



Badger Poll™ #26, Release #4
University of Wisconsin Survey Center
University of Wisconsin Madison
FOR RELEASE ON MAY 6, 2008

NOTE: When using material from this release please cite the Badger Poll™ conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center. Poll results compiled by Chad J. Kniss, Project Director, UW Survey Center. ckniss@ssc.wisc.edu (office phone: 608.262.4157)

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WISCONSIN RESIDENTS' OPINIONS ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

The latest Badger Poll asked Wisconsin residents about their opinions on the health care system in Wisconsin. A summary of the overall results is presented here.

- Overall, 48% of Wisconsinites say that they have mixed feelings about the health care system in the state today, with 29% saying they are dissatisfied with the system and 21% saying they are satisfied.
- Approximately 45% of Wisconsin residents feel that the health care system in the state has major problems, 44% say it has minor problems, 7% say it is currently in a state of crisis and just 2% say there are no problems.
- **50%** of state residents said that the costs of health care are extremely problematic for the people of Wisconsin.
- **76%** favored expanding the eligibility of existing government programs such as BadgerCare and Medicaid to provide coverage for more people without health insurance.
- **65%** favored requiring every resident of Wisconsin to attain health insurance, either from their employer or another source, with government subsidies to low-income residents to help them pay for it
- **61%** of residents favored replacing the current health care system with a new system administered entirely by state government that covers all Wisconsinites.
- When it comes to how responsible the State of Wisconsin and the Federal Government should be in making sure that all state residents have access to both high quality and affordable health care 44% said the State of Wisconsin should be extremely or quite responsible and 55% said the Federal Government should be extremely or quite responsible.

The following tables show the results for each of the nine questions about health care that were included on the latest Badger Poll. Results on questions about the health care system in Wisconsin from the previous Badger Poll in December 2007 are included where applicable. See the appendix for exact wording of the questions.

Table 1. Satisfaction with the Health Care System in Wisconsin

	April 2008	December 2007
Very Satisfied	7%	5%
Somewhat Satisfied	14%	10%
Mixed Feelings	48%	56%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	11%	11%
Very Dissatisfied	18%	17%
Don't Know	1%	1%
Refused	<1%	<1%
(N)	(521)	(507)

Table 2. Description of the Health Care System in Wisconsin

	April 2008	December 2007
State of Crisis	7%	12%
Major Problems	45%	50%
Minor Problems	44%	35%
No Problems	2%	2%
Don't Know	2%	2%
Refused	--	<1%
(N)	(521)	(507)

Table 3. How Problematic are the Costs of Health Care for the People of Wisconsin?

Extremely	50%
Quite	25%
Somewhat	13%
Slightly	7%
Not at All	2%
Don't Know	2%
Refused	1%
(N)	(521)

Table 4. Favor or Oppose Expanding Eligibility of Existing Government Programs

	April 2008	December 2007
Strongly Favor	38%	37%
Somewhat Favor	38%	43%
Neither (vol.)	1%	1%
Somewhat Oppose	12%	11%
Strongly Oppose	9%	7%
Don't Know	3%	1%
Refused	<1%	<1%
(N)	(521)	(507)

Table 5. Favor or Oppose Requiring Every Resident to Have Health Insurance

	April 2008	December 2007
Strongly Favor	30%	29%
Somewhat Favor	35%	43%
Neither (vol.)	2%	1%
Somewhat Oppose	17%	13%
Strongly Oppose	14%	14%
Don't Know	2%	1%
Refused	--	<1%
(N)	(521)	(507)

Table 6. Favor or Oppose a New System Administered by State Government

	April 2008	December 2007#
Strongly Favor	25%	23%
Somewhat Favor	36%	28%
Neither (vol.)	2%	1%
Somewhat Oppose	14%	14%
Strongly Oppose	21%	31%
Don't Know	2%	2%
Refused	<1%	--
(N)	(521)	(507)

The December 2007 Badger Poll asked a similar question, with slightly different wording. See the appendix for the exact wording of both questions.

Table 7. How responsible should the state of Wisconsin be in making sure that all state residents have access to both high quality and affordable health care?	
Extremely	18%
Quite	26%
Somewhat	32%
Slightly	17%
Not at All	5%
Don't Know	1%
Refused	--
(N)	(521)

Table 8. How responsible should the federal government be in making sure that all residents of Wisconsin have access to both high quality and affordable health care?	
Extremely	27%
Quite	28%
Somewhat	27%
Slightly	11%
Not at All	7%
Don't Know	<1%
Refused	--
(N)	(521)

Table 9. Who do you think would do a better job reforming the health care system, Wisconsin and the other states, or the federal government?	
Wisconsin & Other States	68%
Federal Government	22%
Both Equally (volunteered)	2%
Neither (volunteered)	3%
Don't Know	4%
Refused	<1%
(N)	(521)

APPENDIX:

SURVEY QUESTION WORDING

- ECON10C How problematic are the costs of health care? (INT: IF NECESSARY “Is this not at all problematic, slightly problematic, somewhat problematic, quite problematic, or extremely problematic?)
- HCQ01 Now, I have a few questions for you about health care. 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 [NOTE: only asked if HCQ01 was satisfied or dissatisfied.] Would you say you are very [satisfied/dissatisfied] or are you only somewhat [satisfied/dissatisfied]?
- 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?
- HCQ03_intro A number of proposals have been made about ways to change the health care system in the State of Wisconsin. For each of the following proposals, please tell me whether you strongly oppose it, somewhat oppose it, somewhat favor it, or strongly favor it (INTERVIEWER: PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE)
- HCQ03_A2 [Note: Question Wording for spring 2008 Badger Poll #26] The state of Wisconsin should combine the resources currently being spent on health care by employers, individuals, state government, and insurance companies to create a new system run by the state government to cover all residents. (INT. IF NECESSARY: “Do you strongly oppose this, somewhat oppose this, somewhat favor this, or strongly favor this?”)
- HCQ03_A [Note: Question Wording for fall 2007 Badger Poll #27] 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 health insurance programs such as BadgerCare, Medicaid, and Healthy Families, to provide coverage for more people without health insurance? (INT. IF NECESSARY: “Do you strongly oppose this, somewhat oppose this, somewhat favor this, or strongly favor this?”)
- HCQ03_C What about requiring every resident of Wisconsin to attain health insurance, either from their employer or another source, and offer government subsidies to low-income residents to help them pay for it? (INT. IF NECESSARY: “Do you oppose this strongly, oppose this somewhat, favor this somewhat or favor this strongly?”)
- HCQ07_A How responsible should the state of Wisconsin be in making sure that all state residents have access to **both** high quality and affordable health care? Would you say not at all responsible, slightly responsible, somewhat responsible, quite responsible, or extremely responsible?
- HCQ07_B How responsible should the federal government be in making sure that all residents of Wisconsin have access to **both** high quality and affordable health care? Would you say not at all responsible, slightly responsible, somewhat responsible, quite responsible, or extremely responsible?

HCQ06

Who do you think would do a better job reforming the health care system, Wisconsin and the other states, or the federal government?

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 521 persons who were randomly chosen within households with working landline telephone numbers and interviewed between April 15 and April 24, 2008, inclusive. During this time period, the UWSC made just under 12,900 phone calls to 2,860 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 66% of the 521 interviews were completed in the first five 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).