 15 | 12 |
| It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it | 34 | 28 | 43 | 31 | 30 |
| It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it | 14 | 21 | 10 | 18 | 9 |
| It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it | 12 | 17 | 8 | 16 | 8 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 25 | 25 | 21 | 21 | 40 |
| Skipped | * | - | * | 1 | 1 |
| Total Support | 48 | 37 | 61 | 45 | 42 |
| Total Not Support | 27 | 38 | 18 | 34 | 17 |

6a. How would the following affect your feelings toward this idea?

| Summary | То | tal | Repu | blican | Dem | ocrat | Indepe | endent | Apol | itical |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | More | Less |
| | Likely |
| If people with pre- existing medical conditions would not pay more than others for health insurance or be denied coverage | 57 | 11 | 48 | 14 | 70 | 9 | 56 | 13 | 42 | 8 |
| If it would increase taxes for high-income Americans | 38 | 20 | 19 | 39 | 57 | 10 | 35 | 23 | 28 | 6 |
| If it would somewhat increase the size of an existing federal agency | 12 | 26 | 7 | 45 | 20 | 12 | 7 | 38 | 10 | 9 |
| If people would have the same choice of doctors as they do today | 64 | 4 | 64 | 4 | 68 | 4 | 67 | 2 | 50 | 5 |









6a. How would the following affect your feelings toward this idea?

| If people with pre-existing medical conditions would not pay more than others for health insurance or be denied coverage | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 57 | 48 | 70 | 56 | 42 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 19 | 27 | 14 | 19 | 19 |
| Less likely to support it | 11 | 14 | 9 | 13 | 8 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 12 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 31 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |

| If it would increase taxes for high- income Americans | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 38 | 19 | 57 | 35 | 28 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 29 | 30 | 25 | 34 | 28 |
| Less likely to support it | 20 | 39 | 10 | 23 | 6 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 13 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 37 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |

| If it would somewhat increase the size of an existing federal agency | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 12 | 7 | 20 | 7 | 10 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 39 | 29 | 48 | 38 | 32 |
| Less likely to support it | 26 | 45 | 12 | 38 | 9 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 23 | 18 | 20 | 16 | 48 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |

| If people would have the same choice of doctors as they do today | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 64 | 64 | 68 | 67 | 50 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 20 | 22 | 17 | 23 | 16 |
| Less likely to support it | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 12 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 26 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |









7. ["One" IF SHOWN FIRST] ["Another" IF NOT SHOWN FIRST] idea would create a single federal health insurance program that automatically covers all Americans, replacing all private and employer-provided insurance. This program would be completely free for individuals and families; instead, it would be paid for through taxes.

| | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| It sounds very good to me, and I would support it | 24 | 10 | 37 | 23 | 17 |
| It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it | 21 | 12 | 28 | 15 | 29 |
| It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it | 12 | 16 | 8 | 18 | 6 |
| It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it | 23 | 45 | 6 | 31 | 9 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 20 | 16 | 21 | 12 | 38 |
| Skipped | 1 | * | * | 1 | 2 |
| Total Support | 45 | 22 | 65 | 38 | 46 |
| Total Not Support | 35 | 61 | 14 | 50 | 15 |

7a. How would the following affect your feelings toward this idea?

| Summary | mary Total Republican | | blican | Dem | ocrat | Independent | | Apolitical | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | More Likely | Less Likely | More Likely | Less Likely | More Likely | Less Likely | More Likely | Less Likely | More Likely | Less Likely |
| If everyone would be covered, regardless of age or if they have pre-existing medical conditions | 61 | 10 | 39 | 18 | 79 | 3 | 57 | 16 | 61 | 2 |
| If it would increase taxes for high-income Americans and could increase taxes somewhat for the middle class | 26 | 35 | 8 | 55 | 43 | 17 | 27 | 49 | 20 | 22 |
| If it would significantly increase the size of an existing federal agency | 13 | 35 | 8 | 59 | 19 | 16 | 9 | 46 | 11 | 21 |
| If it would make the health care system simpler by creating a single insurance provider | 41 | 22 | 19 | 44 | 58 | 9 | 39 | 29 | 40 | 9 |

