

Executive Summary: Patient-Centered Medical Home Election Study

Methodology

Harris Interactive® fielded the study on behalf of the Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative September 10-12, 2008 via its QuickQuerySM online omnibus service, interviewing a nationwide sample of 2,022 U.S. adults aged 18 and older. Data were weighted using propensity score weighting to be representative of the total U.S. adult population on the basis of region, age within gender, education, household income, race/ethnicity, and propensity to be online. No estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated; a full methodology is available.

Main Findings

- A strong majority of self-identified registered voters want the next president to make health care reform a top priority and start working on it immediately after taking office. Women and older adults are more likely to feel this is extremely or very important.
- Overall support for each of the presidential health care reform plan proposals is strong, with about three-fourths of U.S. adults favoring adoption of either proposal.
- Adding the patient-centered medical home model to either presidential candidate's health care plan had a positive effect on the respondents' support, with about half of U.S. adults indicating they would be more likely to support either plan if the PCMH model were included. Moreover, the survey found that for those respondents who expressed an opinion of support for the patient-centered medical home model, more than 75 percent would increase their support for the next U.S. president's health care reform plan if it includes a patient-centered medical home.

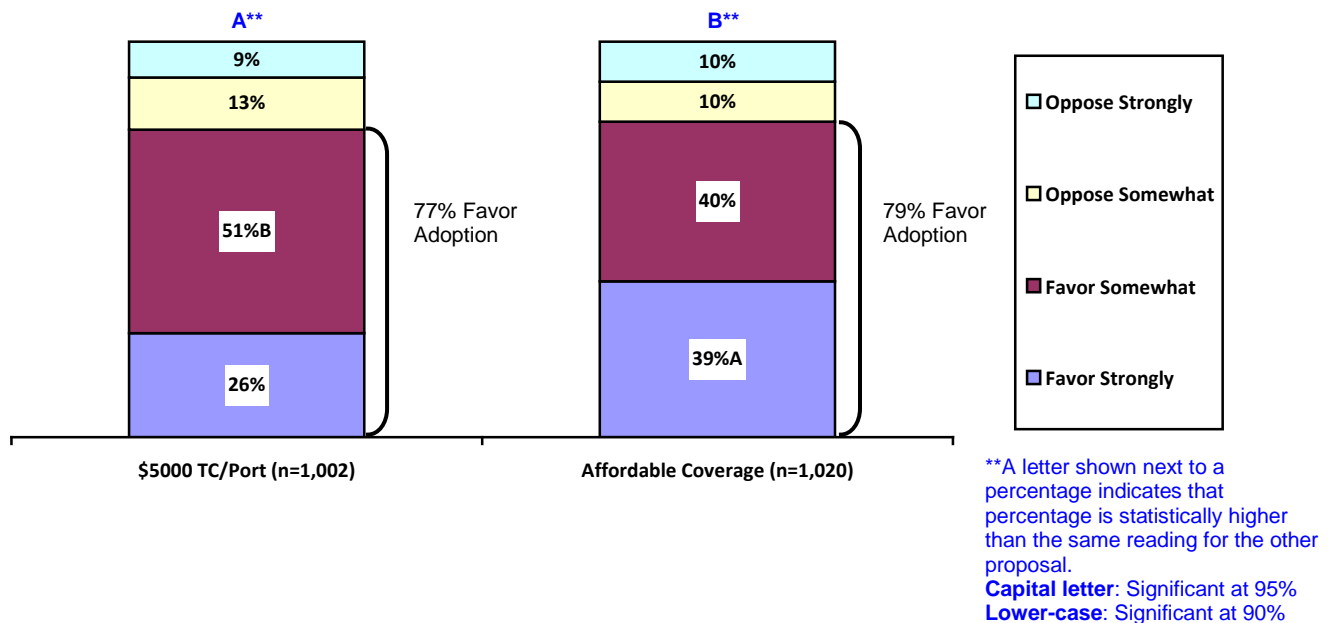
Key Findings – Importance of Making Health Care Reform A Top Priority For The Next U.S. President

96% of U.S. adults indicated that, among all the issues facing the next president, it was important that health care reform be made a top priority and that he should start work on it immediately after taking the oath of office. More than half (60%) indicated they felt this was extremely or very important.

Key Findings – Support of Health Care Reform Plan Proposals

Overall, support for either plan was fairly strong, with about three-fourths of all U.S. adults indicating they favor the adoption of each plan (77% for “\$5,000 TC/Portability” vs. 79% for “Affordable Coverage For All”).

