Gerontological Society of America

Obesity Survey

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted December 9-15, 2015 on behalf the Gerontological Society of America. For the survey, a sample of 1,006 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English.

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 "Ampario 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 2015 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, region, race/ethnicity and income.

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 3.5 percentage points for all respondents (see link below for more info on Ipsos online polling "Credibility Intervals"). 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=1,006, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=4.5).

Q1. To what extent, if at all, do you think obesity is a problem in your state? (Select one)

Major problem	41%
Moderate problem	47%
Small problem	10%
Not a problem	3%

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following questions: (Select one for each row)

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Total agree
The U.S. government should invest in medical treatments to reduce the rate of obesity.	23%	39%	26%	12%	63%
Medicare should cover prescription medications to treat obesity.	27%	42%	22%	9%	69%
The U.S. government should invest in programs to reduce the rate of obesity.	31%	40%	18%	10%	71%

Q3. Are you aware of the following pieces of information? (Select one for each row)

	Yes	No
Obesity currently costs the federal government more than $200 billion a year, mostly in healthcare costs through Medicare and Medicaid.	41%	59%
Federal law specifically prohibits Medicare from covering patient costs for prescription obesity medication.	23%	77%
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found that current prescription medications are safe and effective in treating obesity.	31%	69%

Q4. Do you think the U.S. government should change its policy and allow Medicare to cover FDA-approved prescription obesity medicines? (Select one)

	Yes	No
Do you think the U.S. government should change its policy and allow Medicare to cover FDA-approved prescription obesity medicines?	68%	32%

Q5. In November 2016, the next Presidential election will be held. Using a 1-to-10 scale, where 10 means you are completely certain you will NOT vote, how likely are you to vote in the next Presidential election? (Select one)

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Don't Know
58%	12%	8%	4%	2%	6%	1%	1%	1%	5%	3%

Q6. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or none of these?

Strong Democrat	13%
Moderate Democrat	14%
Lean Democrat	8%
Lean Republican	8%
Moderate Republican	13%
Strong Republican	10%
Independent	20%
None of these	8%
Don't know	6%