Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

Healthcare 03.03.2015

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Thomson Reuters February 27-March 3, 2015. For the survey, a sample of 2,348 Americans, including 901 Democrats, 850 Republicans, and 333 Independents, ages 18+ were interviewed online. The precision of the Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.3 percentage points for all adults, 3.7 percentage points for Democrats, 3.8 percentage points for Republicans, and 6.1 percentage points for Independents. For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix.

The data were weighted to the U.S. current population data by gender, age, education, and ethnicity. 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. Figures marked by an asterisk (*) indicate a percentage value of greater than zero but less than one half of one per cent. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. To see more information on this and other Reuters/Ipsos polls, please visit http://polling.reuters.com/.

HEALTHCARE

Q1. Thinking about the elections in 2016, if your member of Congress were to run on a platform of repealing the healthcare bill passed into law in 2010, would that make you...

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Much more likely to vote for them	26%	12%	51%	22%
Somewhat more likely to vote for them	18%	19%	23%	13%
Somewhat less likely to vote for them	8%	10%	5%	11%
Much less likely to vote for them	19%	36%	4%	16%
Don't know/Not sure	30%	23%	16%	38%
TOTAL MORE LIKELY	*44%*	*31%*	*75%*	*35%*
TOTAL LESS LIKELY	*27%*	*46%*	*9%*	*27%*

Q2. As of right now, do you favor or oppose the healthcare reform bill passed by Congress and signed into law by the President in 2010? This is now known as the Affordable Care Act, often referred to as "Obamacare". (Select one)

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Favor	46%	77%	13%	40%
Oppose	54%	23%	87%	60%

Q3. Are you aware that the Supreme Court is reviewing a new case (King v. Burwell) that challenges the Affordable Care Act? The legal challenge focuses on the subsidies to health insurance marketplaces, or Exchanges, created by the Affordable Care Act.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	35%	38%	40%	33%
No	65%	62%	60%	67%

Q4. In this new case before the Supreme Court (King v. Burwell) The Supreme Court's decision could potentially eliminate subsidies to people who purchased health coverage from Healthcare.gov in certain states. If the Court ruling were to eliminate these subsidies, would you support or oppose this decision?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Support	23%	16%	40%	20%
Oppose	27%	43%	11%	31%
Not sure	49%	41%	49%	50%

Q5. Please tell me, do you favor or oppose the following?

Total	Favor	Oppose
Creating an insurance pool where small businesses and uninsured have access to insurance exchanges to take advantage of large group pricing benefits	82%	18%
Banning Insurance companies from cancelling policies because a person becomes ill	81%	19%
Banning insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions	79%	21%
Providing subsidies on a sliding scale to aid individuals and families who cannot afford health insurance	79%	21%
Requiring companies with more than 50 employees to provide insurance for their employees	75%	25%
Expanding Medicaid to families with incomes less than $30,000 per year	73%	27%
Allowing children to stay on parents insurance until age 26	72%	28%
Banning insurance companies from putting a lifetime cap on how much they will pay for a person's care	72%	28%
Increasing the Medicare payroll tax for those making more than $250,000 per year	70%	30%
Requiring all US residents to own health insurance	44%	56%

Democrats	Favor	Oppose
Providing subsidies on a sliding scale to aid individuals and families who cannot afford health insurance	91%	9%
Requiring companies with more than 50 employees to provide insurance for their employees	86%	14%
Creating an insurance pool where small businesses and uninsured have access to insurance exchanges to take advantage of large group pricing benefits	85%	15%
Banning insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions	85%	15%
Banning Insurance companies from cancelling policies because a person becomes ill	83%	17%
Expanding Medicaid to families with incomes less than $30,000 per year	83%	17%
Allowing children to stay on parents insurance until age 26	83%	17%
Banning insurance companies from putting a lifetime cap on how much they will pay for a person's care	80%	20%
Increasing the Medicare payroll tax for those making more than $250,000 per year	80%	20%
Requiring all US residents to own health insurance	60%	40%

Republicans	Favor	Oppose
Creating an insurance pool where small businesses and uninsured have access to insurance exchanges to take advantage of large group pricing benefits	82%	18%
Banning Insurance companies from cancelling policies because a person becomes ill	81%	19%
Banning insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions	77%	23%
Banning insurance companies from putting a lifetime cap on how much they will pay for a person's care	67%	33%
Providing subsidies on a sliding scale to aid individuals and families who cannot afford health insurance	64%	36%
Allowing children to stay on parents insurance until age 26	64%	36%
Requiring companies with more than 50 employees to provide insurance for their employees	62%	38%
Increasing the Medicare payroll tax for those making more than $250,000 per year	61%	39%
Expanding Medicaid to families with incomes less than $30,000 per year	60%	40%
Requiring all US residents to own health insurance	26%	74%

Q5. Please tell me, do you favor or oppose the following? (cont.)

Independents	Favor	Oppose
Creating an insurance pool where small businesses and uninsured have access to insurance exchanges to take advantage of large group pricing benefits	84%	16%
Providing subsidies on a sliding scale to aid individuals and families who cannot afford health insurance	81%	19%
Banning Insurance companies from cancelling policies because a person becomes ill	79%	21%
Requiring companies with more than 50 employees to provide insurance for their employees	76%	24%
Increasing the Medicare payroll tax for those making more than $250,000 per year	74%	26%
Banning insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions	74%	26%
Expanding Medicaid to families with incomes less than $30,000 per year	72%	28%
Allowing children to stay on parents insurance until age 26	66%	34%
Banning insurance companies from putting a lifetime cap on how much they will pay for a person's care	66%	34%
Requiring all US residents to own health insurance	40%	60%

Q6. When you think about healthcare reform in the United States, which of the following solutions comes closest to your opinion?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
The Government should be the sole provider of healthcare insurance	12%	19%	6%	12%
The Government should have a major role in providing healthcare insurance	21%	35%	9%	14%
The Government should have a limited role in providing healthcare insurance	28%	20%	42%	32%
Only private companies should provide healthcare insurance	14%	6%	27%	15%
Unsure	25%	20%	15%	27%

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

[1] *Bayesian Data Analysis, Second Edition, Andrew Gelman, John B. Carlin, Hal S. Stern, Donald B. Rubin, Chapman & Hall/CRC | ISBN: 158488388X | 2003*

[2] *Kish, L. (1992). Weighting for unequal Pi . Journal of Official, Statistics, 8, 2, 183200.*