



Badger Poll™ #25, Release #2  
University of Wisconsin Survey Center  
University of Wisconsin Madison  
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## **PUBLIC OPINION IN WISCONSIN ABOUT REFORMING THE STATE'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

Health care issues are shaping up to be one of the major issues facing Badger State residents as well as Americans nationwide. There has been a fair amount of discussion in the State Legislature, by the Governor and other politicians about various reforms. The latest Badger Poll asked Wisconsinites about their views on the state of the health care system in Wisconsin and ways to improve it, including expanding access to high-quality care and increasing the coverage of health insurance programs.

- 18% of Wisconsinites feel that health care issues and concerns are the most important problem facing the state of Wisconsin today – that is second only to taxes as the most important problem. In June of 2007 12% of Badger State residents said health care was the most important problem.
- Overall, 56% of Wisconsinites say that they have mixed feelings about the health care system in the state today, with 28% saying they are dissatisfied with the system and only 15% saying they are satisfied.
- Approximately 50% of Wisconsin residents feel that the health care system in the state has major problems, 35% say it has minor problems, 12% say it is currently in a state of crisis and just 2% say there are no problems.
- When asked about how concerned they are on six health care issues, majorities of residents say they are either extremely or quite concerned about five of the six areas:
  - **64%** are extremely or quite concerned about **not** being able to pay for all the costs associated with a major illness or injury

- **64%** are extremely or quite concerned about **employers** cutting back on the amount they contribute for health care coverage
  - **62%** are extremely or quite concerned about **not** having health care coverage or losing health care coverage
  - **60%** are extremely or quite concerned about **not** being able to pay for all of the out-of-pocket costs associated with health insurance, such as premiums, deductibles and co-payments
  - **53%** are extremely or quite concerned about **not** being able to pay for needed prescriptions
  - **45%** are extremely or quite concerned about **not** having access to quality doctors and health care services
- The latest Badger Poll also found that majorities of Wisconsinites are favorable toward four proposed health care reforms:
    - **51%** favor consolidating all the money and resources now being spent by employers, individuals, the state government, and insurance companies to operate the current health insurance system and replace it with a new system, administered entirely by state government and covering all residents of Wisconsin
    - **61%** favor encouraging individuals to put money into a tax-free health savings account that they would use to pay for their regular health care bills and accompany this with a catastrophic insurance plan they must also purchase to help pay for major medical bills
    - **72%** favor requiring every resident of Wisconsin to have health insurance, either from their employer or another source, and offer government subsidies to low-income residents to help them pay for it
    - **82%** favor expanding the eligibility of existing state government health insurance programs for low-income people, such as BadgerCare, Medicaid, and Healthy Families, to provide coverage for more people without health insurance

Additional results and analysis are presented below.

## HEALTHCARE ISSUES AND CONCERNS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS IN WISCONSIN TODAY

18% of Wisconsinites feel that health care issues and concerns are the most important problem facing the state of Wisconsin today – that is second only to taxes as the most important problem. In June of 2007 12% of Badger State residents said it was the most important problem.

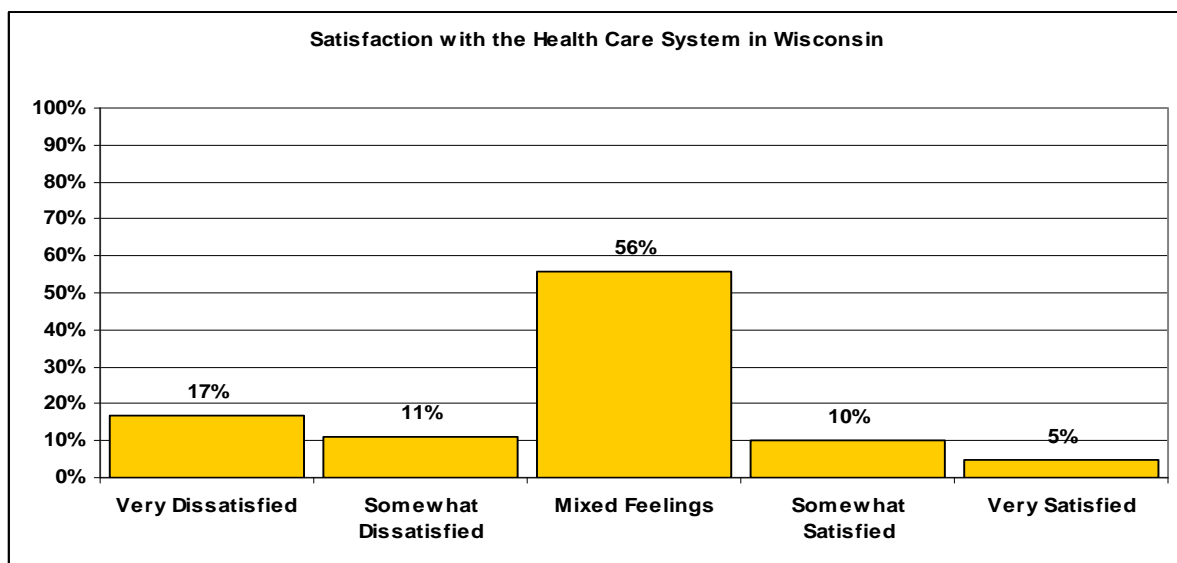
### Top 5 Most Important Problem Facing Wisconsin