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7a. How would the following affect your feelings toward this idea?

| If everyone would be covered, regardless of age or if they have pre-existing medical conditions | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 61 | 39 | 79 | 57 | 61 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 19 | 29 | 12 | 20 | 14 |
| Less likely to support it | 10 | 18 | 3 | 16 | 2 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 10 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 22 |
| Skipped | 1 | 2 | * | 1 | 1 |

| If it would increase taxes for high- income Americans and could increase taxes somewhat for the middle class | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 26 | 8 | 43 | 27 | 20 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 25 | 24 | 29 | 18 | 30 |
| Less likely to support it | 35 | 55 | 17 | 49 | 22 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 13 | 13 | 11 | 6 | 27 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| If it would significantly increase the size of an existing federal agency | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 13 | 8 | 19 | 9 | 11 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 32 | 19 | 46 | 30 | 25 |
| Less likely to support it | 35 | 59 | 16 | 46 | 21 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 20 | 13 | 19 | 14 | 42 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |

| If it would make the health care system simpler by creating a single insurance provider | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 41 | 19 | 58 | 39 | 40 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 18 | 21 | 16 | 21 | 16 |
| Less likely to support it | 22 | 44 | 9 | 29 | 9 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 18 | 15 | 17 | 10 | 35 |
| Skipped | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |









8. ["One" IF SHOWN FIRST] ["Another" IF NOT SHOWN FIRST] idea would use tax incentives to encourage people to save money for their health needs. It would also require doctors and hospitals to post prices clearly so people can shop for the best deal, and it would deregulate insurance companies to spur development of new, low-cost options like short-term, minimal-coverage, or high deductible policies.

| | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| It sounds very good to me, and I would support it | 15 | 18 | 12 | 19 | 12 |
| It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it | 31 | 37 | 29 | 32 | 24 |
| It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it | 13 | 10 | 17 | 12 | 12 |
| It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it | 15 | 10 | 18 | 20 | 10 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 25 | 26 | 24 | 17 | 41 |
| Skipped | 1 | * | * | 1 | 2 |
| Total Support | 46 | 54 | 41 | 51 | 36 |
| Total Not Support | 28 | 20 | 35 | 32 | 21 |

8a. How would the following affect your feelings toward this idea?

| Summary | То | tal | Repu | blican | Dem | ocrat | Indepe | endent | Apol | itical |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | More | Less |
| | Likely |
| If it would have no direct effect on anyone's taxes and would not increase the size of any federal agency | 49 | 7 | 65 | 4 | 38 | 9 | 56 | 8 | 36 | 4 |
| If people could decide for themselves whether to get health insurance, what kind of insurance to buy, and how much coverage they need | 49 | 14 | 66 | 6 | 40 | 21 | 53 | 16 | 36 | 7 |
| If it would mean that more people became uninsured | 6 | 61 | 9 | 46 | 6 | 73 | 5 | 64 | 4 | 54 |
| If people with pre-existing medical conditions might have to pay more for health insurance or could be denied coverage | 6 | 66 | 10 | 57 | 5 | 78 | 7 | 67 | 2 | 54 |

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8a. How would the following affect your feelings toward this idea?

| If it would have no direct effect on anyone's taxes and would not increase the size of any federal agency | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 49 | 65 | 38 | 56 | 36 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 25 | 19 | 34 | 22 | 21 |
| Less likely to support it | 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 18 | 11 | 18 | 13 | 37 |
| Skipped | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

| If people could decide for themselves whether to get health insurance, what kind of insurance to buy, and how much coverage they need | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 49 | 66 | 40 | 53 | 36 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 23 | 18 | 27 | 19 | 26 |
| Less likely to support it | 14 | 6 | 21 | 16 | 7 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 14 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 29 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 |

| If it would mean that more people became uninsured | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 6 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 20 | 30 | 12 | 24 | 15 |
| Less likely to support it | 61 | 46 | 73 | 64 | 54 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 13 | 15 | 9 | 7 | 25 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 2 |

| If people with pre-existing medical conditions might have to pay more for health insurance or could be denied coverage | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 6 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 16 | 21 | 11 | 18 | 14 |
| Less likely to support it | 66 | 57 | 78 | 67 | 54 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 11 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 28 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 |