Support of Health Care Plan Proposals, Among U.S. Adults



Question: How strongly do you favor or oppose adoption of this health care reform plan in the United States? (Favor strongly, favor somewhat, oppose somewhat, oppose strongly)

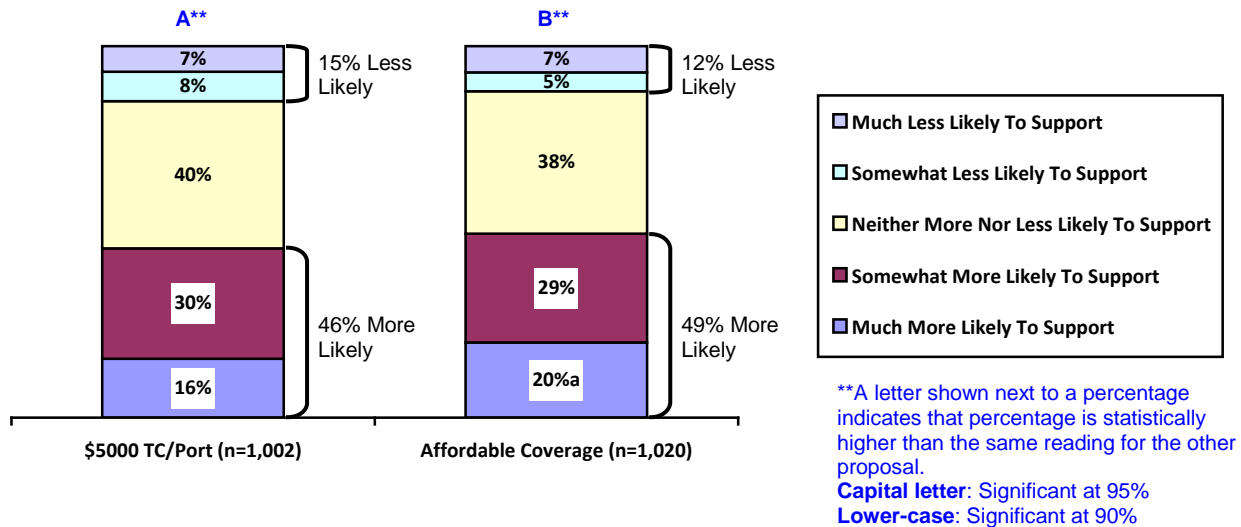
Support for the “Affordable Coverage For All” plan was more vigorous, with 39% indicating they favor adoption of this plan strongly, compared to 26% for the “\$5,000 TC/Portability” plan.

Support for adoption of the “\$5,000 TC/Portability” plan was roughly equal among Democrats, Republicans and Independents/Others (78% vs. 74% vs. 76%, respectively).

Key Findings – Effect of Including PCMH on Support of Health Care Reform Plan Proposals

Including the patient-centered medical home concept with each plan description tended to have a net positive effect on acceptance of the plans, with about half of those who saw either health care reform plan proposal including the PCMH indicating they would be more likely to support that proposal. Those who saw the “Affordable Coverage For All” proposal along with the PCMH concept were more vigorous in their increased support (20% indicated they were much more likely to support that proposal if PCMH were included, compared to 16% for “\$5,000 TC/Portability”).

Effect of Including PCMH on Support of Health Care Reform Plan Proposals, Among U.S. Adults



Question: If this health care reform plan included support for the Patient-Centered Medical Home, how would that affect your support of this plan? (Much more likely to support, somewhat more likely to support, neither more nor less likely to support, somewhat less likely to support, much less likely to support)

Increased support for the “\$5,000 TC/Portability” proposal with the inclusion of PCMH was roughly equal for the various political affiliations (50% for Democrats, 43% for Republicans, and 46% for Independents/Others). **76% of those who indicated including the PCMH would affect their support of the proposal said that they would be more likely to support this plan with the PCMH.**

Compared to “\$5,000 TC/Portability,” increased support for the “Affordable Coverage For All” proposal with the inclusion of PCMH was stronger for Democrats (59%, including 28% for much more likely) and weaker for Republicans (38%, including 16% for much more likely). Independents/Others tended to increase support equally for each plan when PCMH was included (48% indicated they were much/somewhat more likely to support “Affordable Coverage For All” with PCMH, including 15% indicating much more likely). 80% of those who indicated including it would affect their support of the proposal said that they would be more likely to support this plan if it included the PCMH.