<i>Issue Areas (as coded from open-end question)</i>	<b>June 2007</b>	<b>Fall 2007</b>
<b>1</b> Taxes	23%	23%
<b>2</b> Health Care	12%	18%
<b>3</b> The economy and jobs	11%	11%
<b>4</b> Education / Schools	9%	8%
<b>5</b> Crime, Drugs, & Violence	5%	5%
	<b>(N=502)</b>	<b>(N=507)</b>

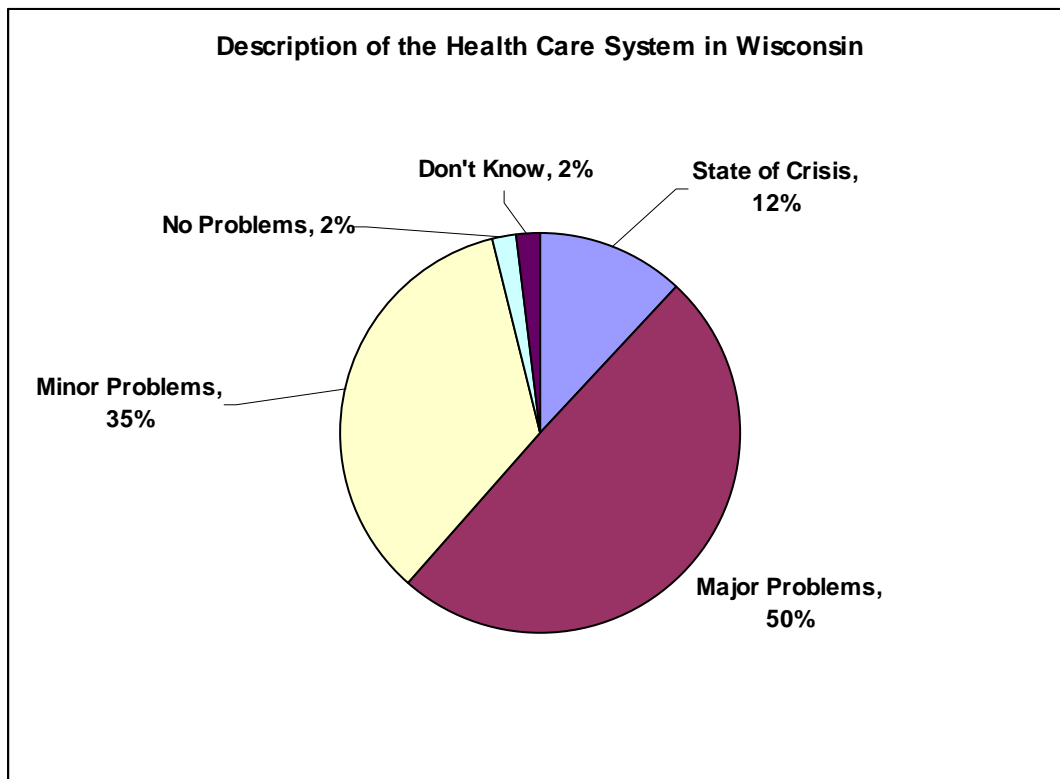
Most of the 90 respondents who mentioned health care just said “health care” with nothing else offered. However, 12 responders included the terms “affordability” or “costs,” seven mentioned “lack of coverage” and six mentioned “health insurance”.

## MIXED FEELINGS AMONG WISCONSINITIES ON SATISFACTION WITH THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN THE STATE

While health care is considered an important problem by many Wisconsinites, the latest Badger Poll finds that when respondents are asked specifically about their satisfaction with the health care system in Wisconsin, most (56%) have mixed feelings. However, nearly twice as many said that they are dissatisfied with the current system than are satisfied.



