

# AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

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**FEDERATION OF AMERICAN HOSPITALS  
HCP Survey  
February 17-21, 2008  
N=1200 Registered Voters  
Draft 5**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm calling on behalf of AMERICAN VIEWPOINT, an independent market research firm located in Alexandria, Virginia. This is not a sales call. We are doing a survey on issues facing the Nation today, and we would like to have your opinions.

- A. Are you or is anyone in your household a reporter or active in any political campaigns this year?
1. Yes **[terminate]**
  2. No
- B. Are you registered to vote at this address?
1. Yes **[go to Q1]**
  2. No **[go to QC]**
- C. Is there anyone in your household who is registered to vote at this address? **[IF YES ASK: May I please speak to that person?]**
1. Yes **[repeat introduction]**
  2. No **[terminate]**
1. Thinking back on the different state and federal elections in which you have been eligible to vote in the past few years, would you say that you have **[READ RESPONSES 1 THROUGH 5]**
1. Voted in all of these elections **[continue]**
  2. Voted in almost all elections **[continue]**
  3. Voted in most of them **[continue]**
  4. Voted in about half of them **[continue]**
  5. Voted in less than half **[continue]**
  9. Don't Know **[terminate]**
  0. Refused **[terminate]**

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2. If the November election for U.S. Congress were being held today, would you be voting for the **[ROTATE]** Republican candidate or Democratic candidate? **[PROBE: Definitely/Probably] [If undecided ASK: Which way do you lean?]**

1. Definitely Republican
2. Probably Republican
3. Lean Republican
4. Lean Democrat
5. Probably Democrat
6. Definitely Democrat
9. Don't know
0. Refused

3. Do you feel that things in this country are generally going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track? **[PROBE: STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT]**

1. Strongly Right Direction
2. Somewhat Right Direction
3. Somewhat Wrong Track
4. Strongly Wrong Track
9. Don't Know
0. Refused

**[ROTATE Q4 & Q5]**

4. If the November election for President were being held today and the candidates were **[ROTATE]** John McCain, Republican and Barack Obama **[bah-rock oh-bah-ma]**, Democrat, for whom would you be voting? **[PROBE: Definitely/Probably] [If undecided ASK: Which way do you lean?]**

1. Definitely McCain
2. Probably McCain
3. Lean McCain
4. Lean Obama
5. Probably Obama
6. Definitely Obama
9. Don't know
0. Refused

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5. If the November election for President were being held today and the candidates were **[ROTATE]** John McCain, Republican and Hillary Clinton, Democrat, for whom would you be voting? **[PROBE: Definitely/Probably]** **[If undecided ASK: Which way do you lean?]**
1. Definitely McCain
  2. Probably McCain
  3. Lean McCain
  4. Lean Clinton
  5. Probably Clinton
  6. Definitely Clinton
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused
6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job? **[PROBE STRONGLY / SOMEWHAT]**
1. Strongly Approve
  2. Somewhat Approve
  3. Somewhat Disapprove
  4. Strongly Disapprove
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused
7. Do you think your Member of Congress has performed their job well enough to deserve re-election or do you think it's time to give a new person a chance? **[IF RE-ELECT or NEW PERSON, ASK: "Would that be Definitely RE-ELECT / A NEW PERSON or Probably RE-ELECT / A NEW PERSON?"]**
1. Definitely Re-Elect
  2. Probably Re-Elect
  3. Probably New Person
  4. Definitely New Person
  9. Don't Know
  0. Refused
8. Generally speaking, do you feel **[ROTATE]** that government should do more to solve the problems facing the country today, OR that government is already doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals? **[PROBE STRONGLY / NOT STRONGLY]**
1. Strongly should do more
  2. Not strongly should do more
  3. Not strongly doing too much
  4. Strongly doing too much
  5. Neither / Both / Depends
  9. Don't Know
  0. Refused

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9. Now I would like to read you a list of financial concerns that some people have said worry or concern them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me which one of these worries or concerns you the most. **[READ AND ROTATE 1 THROUGH 8]**

1. Losing your job or having your hours or pay reduced
2. The amount of taxes you and your family pay
3. Being able to pay for your family's health care benefits
4. Losing your health care benefits
6. Being able to pay for college for your children
6. Being able to afford to buy, or pay the mortgage for a home
7. Having enough money to retire
8. The price of gasoline
9. Combination/More than one equally **[volunteered]**
0. Other **[specify]**
1. None
9. Don't know
0. Refused

Now I'd like to try something a little different. I'd like you to rate your feelings toward some people, programs and organizations using a zero to one hundred scale – with 100 meaning you have a very warm, favorable feeling, zero meaning a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and 50 meaning not particularly warm or cold. If you don't know enough to rate it, just say so.

