

January/March 2008

Q.1. Which of the following would you say best describes your family's financial situation? Select one.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Getting ahead	16	19
Having just enough to get by	56	58
Falling behind	27	23
Not sure/refused	1	-

Q.2. Do you think the standard of living for the next generation will be better than today, worse than today or about the same? Select one.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Better than today	5	7
Worse than today	84	78
Same as today	11	15
Not sure/refused	-	-

Q.4. Thinking about health care in America overall, are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with (READ ITEM)?

**the cost of health care in our country**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Satisfied	4	5
Dissatisfied	95	94
Not sure/refused	1	1

**the quality of health care in our country**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Satisfied	35	34
Dissatisfied	64	64
Not sure/refused	1	2

Q.5a. Do you and your family have health care coverage?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Yes	77	83
No	6	3
Some family members in the household do, some do not	16	14
Not sure/refused	1	-

**(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY "YES" Q.5a)**

Q.5b. Do you and your family have health care coverage?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Coverage provided through employer (yours, spouse's, partner's or parents)	78	83
Medicare	20	16
Coverage purchased by you or someone in your family	15	13
Other	9	8
Not sure/refused	3	4

**(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY “NO,” “SOME FAMILY MEMBERS DO” OR “NOT SURE” Q.5a)**

Q.5c. Who does not have coverage?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Self	36	29
Spouse/Partner	21	13
Children younger than 18	9	6
Children ages 18-24	21	30
Children ages 24 and older	27	24
Other relatives (parent, sister, brother, etc.)	21	20
Not sure/refused	7	5

Q.6a. Does your health insurance cover all the care you need at a price you can afford?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Yes	42	50
No	52	48
Not sure/refused	6	2

**(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY “NO” Q.6a)**

Q.6b. What is not covered or not affordable?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Prescription drugs	46	46
Preventive care and checkups	36	32
Tests	40	34
Specialists	43	43
Other	35	38
Not sure/refused	8	6

Q.7. If you have employer-provided health coverage, how have your costs for it changed in the past couple years? Select one.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Stayed about the same	20	27
Improved	2	2
Gotten worse	61	59
Not sure/refused	17	12

Q.8. How much did you and your family spend out of pocket for health care in the past year (include premium costs you pay, co-pays, deductibles and prescription costs)?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Nothing	2	2
\$1-\$100	4	5
\$100-\$1,000	30	28
\$1,000-\$5,000	46	46
More than \$5,000	17	18
Not sure/refused	1	1

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Q.9. In the past year, did you or a family member experience any of the following?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Did not visit doctor when sick because of cost	31	23
Skipped medical test, treatment or follow-up recommended by doctor because of cost	33	24
Did not fill a prescription or skipped doses because of cost	29	27
Had serious problems paying or were unable to pay medical bills	23	20
Ran up credit card or other debt you're still paying off due to medical costs	22	20
Considered or filed for personal bankruptcy because of medical debt	5	3
Had to choose between paying for medical care or prescriptions and other essential needs (rent or mortgage, utilities, etc.)	24	22
Not sure/refused	38	39

Q.10. In the past year, has an insurance company initially refused to cover a medical treatment for you or a family member that should have been covered?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Yes	32	35
No	65	63
Not sure/refused	3	2

Q.11. Have you or has a family member stayed in a job to maintain health benefits when you would have preferred changing jobs?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Yes	48	48
No	49	49
Not sure/refused	3	3

Q.12. Overall, what do you think about today's health care system? Choose one.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
It works pretty well. Only minor changes are needed	4	6
Fundamental changes are needed	43	51
It should be completely rebuilt	52	42
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.13. Looking ahead over the next few years, are you concerned about affording health insurance?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Not concerned	4	4
Somewhat concerned	22	28
Very concerned	73	67
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.14. Are you concerned about losing health coverage because you may lose your job or change jobs?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Not concerned	24	22
Somewhat concerned	26	30
Very concerned	46	45
Not sure/refused	4	3

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Q.15. How important is health care to you as a voting issue in the 2008 elections?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Very important	79	79
One of many serious issues but not top tier	19	19
Not important	1	1
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.16. How much have you heard about health care proposals from the presidential candidates?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
A lot	20	20
Some	69	71
Nothing	10	8
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.18. Below are some of the changes that have been suggested by candidates for office. For each one, choose whether you think it is a good idea that will help you and people like you or whether it is a bogus solution.

**Offer choice of health insurance plans with benefits at least as generous as members of Congress receive**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Good idea	85	85
Not a good idea	12	11
Not sure/refused	3	4

**Require employers to provide health care coverage or contribute to its cost**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Good idea	76	84
Not a good idea	19	13
Not sure/refused	5	3

**Cover preventive care at little or no cost**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Good idea	93	92
Not a good idea	5	4
Not sure/refused	2	4

**Set rules and establish a watchdog on insurance companies to reduce costs**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Good idea	87	88
Not a good idea	9	9
Not sure/refused	4	3

**Use technology to increase efficiency and reduce paperwork**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Good idea	85	87
Not a good idea	10	9
Not sure/refused	5	4

**Establish a watchdog on drug companies to reduce costs**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Good idea	90	90
Not a good idea	7	8
Not sure/refused	3	2

Q.19. Which of the two following statements do you most agree with?

Health care reform should be based on the current private insurance market. If we let the market do its job, companies will compete for customers and that will control costs and quality. People who don't have health coverage now should get tax incentives to help them pay for insurance.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Health care reform should control costs and ensure everyone gets health care at least as good as what they have now. It should let people choose their own doctor and establish government as a watchdog on quality and costs.	13	13
	83	82
Not sure/refused	4	5

Q.20. What steps would you be willing to take to improve health care?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Write a letter to the editor of a magazine or newspaper	39	40
Write to or visit an elected official	61	60
Actively volunteer for a political party or candidate	31	33
Sign a petition	90	86
Attend a rally/demonstration	45	46
Talk to family/friends about the issue	71	68
Send an e-mail to friends or elected officials on the issue	72	70
Not sure/refused	3	4

Q.21. Are you?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Currently employed	70	80
Retired	20	14
Not currently employed and not retirement age	9	5
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.22. What is your age?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
18-29 years	5	9
30-39 years	12	15
40-49 years	21	22
50-64 years	49	45
65 years or older	12	9
Not sure/refused	1	-

Q.23. What is the last year of schooling you have completed?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
First-11th grade	1	1
High school graduate	11	11
Non-college post-high school (technical school, for example)	8	3
Some college	29	29
College graduate	27	30
Post-graduate school	24	26
Not sure/refused	-	-

Q.24. Are you?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
White/Caucasian, non-Hispanic	86	78
African American, non-Hispanic	5	16
Hispanic/Latino	4	2
Asian Pacific American/East Asian	1	-
Native American	1	-
Biracial/multiracial	2	3
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.25. Please check all that describe you:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Student	7	8
Have children younger than 18 living with me	22	21
Married	57	52
Domestic partner	8	8
LGBT	4	7
Union member	57	56
Someone in my family or household is a union member	18	18
Not sure/refused	9	9

Q.26. Are you registered to vote?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Yes	97	97
No	2	2
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.27. Are you planning to vote in the November 2008 elections?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Maryland</u>
Yes	97	96
No	2	3
Not sure/refused	1	1