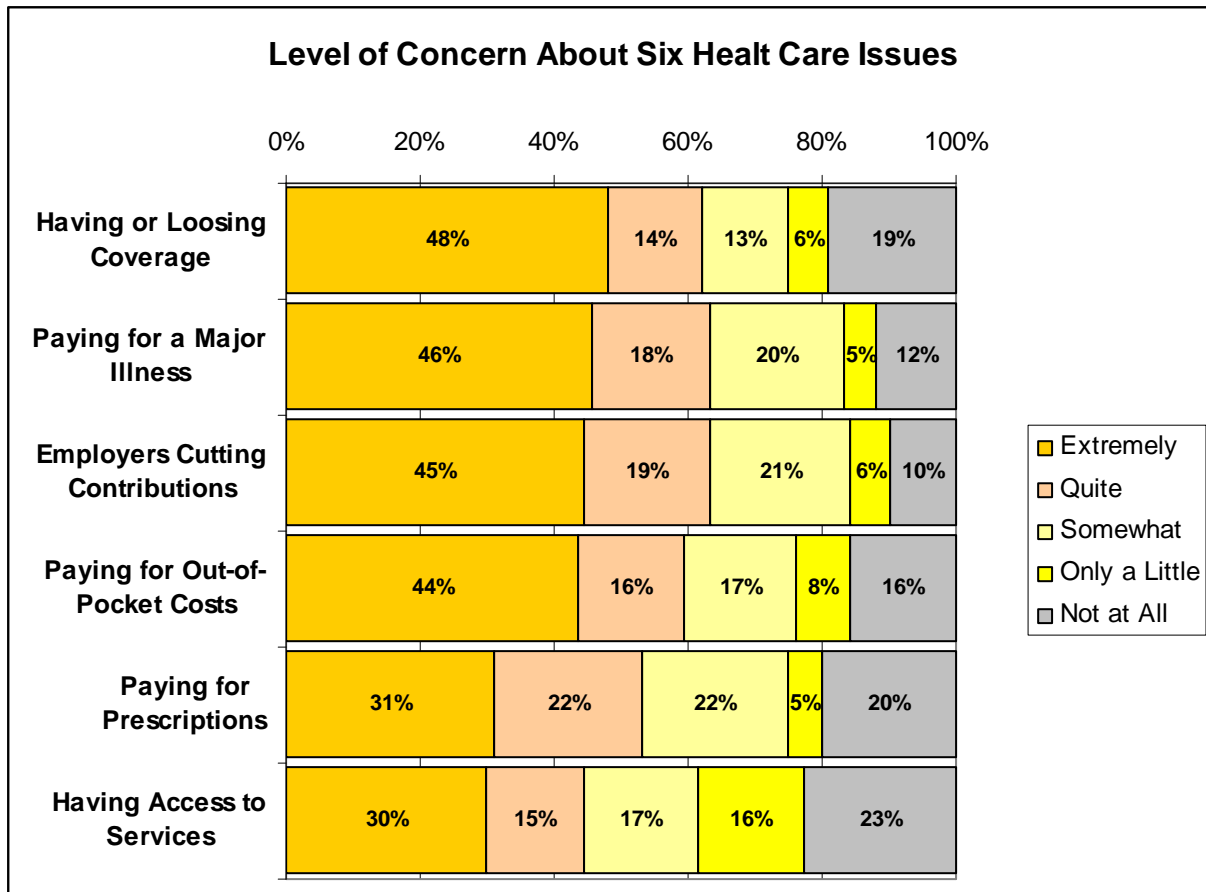
Further, when asked what phrase describes the health care system in Wisconsin today, approximately 50% said that it has “major problems,” 35% said it has “minor problems,” 12% said it was in “a state of crisis,” and only 2% said it “does not have any problems.”



When it comes to satisfaction with the health care system in Wisconsin today, Republicans, as a group, expressed highest levels of satisfaction (22%) and were they least likely to say that the system is in a state of crisis (5%). Democrats and independents reported higher levels of dissatisfaction (35% and 30% respectively) and nearly three times as many Democrats described the health care system in Wisconsin as in “a state of crisis” (16%) as did Republicans (see tables in Appendix for results from sub-groups).

