



Voter Vitals: May 2023 Edition

Key findings from our national tracking survey of likely voters on health care

June 2, 2023



Methodology

Public Opinion Survey

- N=2,000 likely voters nationwide
- Balanced to U.S. demographics by gender, age, race, income, political ideology, and health coverage
- Conducted by LSG online May 18-26, 2023
- MOE: +/-2%

2,000

LIKELY VOTERS
NATIONWIDE

+/- 2%

SURVEY MARGIN OF ERROR



Key Findings

- 1 A majority of likely voters are **SATISFIED** with our country's current health insurance system overall, and an even larger majority are **SATISFIED** with their current health insurance plan.
- 2 The most popular reform proposal remains **building on and improving our current system**. Meanwhile, a majority do **NOT** support the public option or Medicare for All.
- 3 Most likely voters do **NOT** trust the federal government to design and manage an effective health insurance plan that meets the needs of all Americans.
- 4 A majority would be **LESS** likely to vote for a lawmaker who supports creating a new government-run health insurance system funded by higher taxes or cuts to doctors and hospitals.
- 5 Most believe it is **IMPORTANT** for the federal government to increase funding for mental health services and believe the need for mental health care will **INCREASE** over the next decade.



Health care is NOT a top issue – trailing inflation, the economy, and gun policy as the most important issues to address

Which of the following issues are MOST important for lawmakers in Washington D.C. to address? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP THREE)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Inflation and rising cost of living	47%	37%	46%	60%
The economy	41%	34%	38%	54%
Gun policy	30%	48%	27%	11%
Immigration	26%	12%	22%	46%
Crime and public safety	23%	16%	23%	31%
Health care	23%	27%	25%	14%
Abortion	18%	25%	17%	9%
The environment	17%	25%	18%	6%

COLUMN KEY:

U.S.: n=2,000 likely voters nationwide

DEM: n=794 Democratic likely voters nationwide

SWING: n=578 Swing likely voters nationwide

GOP: n=609 Republican likely voters nationwide



Financial regulation, judges/the judiciary, and energy rank among the least important issues to address right now

Which of the following issues do you believe are MOST important for lawmakers in Washington D.C. to address? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP THREE)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
National security/foreign policy	13%	9%	10%	21%
Income and wealth inequality	12%	18%	12%	6%
Taxes	12%	9%	14%	15%
Education	11%	10%	14%	10%
Social justice	9%	14%	8%	3%
Energy	6%	4%	9%	6%
Judges and the judiciary	6%	7%	8%	3%
Financial regulation	6%	5%	8%	5%



Lowering costs is the most important priority to improve America's health care system

Which of the following is the MOST important priority to improve the U.S. health care system? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP TWO)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Bring down health care costs	68%	69%	66%	70%
Improve the quality of health care	32%	30%	35%	32%
Expand coverage to the uninsured	32%	44%	29%	20%
Make health care simpler	31%	28%	32%	33%
Give consumers more choice and control	23%	18%	22%	30%
Drive medical innovation and breakthroughs	14%	11%	16%	15%



A majority are SATISFIED with our country's health insurance system overall, and even more are satisfied with their plan

When considering all of the different health insurance coverage options available to Americans, including employer-provided coverage, Medicare, Medicaid, and plans available to purchase on a state's marketplace exchange, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with America's health insurance system overall?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
SATISFIED (NET)	51%	51%	46%	55%
NEITHER	15%	12%	16%	17%
DISSATISFIED (NET)	35%	37%	38%	29%

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your current health insurance plan, the coverage you have today?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
SATISFIED (NET)	73%	74%	68%	76%
NEITHER	12%	12%	14%	9%
DISSATISFIED (NET)	16%	14%	18%	15%



A majority of likely voters trust the free market more than the federal government to manage health care for Americans

Which do you trust MORE to effectively manage health care for Americans?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Free market	54%	39%	51%	78%
Federal government	46%	61%	49%	22%



