

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>Texas</u>
Getting ahead	16	16
Having just enough to get by	56	57
Falling behind	27	27
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>Texas</u>
Better than today	5	6
Worse than today	84	82
Same as today	11	12
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>Texas</u>
Satisfied	4	4
Dissatisfied	95	96
Not sure/refused	1	-

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Satisfied	35	34
Dissatisfied	64	65
Not sure/refused	1	1

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Yes	77	74
No	6	7
Some family members in the household do, some do not	16	19
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>Texas</u>
Coverage provided through employer (yours, spouse's, partner's or parents)	78	77
Medicare	20	20
Coverage purchased by you or someone in your family	15	16
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>Texas</u>
Self	36	34
Spouse/Partner	21	25
Children younger than 18	9	15
Children ages 18-24	21	21
Children ages 24 and older	27	26
Other relatives (parent, sister, brother, etc.)	21	21
Not sure/refused	7	7

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Yes	42	34
No	52	60
Not sure/refused	6	6

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

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Prescription drugs	46	48
Preventive care and checkups	36	35
Tests	40	50
Specialists	43	48
Other	35	33
Not sure/refused	8	7

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>Texas</u>
Stayed about the same	20	18
Improved	2	2
Gotten worse	61	63
Not sure/refused	17	17

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>Texas</u>
Nothing	2	1
\$1-\$100	4	1
\$100-\$1,000	30	25
\$1,000-\$5,000	46	49
More than \$5,000	17	22
Not sure/refused	1	2

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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>Texas</u>
Did not visit doctor when sick because of cost	31	37
Skipped medical test, treatment or follow-up recommended by doctor because of cost	33	43
Did not fill a prescription or skipped doses because of cost	29	37
Had serious problems paying or were unable to pay medical bills	23	31
Ran up credit card or other debt you're still paying off due to medical costs	22	30
Considered or filed for personal bankruptcy because of medical debt	5	5
Had to choose between paying for medical care or prescriptions and other essential needs (rent or mortgage, utilities, etc.)	24	30
Not sure/refused	38	27

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>Texas</u>
Yes	32	36
No	65	61
Not sure/refused	3	3

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>Texas</u>
Yes	48	51
No	49	46
Not sure/refused	3	3

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
It works pretty well. Only minor changes are needed	4	5
Fundamental changes are needed	43	43
It should be completely rebuilt	52	51
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>Texas</u>
Not concerned	4	4
Somewhat concerned	22	20
Very concerned	73	76
Not sure/refused	1	-

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Not concerned	24	24
Somewhat concerned	26	24
Very concerned	46	48
Not sure/refused	4	4

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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>Texas</u>
Very important	79	76
One of many serious issues but not top tier	19	22
Not important	1	2
Not sure/refused	1	-

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
A lot	20	26
Some	69	61
Nothing	10	12
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>Texas</u>
Good idea	85	87
Not a good idea	12	11
Not sure/refused	3	2

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Good idea	76	77
Not a good idea	19	19
Not sure/refused	5	4

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Good idea	93	93
Not a good idea	5	5
Not sure/refused	2	2

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</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>Texas</u>
Good idea	85	85
Not a good idea	10	11
Not sure/refused	5	4

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Good idea	90	90
Not a good idea	7	7
Not sure/refused	3	3

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>Texas</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	15
	83	82
Not sure/refused	4	3

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Write a letter to the editor of a magazine or newspaper	39	37
Write to or visit an elected official	61	63
Actively volunteer for a political party or candidate	31	34
Sign a petition	90	89
Attend a rally/demonstration	45	45
Talk to family/friends about the issue	71	72
Send an e-mail to friends or elected officials on the issue	72	76
Not sure/refused	3	2

Q.21. Are you?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Currently employed	70	73
Retired	20	18
Not currently employed and not retirement age	9	8
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.22. What is your age?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
18-29 years	5	4
30-39 years	12	12
40-49 years	21	20
50-64 years	49	52
65 years or older	12	11
Not sure/refused	1	1

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
First-11th grade	1	1
High school graduate	11	9
Non-college post-high school (technical school, for example)	8	4
Some college	29	26
College graduate	27	30
Post-graduate school	24	29
Not sure/refused	-	1

Q.24. Are you?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
White/Caucasian, non-Hispanic	86	78
African American, non-Hispanic	5	6
Hispanic/Latino	4	10
Asian Pacific American/East Asian	1	1
Native American	1	1
Biracial/multiracial	2	3
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.25. Please check all that describe you:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Student	7	7
Have children younger than 18 living with me	22	23
Married	57	60
Domestic partner	8	8
LGBT	4	5
Union member	57	48
Someone in my family or household is a union member	18	12
Not sure/refused	9	11

Q.26. Are you registered to vote?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Yes	97	98
No	2	1
Not sure/refused	1	1

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

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Yes	97	98
No	2	1
Not sure/refused	1	1