## WISCONSINITES APPEAR CONCERNED WITH MANY ASPECTS OF HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

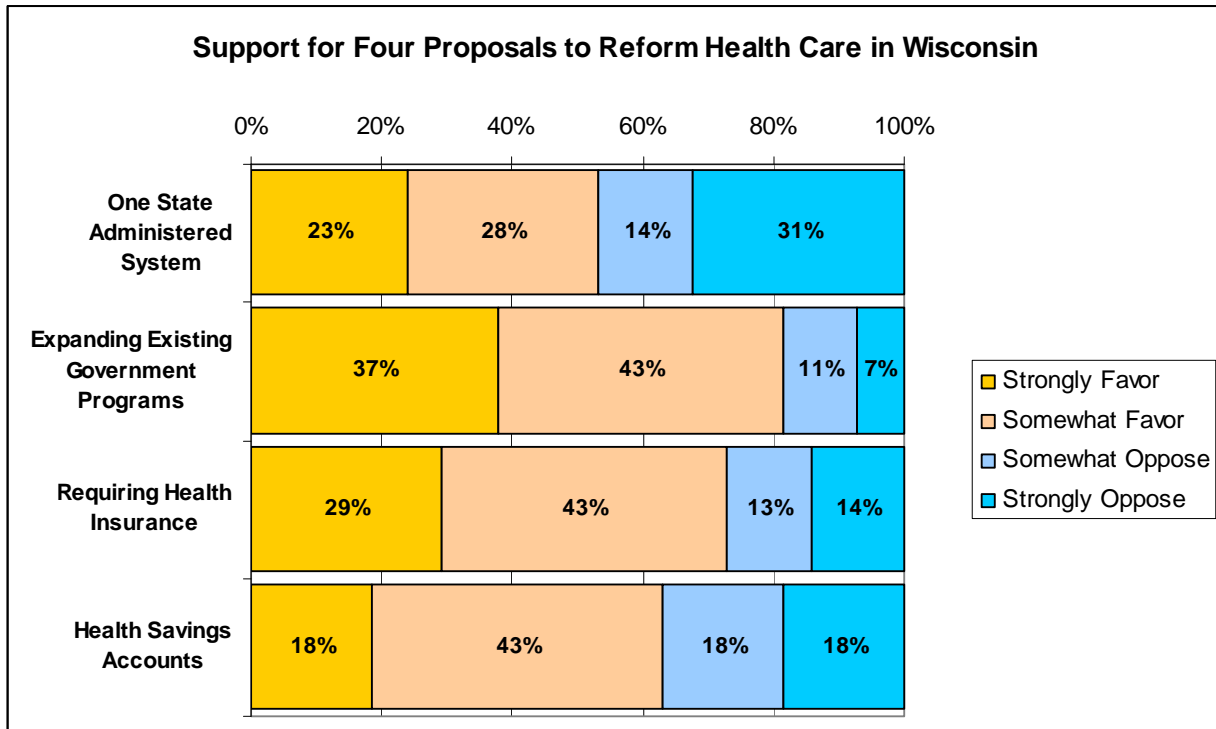
Among the six health care issues about which the latest Badger Poll asked Wisconsin residents to state their level of concern, majorities said they were either extremely or quite concerned about five of the six. As the chart below shows, most Wisconsinites appeared to be highly concerned about making sure that they have insurance or will keep their health insurance and about being able to afford the increasing costs of health care.



When it comes to concern about having or keeping health care coverage, women and Wisconsinites that do not have a four year college degree expressed the greatest levels of concern with 70% of women saying they were either extremely or quite concerned about coverage and 66% of those with a high school diploma or less and 75% of those with some college experience saying they were either extremely or quite concerned about coverage (see Appendix for tables with break downs for selective sub-groups). A very similar pattern exist for the remaining five issues – with women and those who have not attended or graduated from college expressing higher levels of concern.

## FOUR OPTIONS FOR REFORMING THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN WISCONSIN

Badger State residents appear ready to support reforming the health care system in Wisconsin. The latest Badger Poll asked respondents whether they favored or opposed four different proposals to reform the state's health care system and majorities of Wisconsinites said they favored each proposal.



When it comes to the four proposals listed above there are partisan differences in terms of support. Large majorities of Democrats (70%) and independents (60%) report that they favor consolidating all of the money currently spent on health care into one government plan administered by the state, but 77% of Republicans say they oppose such a plan. Additionally, the Badger Poll finds that a majority of men support such a plan, while women were more split with a slight majority in opposition (see Appendix for tables with break downs by key sub-groups).

Expanding existing government programs that help cover low-income people so that more residents of Wisconsin are covered is favored by nearly nine in ten Democrats, eight in ten independents and nearly seven in ten Republicans. Large majorities of residents across all key sub-groups and regions of the state support such a proposal.

Another proposal that large majorities of Wisconsinites support is requiring every resident of the state to have health insurance and offering government subsidies to help low-income residents pay for it.

The fourth proposal that was included in the latest Badger Poll was encouraging people to put money into tax-free health saving accounts to pay for regular health care bills and catastrophic

insurance. While 61% favored this proposal, the support was not as large or as encompassing as the two previous proposals. 82% of Republicans favored the proposal, while 59% of independents favor it, but Democrats are split with 48% favoring and 50% opposing. Additionally, those Wisconsinites who have never attended college are also split, as well as were respondents from Milwaukee County and those 60 years old and over.