**[RANDOMIZE SERIES]**

SCALE	Don't Know	Refused
<u>0-100</u>	9	0

10. Hospitals
11. The Medicare Program, the federal health care program for seniors
12. The Social Security System
13. Pharmaceutical companies
14. **[HALF SAMPLE]** Health Insurance Companies
- 14A. **[HALF SAMPLE]** HMOs or Health Maintenance Organizations
15. **[HALF SAMPLE]** Republicans in Congress
- 15A. **[HALF SAMPLE]** Democrats in Congress
16. George W. Bush
17. Our current health care system
18. Your health care coverage
19. **[HALF SAMPLE]** Poor people who do not have health care insurance
- 19A. **[HALF SAMPLE]** Working people who do not have health care insurance
20. John McCain
21. Hillary Clinton
22. Medicaid, the state program for the poor and disabled
23. Mike Huckabee
24. Nancy Pelosi **[pell-oe-see]**
25. Barack Obama **[baa-rock oe-baa-maa]**
26. Universal health care coverage
27. Bill Clinton

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28. Which of the following domestic issues do you think is most important for the next President and Congress to address? **[READ AND ROTATE 1-6]**

1. Health care
2. Education
3. Taxes
4. Government spending
5. Immigration reform
6. The economy and jobs
6. Other **[specify]**
9. Don't know
0. Refused

29. I would now like to read to you several issues related to health care and have you tell me which one you think is most important for the next President and Congress to address. **[READ AND ROTATE 1-5]**

1. Provide health care coverage for the 47 million uninsured Americans
2. Address medical malpractice reform
3. Entitlement reform of Medicare
4. Allow Americans to buy prescription drugs from Canada
5. Require that Medicare negotiates prescription drug prices
6. More than one equally **[VOLUNTEERED]**
7. None **[VOLUNTEERED]**
8. Other **[SPECIFY] [VOLUNTEERED]**
9. Don't know
0. Refused

30. Which of the following three statements comes closest to expressing your view of the health care system in the United States? **[READ AND ROTATE 1 THROUGH 3 TOP/BOTTOM BOTTOM/TOP]**

1. On the whole, the state of the health care system works pretty well and only minor changes are necessary to make it work better
2. There are some good things in our health care system, but major changes are needed
3. Our health care system has so much wrong with it that we need to completely rebuild it
9. Don't know
0. Refused

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31. What aspect of the health care system needs the MOST change? **[READ AND ROTATE 1 THROUGH 4]**
1. Health care costs
  2. Access to and availability of care
  3. Quality of care
  4. Coverage for the uninsured
  5. Other **[specify]**
  6. More than one equally **[volunteered]**
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused
32. Do you think that health care coverage for the uninsured needs major changes, minor changes, or are no changes needed?
1. Major changes
  2. Minor changes
  3. No changes needed
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused
33. Do you think it is the responsibility of the Federal government to: **[READ AND ROTATE 1 AND 2 AND THEN READ 3]**
1. Provide universal government-run health care coverage to all Americans
  2. Assist those Americans who can least afford health care coverage to purchase it
  3. OR is it not the Federal government's responsibility?
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused
34. Shortly after taking office, how important is it that the next President and Congress handle the issue of health care coverage for the 47 million uninsured? **[READ 1 THROUGH 4]**
1. Very important
  2. Somewhat important
  3. Not too important
  4. Not at all important
  5. Depends **[volunteered]**
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused

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35. How important is it that any reforms to health care allow people to keep their current employer-based coverage? **[READ 1 THROUGH 4]**

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not too important
4. Not at all important
5. Depends **[volunteered]**
9. Don't know
0. Refused

36. Which of the following statements BEST describes your feelings about a political candidate's position on health care? **[ROTATE 1 THRU 3 / TOP TO BOTTOM / BOTTOM TO TOP]**

1. I won't vote for a candidate who disagrees with my view on health care even if we agree on other issues
2. Health care is an important issue, but I won't vote against a candidate just because we disagree on it
3. A candidate's position on health care is not very important to me in deciding how to vote
4. Depends **[VOLUNTEERED]**
9. Don't Know
0. Refused

I would now like to read to you several elements of different reforms that would lead to all Americans having health care coverage or at least significantly reduce the number of uninsured and have you tell me whether you favor or oppose each. **[RANDOMIZE LIST] [PROBE: Strongly/Somewhat]**

37. Expand Medicaid, the government program providing health care coverage for poor Americans to cover more of those with lower incomes.