A majority do NOT trust lawmakers to design and manage an effective health insurance plan that meets Americans' needs

Do you trust or distrust lawmakers in Washington D.C. to design and manage an effective health insurance plan that meets the needs of all Americans?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
TRUST (NET)	26%	32%	27%	17%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	21%	25%	24%	14%
DISTRUST (NET)	53%	43%	49%	68%



A majority do NOT believe the federal government should get more involved in providing health coverage

Do you believe the federal government should be more involved, less involved, or have the same level of involvement in providing health coverage and care following the COVID-19 pandemic?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
MORE INVOLVED (NET)	44%	62%	43%	22%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	30%	29%	36%	25%
LESS INVOLVED (NET)	26%	9%	21%	53%



A majority are aware of Medicare For All, but most are unaware of Medicare at 60, public option, and Medicare buy-in

Please be honest. How familiar or unfamiliar are you with the following health care reform proposals and how they would work?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Medicare for All	54%	61%	51%	46%
Medicare at 60	45%	50%	42%	41%
Public option	37%	39%	36%	36%
Medicare buy-in	31%	32%	30%	29%



Most supported proposal: fixing what we have today

Now, we're going to present you with a series of health care policy proposals. For each, please indicate your level of support or opposition to them. (SUPPORT)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<u>Fix what we have today. We should build on and improve our current health insurance system - not start over.</u>	65%	63%	63%	69%
<u>Medicare at 60.</u> We should open up Medicare to Americans at age 60 instead of at age 65.	62%	71%	63%	50%
<u>Extend Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies.</u> We should permanently extend subsidies for those who are uninsured to more easily afford health insurance through the public marketplace	56%	74%	56%	33%
<u>Medicare buy-in.</u> We should allow Americans aged 50-64 to purchase health insurance through Medicare.	56%	64%	56%	45%



Least supported proposal: repealing the ACA

Now, we're going to present you with a series of health care policy proposals. For each, please indicate your level of support or opposition to them. (SUPPORT)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Public option. We should create a new federal government-run insurance plan available for any American to purchase.	49%	61%	51%	32%
Medicare for All. We should replace private health insurance plans with a single federal government-run health insurance system that covers all Americans and is funded by federal taxes.	49%	65%	50%	27%
Medicaid Coverage Gap Plan. We should create a new government-run health insurance plan to provide coverage to those in states that chose not expand Medicaid.	46%	60%	48%	28%
Repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We should repeal the ACA and go back to the health care system we had prior to it that does not protect pre-existing conditions.	32%	22%	30%	49%



BUILDING ON our current system earns much more support than creating a public option or opening up Medicare at 60

Which of the following approaches to health care reform would you support MORE? (SPLIT SAMPLE)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Building on our current health insurance system by strengthening private coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid options	63%	56%	60%	76%
Creating a public option which is a new government-run health insurance plan available for any American to purchase	37%	44%	40%	24%

Which of the following approaches to health care reform would you support MORE? (SPLIT SAMPLE)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Building on our current health insurance system by strengthening private coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid options	64%	60%	66%	69%
Opening up Medicare for seniors to Americans at age 60 instead of at age 65	36%	40%	34%	31%



Voters prefer to address the Medicaid coverage gap by providing marketplace SUBSIDIES instead of creating something new

Which of the following approaches do you support MORE to provide coverage for those living in states that chose not to expand Medicaid but would otherwise be eligible for it?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Providing subsidies for them to purchase coverage in the existing health insurance marketplace	60%	53%	55%	74%
Creating a new government-run health insurance plan that would provide coverage to them	40%	47%	45%	26%



Most prefer to KEEP their current health coverage instead of purchasing public option or Medicare coverage

Assuming that what you currently pay would be the exact same, would you rather keep your current health insurance coverage or get coverage through a government-run public option?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Keep my current coverage	69%	65%	67%	78%
Purchase public option coverage	31%	35%	33%	22%