**APPENDIX:**

<b>Satisfaction with the Health Care System in Wisconsin Today</b>							
		Dissatisfied	Mixed Feelings	Satisfied	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>28%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	32%	48%	19%	2%	1%	(215)
	Women	24%	64%	12%	1%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	35%	56%	8%	1%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	30%	52%	17%	1%	<1%	(188)
	Republicans	18%	61%	22%	1%	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	21%	66%	13%	--	--	(36)
	30 to 44	29%	57%	13%	1%	--	(94)
	45 to 59	34%	49%	16%	1%	--	(182)
	60 and over	25%	53%	19%	2%	1%	(195)
Education	High school graduate or less	31%	47%	19%	2%	1%	(183)
	Some college	19%	73%	7%	1%	--	(138)
	College graduate or more	35%	47%	19%	1%	--	(183)
Region	Milwaukee County	33%	56%	11%	--	--	(102)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	16%	57%	26%	--	1%	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	38%	52%	10%	--	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	29%	47%	21%	3%	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	21%	72%	7%	--	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	33%	48%	16%	3%	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

Best Description of the Health care System in Wisconsin Today								
		State of Crisis	Major Problems	Minor Problems	No Problems	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>12%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	14%	41%	38%	4%	2%	1%	(215)
	Women	10%	58%	31%	<1%	1%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	16%	45%	33%	4%	2%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	13%	51%	34%	--	1%	1%	(188)
	Republicans	5%	53%	36%	4%	2%	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	12%	46%	35%	4%	3%	--	(36)
	30 to 44	12%	47%	40%	1%	--	--	(94)
	45 to 59	14%	51%	32%	2%	1%	--	(182)
	60 and over	7%	56%	31%	2%	3%	1%	(195)
Education	High school graduate or less	10%	47%	33%	6%	3%	1%	(183)
	Some college	12%	54%	34%	--	--	--	(138)
	College graduate or more	13%	48%	37%	1%	1%	--	(183)
Region	Milwaukee County	13%	57%	24%	4%	1%	--	(102)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	5%	42%	53%	--	--	1%	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	19%	40%	36%	--	5%	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	12%	39%	46%	--	3%	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	6%	74%	20%	--	--	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	14%	44%	32%	9%	1%	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

How concerned about <u>not</u> having health care coverage or losing health care coverage									
		Extremely	Quite	Somewhat	Only a little	Not at all	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>48%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	38%	16%	16%	7%	24%	--	--	(215)
	Women	58%	12%	11%	5%	14%	<1%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	54%	14%	13%	5%	14%	<1%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	39%	15%	14%	7%	24%	<1%	--	(188)
	Republicans	52%	13%	13%	5%	17%	--	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	61%	9%	11%	4%	15%	--	--	(36)
	30 to 44	45%	14%	26%	2%	13%	--	--	(94)
	45 to 59	39%	15%	15%	6%	24%	--	--	(182)
	60 and over	46%	20%	15%	5%	13%	1%	--	(195)
Education	High school graduate or less	49%	17%	20%	6%	9%	<1%	--	(183)
	Some college	65%	10%	6%	4%	16%	--	--	(138)
	College graduate or more	32%	16%	14%	8%	30%	<1%	--	(183)
Region	Milwaukee County	46%	12%	12%	7%	22%	--	--	(102)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	40%	12%	16%	7%	26%	--	--	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	41%	19%	17%	2%	21%	--	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	44%	20%	16%	4%	17%	--	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	73%	3%	7%	2%	14%	--	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	45%	19%	14%	11%	11%	--	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

<b>How concerned about not being able to pay for all the costs associated with a major illness or injury</b>									
		Extremely	Quite	Somewhat	Only a little	Not at all	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>46%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	36%	22%	20%	5%	17%	--	--	(215)
	Women	55%	14%	19%	4%	8%	<1%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	49%	21%	14%	8%	9%	<1%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	40%	21%	23%	2%	13%	--	--	(188)
	Republicans	47%	12%	20%	4%	17%	--	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	59%	17%	6%	6%	11%	--	--	(36)
	30 to 44	45%	14%	26%	2%	13%	--	--	(94)
	45 to 59	42%	17%	21%	6%	15%	--	--	(182)
	60 and over	39%	24%	22%	5%	10%	<1%	--	(195)
Education	High school graduate or less	46%	22%	16%	7%	9%	--	--	(183)
	Some college	60%	14%	12%	2%	12%	--	--	(138)
	College graduate or more	31%	18%	29%	5%	17%	<1%	--	(183)
Region	Milwaukee County	34%	21%	27%	5%	13%	--	--	(102)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	39%	20%	25%	5%	11%	--	--	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	38%	25%	14%	6%	17%	--	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	52%	14%	21%	3%	10%	--	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	71%	6%	10%	2%	12%	--	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	37%	21%	23%	8%	11%	--	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