Those who live in the West showed the strongest likelihood to increase support for either plan if PCMH is included. Those in the Northeast indicated greater increased likelihood to support “Affordable Coverage For All” if it included PCMH, but their increase in support for “\$5,000 TC/Portability” was in line with the Midwest and South (low 40s).

Women were more likely than men to increase support for either plan if PCMH is included (55% indicated they were much or somewhat more likely to support “Affordable Coverage For All” if PCMH were included vs. 43% of men, 49% were much or somewhat more likely to support “\$5,000 TC/Portability” if PCMH was included vs. 42% of men).

Other Key Findings

More than half (56%) of U.S. adults claimed difficulty navigating the healthcare system for themselves and/or their family members.

- Those in the Northeast were much less likely to indicate navigating the health care system was at least somewhat difficult (48%, compared to an average of 58% for the remainder of the U.S.).
- Difficulty navigating the system seems to decrease by age (69% of those aged 18-34 indicated it was at least somewhat difficult, compared to 60% of those aged 35-44, 54% of those aged 45-54 and 43% of those aged 55 and older).
- Interestingly, those with the highest levels of education (at least a 4-year college degree) were more likely than those without any college experience (high school or less) to indicate navigating the system was at least somewhat difficult (60% vs. 53%, respectively).
- Those with children aged under 18 living in their household were more likely to indicate navigating the health care system is at least somewhat difficult (63%, vs. 53% of those without).

When asked which specific aspects of receiving health care were the most challenging, U.S. adults answered:

Challenging Aspects of Receiving Health Care, By Political Affiliation

	Total	A** Democrat	B** Republican	C** Indep./ Other
Face Specific Challenges Receiving Health Care (Net)	59%	60%	58%	56%
Financial reasons (no health insurance, copayments too high, etc.)	29%	32% B	25%	29%
Amount of time it takes to get an appointment (i.e., number of days)	28%	28%	30%	27%
Time constraints (I/We can't afford to lose time from work/school/other commitments)	20%	23%	19%	17%
Physician's office/Clinic/Hospital hours are not convenient (only daytime appointments, etc.)	16%	21% BC	13%	14%
Hassle of getting to the physician's office/clinic/ hospital (transportation problems, etc.)	12%	14% BC	10%	9%
Distance to the physician's office/ clinic/hospital, etc. (i.e., far away)	11%	12%	11%	9%
Difficulty finding a doctor in the area	9%	10%	10%	7%
Other	4%	3%	3%	5%
None – I don't face any challenges receiving health care for myself and/or other family members	41%	40%	42%	44%

**A letter shown next to a percentage indicates that percentage is statistically higher than the same reading for the other group.
Capital letter: Significant at 95%; **Lower-case:** Significant at 90%