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Neither favor nor oppose **[volunteered]**
9. Don't know
0. Refused

38. Require all large employers to purchase coverage for their employees or to pay into a government fund to subsidize coverage for the uninsured.

39. Require all Americans to have health care coverage and assist those who need help to purchase that coverage.

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40. Expand government to operate a public insurance plan similar to Medicare that could be purchased by anyone instead of a private insurance plan.
41. Require only children to have health care coverage and assist those families who need help to purchase that coverage.
42. Allow small businesses and the self-employed to purchase health insurance through any organization or association to increase their purchasing power.
43. Offer tax benefits for those who purchase their own health insurance equal to the tax benefits offered to those with employer-provided coverage.
44. Now I'd like to introduce to you a new health care proposal called Health Coverage Passport that would provide health care coverage for all Americans. It would work as follows. The poorest Americans would get coverage through government-run programs such as Medicaid. It would offer assistance at different levels based on income for lower and middle income Americans to purchase private health insurance and would allow individuals who purchase their own insurance to deduct the costs from their income taxes. All individuals would be required to have insurance.

Knowing what you do, do you favor or oppose the Health Coverage Passport proposal?

**[PROBE: Strongly/Somewhat]**

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Neither favor nor oppose **[volunteered]**
9. Don't know
0. Refused

**[ROTATE ASKING Q45-53 & Q54-56 FIRST]**

I would now like to read to you several aspects of the Health Coverage Passport proposal and have you tell me whether you favor or oppose each. **[RANDOMIZE LIST] [PROBE: Strongly/Somewhat]**

45. Lower premium costs for those with insurance, in part because some of their premium currently goes to pay health care costs for the uninsured.
  1. Strongly favor
  2. Somewhat favor
  3. Somewhat oppose
  4. Strongly oppose
  5. Neither favor nor oppose **[volunteered]**
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused

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46. Treat all Americans equitably, regardless of income, and ensure they get the health care coverage they need.
47. Provide a way to help all Americans meet their obligation of being responsible for having health coverage for themselves and their families.
48. Provide coverage at a fair price that is as good as Members of Congress and Federal workers receive.
49. Allow Americans to continue to make health care choices that fit their needs.
50. Medicare and Medicaid recipients would continue to keep their existing coverage.
51. Provide assistance on a sliding scale based on income for those who earn too much to qualify for programs such as Medicaid.
52. Provide savings of \$275 in health spending for the average family with insurance.
53. More employers would offer coverage and increase the amount of money they spend annually on employees' health care if this plan is enacted.

I would now like to read to you several arguments OPPONENTS of Health Coverage Passports have made and have you tell me if each makes you more or less likely to support Health Coverage Passports, or if it doesn't make a difference. **[PROBE: Much/A little] [RANDOMIZE SERIES]**

54. This plan is unfair because it mandates everyone to have health insurance.
  1. Much more likely
  2. A little more likely
  3. A little less likely
  4. Much less likely
  5. No difference
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused
55. This plan will cost Federal taxpayers more than \$130 billion a year and could escalate to much more than that over time.
56. This plan doesn't go far enough because it doesn't give people the option to get coverage from a government-run program similar to Medicare, limiting them instead to only private insurance companies.

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57. Now knowing what you do, do you favor or oppose the Health Coverage Passport proposal? **[PROBE: Strongly/Somewhat]**
1. Strongly favor
  2. Somewhat favor
  3. Somewhat oppose
  4. Strongly oppose
  5. Neither favor nor oppose **[volunteered]**
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused
58. Are you currently covered by health insurance? **IF YES ASK:** Do you purchase your own health insurance, do you get it from your employer or your spouse's employer, is it a government program like Medicare, Medicaid, or health benefit programs for the military or is your health insurance paid for in some other manner?
1. No health insurance
  2. Purchase own health insurance
  3. Employer provided **[ASK Q59-60]**
  4. Medicare
  5. Medicaid
  6. Other government program (Champus / Military)
  7. Other non-government program
  8. More than one
  9. Don't know/Refused
59. **[ASK IF PUNCH 3 ON Q58]** How concerned are you that your employer may terminate your insurance benefit completely, leaving you uninsured? Would you say you are...**[READ 1 THROUGH 4]**
1. Very concerned
  2. Somewhat concerned
  3. Not very concerned
  4. Not at all concerned
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused
60. **[ASK IF PUNCH 3 ON Q58]** How concerned are you that your employer may increase your co-payments and the amount of premiums for your health insurance to the point that you may no longer be able to afford it? Would you say you are...**[READ 1 THROUGH 4]**
1. Very concerned
  2. Somewhat concerned
  3. Not very concerned
  4. Not at all concerned
  9. Don't know
  0. Refused