		How concerned about <b>not</b> having access to quality doctors and health care services							
		Extremely	Quite	Somewhat	Only a little	Not at all	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>30%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	32%	18%	17%	7%	27%	--	--	(215)
	Women	29%	12%	16%	24%	19%	1%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	39%	18%	19%	6%	19%	1%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	32%	15%	14%	10%	28%	--	--	(188)
	Republicans	17%	12%	16%	34%	20%	<1%	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	21%	15%	6%	42%	17%	--	--	(36)
	30 to 44	38%	10%	22%	7%	23%	--	--	(94)
	45 to 59	29%	14%	21%	7%	29%	<1%	--	(182)
	60 and over	31%	21%	16%	11%	20%	1%	--	(195)
Education	High school graduate or less	42%	20%	14%	9%	15%	--	--	(183)
	Some college	28%	11%	14%	28%	19%	--	--	(138)
	College graduate or more	22%	13%	22%	8%	34%	1%	--	(183)
Region	Milwaukee County	36%	10%	16%	6%	32%	--	--	(102)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	32%	18%	22%	9%	19%	--	--	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	29%	21%	18%	5%	25%	2%	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	36%	17%	11%	9%	27%	--	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	25%	4%	11%	46%	14%	--	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	24%	18%	22%	14%	22%	--	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

<b>How concerned about employers cutting back on the amount they contribute for health care coverage</b>									
		Extremely	Quite	Somewhat	Only a little	Not at all	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>45%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	37%	21%	20%	8%	14%	--	--	(215)
	Women	52%	17%	21%	4%	5%	1%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	49%	26%	14%	4%	7%	1%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	38%	19%	26%	5%	12%	1%	--	(188)
	Republicans	50%	10%	21%	9%	10%	1%	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	63%	11%	15%	2%	8%	--	--	(36)
	30 to 44	45%	19%	21%	6%	9%	--	--	(94)
	45 to 59	38%	18%	24%	9%	11%	--	--	(182)
	60 and over	35%	25%	22%	6%	9%	3%	--	(195)
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	Some college	60%	13%	15%	4%	9%	--	--	(138)
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	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	36%	17%	33%	7%	8%	--	--	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	41%	17%	26%	6%	10%	1%	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	44%	20%	24%	3%	7%	3%	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	69%	8%	7%	3%	12%	1%	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	43%	23%	16%	5%	13%	--	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

		How concerned about <u>not</u> being able to pay for needed prescriptions							(N)
		Extremely	Quite	Somewhat	Only a little	Not at all	Don't Know	Refused	
<b>Overall</b>		<b>31%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	29%	16%	28%	4%	23%	--	--	(215)
	Women	34%	28%	17%	5%	16%	<1%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	44%	16%	20%	3%	16%	<1%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	34%	17%	24%	4%	22%	--	--	(188)
	Republicans	13%	39%	22%	7%	19%	1%	--	(114)
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	30 to 44	34%	12%	24%	5%	25%	--	--	(94)
	45 to 59	30%	15%	24%	6%	24%	--	--	(182)
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Region	Milwaukee County	36%	9%	27%	1%	27%	--	--	(102)
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	NE WI, Fox Valley	27%	24%	29%	3%	16%	1%	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	24%	46%	10%	3%	19%	--	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	31%	14%	32%	8%	15%	--	--	(84)

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**How concerned about not being able to pay for all of the out-of-pocket costs associated with health insurance, such as premiums, deductibles and co-payments**

		Extremely	Quite	Somewhat	Only a little	Not at all	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>44%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	35%	17%	19%	8%	22%	--	--	(215)
	Women	53%	15%	15%	7%	10%	<1%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	51%	20%	12%	6%	11%	<1%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	34%	17%	24%	4%	22%	--	--	(188)
	Republicans	47%	11%	17%	7%	17%	1%	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	65%	13%	5%	1%	17%	--	--	(36)
	30 to 44	42%	10%	24%	8%	16%	--	--	(94)
	45 to 59	34%	17%	19%	9%	21%	--	--	(182)
	60 and over	39%	23%	17%	11%	9%	1%	--	(195)
Education	High school graduate or less	47%	21%	19%	5%	8%	<1%	--	(183)
	Some college	57%	10%	11%	6%	16%	--	--	(138)
	College graduate or more	29%	17%	20%	12%	23%	<1%	--	(183)
Region	Milwaukee County	35%	17%	20%	12%	16%	--	--	(102)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	31%	13%	24%	11%	19%	1%	--	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	37%	24%	18%	6%	17%	--	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	46%	19%	10%	6%	19%	--	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	68%	6%	7%	5%	13%	--	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	44%	15%	22%	6%	13%	--	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