9. ["One" IF SHOWN FIRST] ["Another" IF NOT SHOWN FIRST] idea would shift more responsibility, resources and authority for health care reform from the federal government to the states. State policymakers could then decide on the reforms that would make the most sense for their residents.

| | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| It sounds very good to me, and I would support it | 9 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 5 |
| It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it | 27 | 34 | 29 | 23 | 15 |
| It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it | 18 | 17 | 18 | 22 | 16 |
| It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it | 19 | 14 | 23 | 24 | 11 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 26 | 23 | 23 | 19 | 51 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 1 |
| Total Support | 36 | 46 | 36 | 34 | 20 |
| Total Not Support | 37 | 31 | 40 | 47 | 27 |

9a. How would the following affect your feelings toward this idea?

| Summary | То | tal | Repul | olican | Dem | ocrat | Indepe | endent | Apol | itical |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | More Likely | Less Likely |
| If it would lead to more health care policy decisions being made closer to communities | 36 | 14 | 43 | 9 | 35 | 16 | 37 | 20 | 24 | 9 |
| If it would result in many states trying different approaches to improving health care that other states could learn from | 31 | 17 | 37 | 14 | 28 | 19 | 34 | 23 | 26 | 8 |
| If, in some states, people with pre-existing medical conditions had to pay more for health insurance or could be denied coverage | 4 | 67 | 5 | 60 | 4 | 75 | 3 | 70 | 3 | 55 |
| If it would make it more complicated for people to move from one state to another because they might not be able to get the same health coverage | 4 | 62 | 3 | 62 | 5 | 65 | 3 | 65 | 6 | 52 |

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9a. How would the following affect your feelings toward this idea?

| If it would lead to more health care policy decisions being made closer to communities | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 36 | 43 | 35 | 37 | 24 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 30 | 30 | 33 | 29 | 25 |
| Less likely to support it | 14 | 9 | 16 | 20 | 9 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 19 | 16 | 16 | 14 | 40 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 2 |

| If it would result in many states trying different approaches to improving health care that other states could learn from | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 31 | 37 | 28 | 34 | 26 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 31 | 33 | 35 | 29 | 22 |
| Less likely to support it | 17 | 14 | 19 | 23 | 8 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 20 | 16 | 19 | 13 | 44 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| If, in some states, people with pre- existing medical conditions had to pay more for health insurance or could be denied coverage | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 15 | 21 | 11 | 17 | 12 |
| Less likely to support it | 67 | 60 | 75 | 70 | 55 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 13 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 28 |
| Skipped | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 2 |

| If it would make it more complicated for people to move from one state to another because they might not be able to get the same health coverage | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|--|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| More likely to support it | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Neither more or less likely to support it | 18 | 20 | 17 | 19 | 15 |
| Less likely to support it | 62 | 62 | 65 | 65 | 52 |
| Don't know/Don't have enough information to say | 14 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 26 |
| Skipped | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |









10. Do you currently have health insurance coverage or not?

| | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|---------|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Yes | 90 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 81 |
| No | 10 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 18 |
| Skipped | * | - | * | * | 1 |

11. Which of the following is your primary source of health insurance coverage? Please select only one.

| Base: All respondents who currently have health insurance coverage | Total (N=930) | Republican (N=262) | Democrat (N=330) | Independent (N=231) | Apolitical (N=107) |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Health insurance through your or someone else's employer or union | 55 | 60 | 55 | 50 | 53 |
| Medicare, a government plan that pays healthcare bills for people aged 65 or older and for some disabled people | 22 | 23 | 19 | 29 | 13 |
| Medicaid, or any state government medical assistance plan for those with lower incomes | 10 | 6 | 12 | 9 | 14 |
| Health insurance that you bought from the federal Health Insurance Marketplace, also known as Healthcare.gov, or a state | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 7 |
| Veteran's Affairs (VA), Department of Defense, or other military programs | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Health insurance from some other source | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Skipped | * | - | * | - | 2 |