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61. **[DON'T ASK IF PUNCH 1 ON Q58]** Was there a time in the last five years when you found yourself without health insurance?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 9. Don't know
- 0. Refused

**And now I have just a few questions for statistical purposes only...**

62. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

- 1. Republican
- 2. Democrat
- 3. Independent
- 4. Other
- 9. Don't Know
- 0. Refused

63. On political issues, do you consider yourself to be . . . ROTATE Conservative, Moderate, or Liberal?

**IF CONSERVATIVE OR LIBERAL ASK:** And would you say you are very conservative/liberal or just somewhat conservative/liberal?

**IF MODERATE ASK:** Do you think of yourself as more ROTATE conservative or liberal?

- 1. Very Liberal
- 2. Somewhat Liberal
- 3. Lean Liberal
- 4. Moderate
- 5. Lean Conservative
- 6. Somewhat Conservative
- 7. Very Conservative
- 9. Don't Know
- 0. Refused

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64. What is your age?

- 1. 18-24
- 2. 25-29
- 3. 30-34
- 4. 35-39
- 5. 40-44
- 6. 45-49
- 7. 50-54
- 8. 55-59
- 9. 60-64
- 0. 65-69
- 1. 70-74
- 2. 75 And Over
- 0. Refused

65. Is your home in an urban area, suburb, medium sized city, small town or a rural area?

- 1. Urban
- 2. Suburb
- 3. Medium sized
- 4. Small town
- 5. Rural area
- 9. Don't know
- 0. Refused

66. What is your current marital status?

- 1. Married
- 2. Single / Never Married
- 3. Divorced / Separated
- 4. Widowed
- 5. Other
- 0. Refused / No Answer

67. How many children do you have living at home under age 18?

- 1. 1
- 2. 2
- 3. 3
- 4. 4
- 5. 5 or more
- 9. None
- 0. Refused

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68. Which of the following income groups includes your total household income in 2007 before taxes?

1. Under \$10,000
2. \$10,000 \_ \$14,999
3. \$15,000 \_ \$19,999
4. \$20,000 \_ \$24,999
5. \$25,000 \_ \$29,999
6. \$30,000 \_ \$39,999
7. \$40,000 \_ \$49,999
8. \$50,000 \_ \$74,999
9. \$75,000 \_ \$99,999
0. \$100,000 And Over
9. Don't Know
0. Refused

69. What is the last grade of school you completed?

1. Grade school or less
2. Some high school
3. High school graduate
4. Vocational / Technical training
5. Some college (Less than 2 years)
6. Some college (2 years or more)
7. College graduate
8. Post-graduate work
9. Don't know / Refused

70. Would you say you attend religious services...

1. More Than Once A Week
2. Every Week
3. Almost Every Week
4. Once Or Twice A Month
5. A Few Times A Year
6. Never
0. Refused

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71. Do you consider yourself to be White, Black, Hispanic, Asian or something else?

1. White
2. Black
3. Hispanic **[SKIP 71A]**
4. Asian
5. Other
9. Don't Know
0. Refused

71A. Are you yourself of Hispanic or Latino descent – for instance Mexican American, or Cuban or Puerto Rican, or not?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Don't know
0. Refused

72. SEX OF RESPONDENT:

1. Male
2. Female

73. Are you employed outside the home, are you a homemaker, or are you retired?

1. Male, Employed
2. Male, Homemaker
3. Male, Retired
4. Male, Not Employed
5. Female, Employed
6. Female, Homemaker
7. Female, Retired
8. Female, Not Employed
0. Refused

Region

1. New England
2. Mid-Atlantic
3. South Atlantic
4. East South Central
5. West South Central
6. East North Central
7. West North Central
8. Mountain
9. Pacific