**Favor or Oppose a New System Administered Entirely by State Government**

		Favor	Neither (vol.)	Oppose	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>51%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>2%</b>	--	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	58%	1%	40%	1%	--	(215)
	Women	45%	1%	51%	3%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	70%	2%	26%	2%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	60%	1%	38%	1%	--	(188)
	Republicans	20%	1%	77%	2%	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	42%	2%	55%	1%	--	(36)
	30 to 44	60%	1%	39%	--	--	(94)
	45 to 59	52%	1%	46%	1%	--	(182)
	60 and over	49%	1%	43%	7%	--	(195)
Education	High school graduate or less	53%	3%	39%	5%	--	(183)
	Some college	46%	1%	52%	1%	--	(138)
	College graduate or more	56%	1%	43%	<1%	--	(183)
Region	Milwaukee County	49%	1%	49%	1%	--	(102)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	53%	--	45%	2%	--	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	55%	1%	42%	2%	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	60%	3%	33%	4%	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	28%	2%	69%	1%	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	67%	--	31%	2%	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

<b>Favor or Oppose Expanding Eligibility of Existing Government Programs</b>							
		Favor	Neither (vol.)	Oppose	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>80%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	75%	1%	23%	1%	<1%	(215)
	Women	84%	1%	14%	1%	<1%	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	88%	1%	11%	<1%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	81%	<1%	17%	1%	--	(188)
	Republicans	69%	2%	28%	1%	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	90%	--	10%	--	--	(36)
	30 to 44	77%	1%	22%	--	--	(94)
	45 to 59	76%	1%	21%	1%	1%	(182)
	60 and over	78%	2%	17%	3%	--	(195)
Education	High school graduate or less	79%	1%	17%	3%	--	(183)
	Some college	80%	<1%	19%	--	--	(138)
	College graduate or more	78%	2%	19%	1%	--	(183)
Region	Milwaukee County	78%	1%	21%	--	--	(102)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	75%	2%	21%	2%	--	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	82%	--	18%	--	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	80%	1%	16%	3%	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	86%	1%	12%	--	1%	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	76%	--	24%	--	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

<b>Favor or Oppose Requiring Every Resident to Have Health Insurance</b>							
		Favor	Neither (vol.)	Oppose	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>72%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	67%	1%	41%	1%	--	(215)
	Women	76%	1%	23%	<1%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	82%	--	16%	2%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	65%	1%	34%	<1%	--	(188)
	Republicans	72%	1%	27%	--	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	83%	--	17%	--	--	(36)
	30 to 44	71%	--	29%	--	--	(94)
	45 to 59	66%	3%	30%	1%	--	(182)
	60 and over	70%	1%	28%	1%	--	(195)
Education	High school graduate or less	74%	1%	24%	1%	--	(183)
	Some college	73%	<1%	27%	<1%	--	(138)
	College graduate or more	71%	1%	27%	1%	--	(183)
Region	Milwaukee County	69%	1%	29%	1%	--	(102)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	63%	2%	35%	--	--	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	62%	--	27%	1%	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	72%	3%	25%	--	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	86%	--	14%	--	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	71%	--	29%	--	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

Favor or Oppose Encouraging Health Savings Accounts							
		Favor	Neither (vol.)	Oppose	Don't Know	Refused	(N)
<b>Overall</b>		<b>61%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>(507)</b>
Gender	Men	64%	1%	32%	2%	1%	(215)
	Women	58%	<1%	40%	2%	--	(292)
Party ID	Democrats	48%	1%	50%	1%	--	(184)
	Independents & Others	59%	1%	38%	2%	<1%	(188)
	Republicans	82%	--	15%	3%	--	(114)
Ages	18 to 29*	84%	--	16%	--	--	(36)
	30 to 44	56%	--	41%	3%	--	(94)
	45 to 59	60%	1%	38%	1%	--	(182)
	60 and over	44%	2%	48%	5%	1%	(195)
Education	High school graduate or less	49%	1%	45%	4%	1%	(183)
	Some college	68%	1%	31%	<1%	--	(138)
	College graduate or more	63%	--	34%	3%	--	(183)
Region	Milwaukee County	49%	2%	45%	4%	--	(102)
	SE WI, w/o Mil. Co.	67%	--	32%	--	1%	(86)
	SC WI, Greater Madison	52%	1%	43%	4%	--	(91)
	NE WI, Fox Valley	65%	--	31%	4%	--	(79)
	NC Wisconsin*	72%	--	27%	1%	--	(65)
	Western & NW Wisconsin	56%	--	44%	--	--	(84)

(\*Caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of subgroups with smaller numbers of residents due to the potential for larger variation. Data are not weighted by region. Geographical regional subgroups presented here are subgroups of the larger statewide representative RDD sample.)