Assuming that what you currently pay would be the exact same, would you rather keep your current health insurance coverage or get coverage through Medicare?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Keep my current coverage	69%	61%	68%	81%
Purchase Medicare coverage	31%	39%	32%	19%



Top concerns with government-run proposals: costs, bureaucracy, and quality

Which of the following potential consequences of creating a new government-run health insurance system are MOST concerning to you?
(COMBINED CHOICE – TOP TWO)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Costs. Americans will pay higher taxes to fund it or private health insurance premiums will increase.	43%	40%	42%	48%
Bureaucracy. It would increase bureaucracy and red tape in health care.	30%	34%	28%	28%
Quality. There would be lower quality of care for patients.	29%	30%	28%	31%
Government spending. It would increase our national debt and deficit further.	26%	19%	25%	35%
Access. There would be longer wait times and fewer doctors and hospitals.	23%	26%	24%	19%
One-size-fits-all. Private coverage and public programs would no longer be able to work together to provide coverage and care options for Americans.	18%	21%	18%	15%
Instability. It would create instability as Americans could lose their current coverage.	16%	18%	17%	13%
Jobs. It would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of health care job	14%	12%	17%	12%



Most are UNWILLING to pay any more in taxes or health care costs to fund the creation of a government-run system

Are you or are you not willing to pay more in taxes to create a new government-run health insurance system?

TAXES	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
No, I would not be willing to pay more	68%	61%	66%	81%
Yes, I would be willing to pay more	32%	39%	34%	19%

Are you or are you not willing to pay more than you currently pay for health care, including premiums, co-pays, and out-of-pocket expenses, to create a new government-run health insurance system?

HEALTH CARE COSTS	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
No, I would not be willing to pay more	73%	68%	74%	80%
Yes, I would be willing to pay more	27%	32%	26%	20%



A majority would be LESS likely to vote for a lawmaker who supports creating a new government-run health insurance system

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a lawmaker who voted to create a new government-run health insurance system that was funded by either higher taxes, cuts to doctors and hospitals, or both?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
MORE LIKELY (NET)	36%	45%	41%	21%
NO IMPACT	11%	14%	10%	7%
LESS LIKELY (NET)	53%	41%	49%	72%



A majority are CONCERNED about the access, cost, and long-term fiscal impacts of government-run proposals

How concerned would you be if creating a new government-run health insurance system had the following impacts? (CONCERNED)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Reducing access to quality care	77%	78%	73%	81%
Increasing payroll taxes by more than \$2,500 a year on the average worker	72%	69%	67%	82%
Closing of at-risk rural hospitals	70%	71%	67%	71%
Bankrupting the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund by 2024.	70%	70%	65%	76%
Increasing the federal deficit by \$800 billion in its first ten years	68%	61%	63%	82%
Becoming the third largest government program behind Medicare and Social Security	54%	43%	49%	71%



More believe the private sector's response has been MORE adequate than the federal government's response

How would you describe each of the following's response to addressing America's mental health crisis? (ADEQUATE)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Hospitals	47%	47%	47%	46%
Health insurance providers	41%	42%	40%	42%
Federal government	29%	33%	29%	22%



Most believe it's IMPORTANT for lawmakers to increase mental health funding, expand telehealth, and continue COVID funding

How important or unimportant is it for lawmakers in Washington D.C. to address the following health care challenges? (IMPORTANT)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Increasing funding for mental health services	77%	87%	74%	67%
Expanding access to telehealth services	58%	65%	60%	46%
Continuing funding for COVID-19 vaccines and treatment	54%	72%	56%	28%



Most believe the need for mental health care will INCREASE over the next decade

Do you think the need for mental health care will increase, decrease, or stay the same over the next decade?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
INCREASE (NET)	75%	78%	74%	73%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	19%	17%	18%	21%
DECREASE (NET)	6%	5%	8%	6%





Thank You

Questions?

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