12. How would you rate your health insurance overall?

| Base: All respondents who currently have health insurance coverage | Total (N=930) | Republican (N=262) | Democrat (N=330) | Independent (N=231) | Apolitical (N=107) |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Excellent | 15 | 17 | 16 | 12 | 11 |
| Very good | 33 | 35 | 34 | 32 | 26 |
| Good | 28 | 30 | 28 | 27 | 29 |
| Fair | 18 | 15 | 16 | 20 | 24 |
| Poor | 4 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Very poor | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| Skipped | * | * | - | - | 2 |
| Good or Better (Net) | 76 | 81 | 78 | 72 | 65 |
| Fair or Worse (Net) | 24 | 18 | 22 | 29 | 33 |









13. Have you or someone you know ever experienced <u>serious</u> financial difficulties due to health care costs (e.g., deductibles, out-of-pocket expenses, denied coverage, etc.)?

| | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Apolitical |
|-------------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Yes, I have | 15 | 12 | 12 | 23 | 16 |
| Yes, someone I know has | 29 | 29 | 31 | 28 | 25 |
| Yes, both | 9 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 15 |
| No | 46 | 52 | 46 | 41 | 42 |
| Skipped | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

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Methodology

This Public Agenda/USA Today/Ipsos Poll was conducted December $19^{th}-26^{th}$, 2019 by Ipsos Public Affairs KnowledgePanel® – a division of Ipsos. This poll was based on a nationally-representative probability sample of adults age 18 or older (n=1,020)

The survey was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, which is the largest and most well-established online panel that is representative of the adult US population. Our recruitment process employs a scientifically developed addressed-based sampling methodology using the latest Delivery Sequence File of the USPS – a database with full coverage of all delivery points in the US. Households are randomly selected from all available households in the U.S. Persons in these households are invited to join and participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those potential panel members who do not already have internet access, Ipsos provides a tablet and internet connection at no cost to the panel member. Those who join the panel and who are selected to participate in a survey are sent a unique password-protected log-in used to complete surveys online. As a result of our recruitment and sampling methods, samples from KnowledgePanel cover all households regardless of their phone or internet status and provide fully representative online samples to the research community.

The survey was weighted to adjust for gender by age, race, education, Census region by metropolitan status, household income and language proficiency. The above design weights for KP respondents were then raked to the following geodemographic distributions of the 18 and over adult population. The needed benchmarks were obtained from the 2019 March Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS). Moreover, we used the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) to obtain language proficiency benchmarks to adjust weights for Hispanic respondents.

- Gender (Male and Female) by Age (18-29, 30-44, 45-59, 60+)
- Race-Ethnicity (White/Non-Hispanic, Black/Non-Hispanic, Other/Non-Hispanic, Hispanic, 2+ Races/Non-Hispanic)
- Census Region (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West) by Metropolitan Status (Metro and Non-Metro)
- Education (Less than High School, High School, Some College, Bachelor or Higher)
- Household Income (Under \$25K, \$25K-\$49,999, \$50K-\$74,999, \$75K-\$99,999, \$100K-\$149,999, \$150K and Over)
- Language Proficiency (Non-Hispanic, English Proficient Hispanic, Bilingual Hispanic, Spanish Proficient Hispanic)

The margin of sampling error among the total sample of adults age 18 or older is plus or minus 3.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, the Republican sample is plus or minus 6.2 percentage points, the Democrat sample is plus or minus 5.7 percentage points, the Independent sample is plus or minus 6.7 percentage points, and the Apolitical sample is plus or minus 9.5 percentage points. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was plus or minus 1.18 percentage points. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total substantially more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

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About Ipsos

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