## SURVEY QUESTION WORDING

- HCQ01 Overall, are you satisfied, dissatisfied, or do you have mixed feelings about the way the health care system is working in the State of Wisconsin?
- HCQ01B Would you say you are very [satisfied/dissatisfied] or are you only somewhat [satisfied/dissatisfied]? [#NOTE: only asked if satisfied or dissatisfied on 'HCQ01']
- HCQ04 Which of these statements do you think best describes the health care system in Wisconsin today: it is in a state of crisis, it has major problems, it has minor problems, or it does not have any problems.
- HCQ02\_INTRO I am going to read some concerns that people might have about health care. For each, please tell me whether you and your family are not at all concerned, a little concerned, somewhat concerned, quite concerned, or extremely concerned about each?

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

[#NOTE: THE SIX QUESTIONS BELOW ARE RANDOMIZED]

- HCQ02\_A What about **not** having health care coverage or losing health care coverage?
- HCQ02\_B How about **not** being able to pay for all the costs associated with a major illness or injury?
- HCQ02\_C How about **not** having access to quality doctors and health care services?
- HCQ02\_D How concerned are you about **employers** cutting back on the amount they contribute for health care coverage?
- HCQ02\_E What about **not** being able to pay for needed prescriptions?
- HCQ02\_F What about **not** being able to pay for all of the out-of-pocket costs associated with health insurance, such as premiums, deductibles and co-payments?
- HCQ03\_INTRO A number of proposals have been made about ways to change the health care system in the State of Wisconsin. I am going to read some of these proposals and for each please tell me whether you strongly oppose it, somewhat oppose it, somewhat favor it, or strongly favor it.

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

[#NOTE: THE FOUR QUESTIONS BELOW ARE RANDOMIZED]

- HCQ03\_A What about consolidating all the money and resources now being spent by employers, individuals, the state government, and insurance companies to operate the current health insurance system and replace it with a new system, administered entirely by state government and covering all residents of Wisconsin?
- HCQ03\_B How about expanding the eligibility of existing state government health insurance programs for low-income people, such as BadgerCare, Medicaid, and Healthy Families, to provide coverage for more people without health insurance?
- HCQ03\_C What about requiring every resident of Wisconsin to have health insurance, either from their employer or another source, and offer government subsidies to low-income residents to help them pay for it?
- HCQ03\_D How about encouraging individuals to put money into a tax-free health savings account that they would use to pay for their regular health care bills and accompany this with a catastrophic insurance plan they must also purchase to help pay for major medical bills?

## HOW THE POLL WAS DONE

This BADGER POLL™ was conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center as part of its ongoing program of research designed to benefit the research community and the people of Wisconsin. The Director of the poll operations is Chad J. Kniss, UW Survey Center. The Faculty Director of the Poll content is Professor Katherine Cramer Walsh, Department of Political Science, UW-Madison. The BADGER POLL™ is intended to be a "poll of record" for the state, investigating matters of concern to Wisconsinites including politics, culture, and their daily lives, adhering to the highest standards of polling methodology and rigorous independence.

Results shown here are based on 507 persons who were randomly chosen within households with working landline telephone numbers and interviewed between November 27 and December 5, 2007, inclusive. During this time period, the UWSC made over 14,500 phone calls to 2,950 telephone numbers. Calls were made between 9AM and 9PM Monday through Friday and between 10AM and 5PM on Saturday and from 12 noon to 9PM on Sunday. All telephone numbers were randomly generated by computer. The UWSC made up to 10 attempts on each number in order to confirm if it was a residential number, select an eligible respondent and/or to convert first time refusals. Approximately 57% of the 507 interviews were completed in the first four days of calling.

Theoretically, results from this survey have a "margin of error" of a little over +/- 4%. This means that, had we asked every resident in Wisconsin, exactly these questions at the time the survey was conducted, there is only a one in twenty chance that the answers would differ by more than that in either direction from what we report here. There could be differences because of changes in question wording, events occurring in the meantime, or any of the practical difficulties involved in taking a scientific survey. Results based on subgroups are subject to a larger "margin of error". Results reported here are based on weighted data (weighted to reflect statewide gender and age groups).