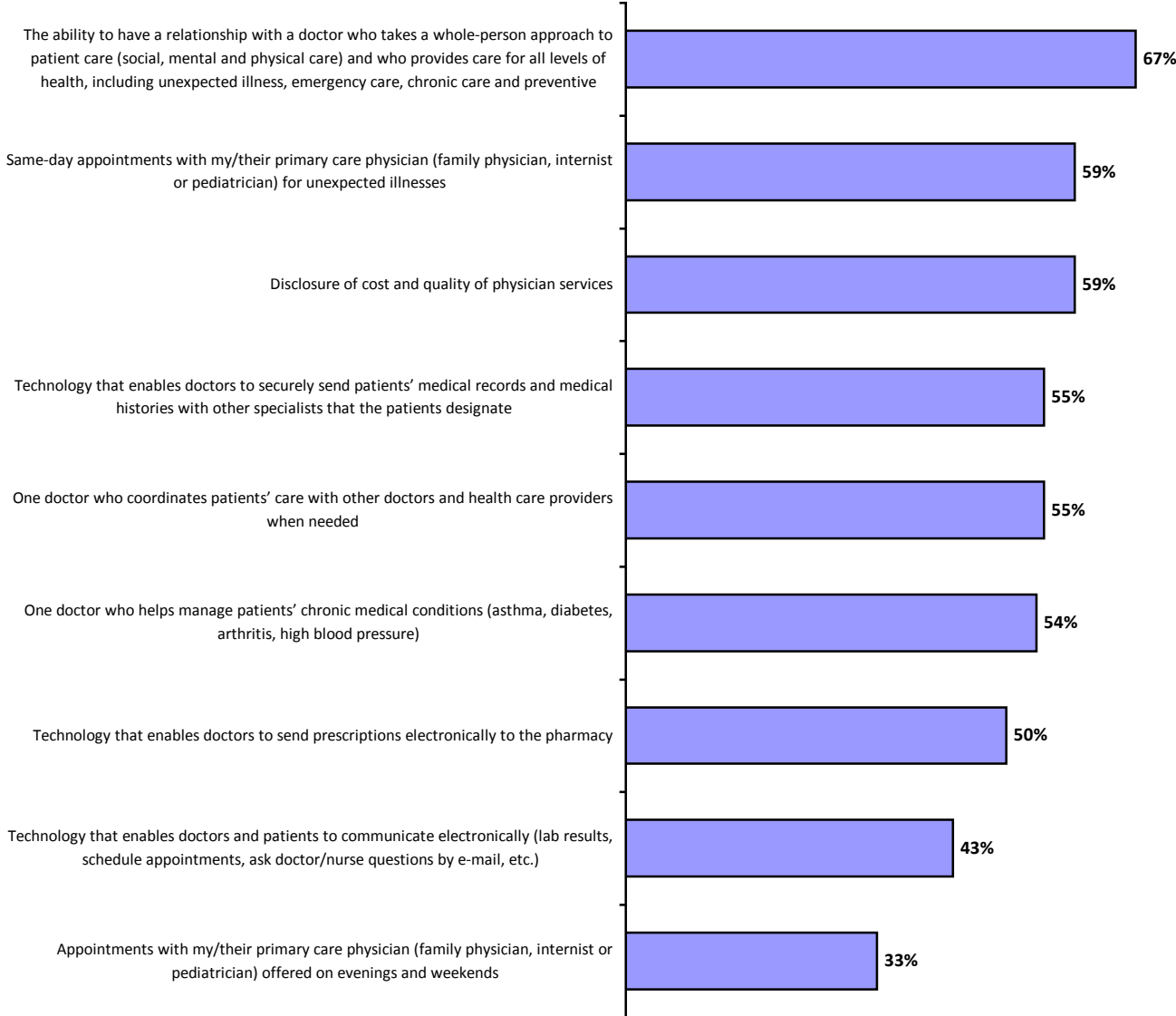
Question: Which of the following, if any, are the most challenging aspects of receiving health care for you and/or your family? When answering, please consider "family" to include a spouse/significant other, child/children and/or adult relative(s) (parent, grandparent) you are responsible for making health care decisions for, even if they do not physically live with you. Please select **all** that apply.

More than half (59%) of U.S. adults indicated they faced specific challenges receiving health care. Financial reasons (29%) and the amount of time to get an appointment (28%) were cited most often.

- Women were more likely than men to indicate they faced such challenges (63% vs. 54%).
- Adults aged 55 years and older were less likely than their younger counterparts to indicate facing challenges (45% overall, compared to 65% of those aged 18-54 years).
- Those with higher levels of educational achievement were more likely to indicate they faced challenges (63% of those with at least some college experience, compared to 53% of those without).
- Those with lower incomes were more likely to indicate they faced challenges (66% of those with annual household incomes of less than \$35,000, vs. 57% of those with annual household incomes of \$50,000 and above).
 - This was driven by financial reasons and, to a lesser extent, the hassle of getting to the provider's place of business, including the distance they need to travel.
- Those with children under the age of 18 living in their households were also more likely to indicate facing challenges (69%, vs. 55% of those without children under 18 living in their household), for several reasons.

When asked the importance of aspects of receiving health care for themselves/their families, U.S. adults indicated:

Importance of Various Aspects of Receiving Health Care (Extremely/Very Important)



Question: When it comes to health care, how important are each of the following for you and/or your family members? When answering, please consider "family" to include a spouse/significant other, child/children and/or adult relative(s) (parent, grandparent) you are responsible for making health care decisions for, even if they do not physically live with you. (Extremely important, very important, important, somewhat important, not at all important) (n=2,022)



For all but two of these aspects of receiving health care, at least half of U.S. adults indicated that they were extremely or very important. Importantly, two-thirds (67%) indicated that the ability to have a relationship with a doctor who takes a whole-person approach to patient care (social, mental and physical care) and who provides care for all levels of health, including unexpected illness, emergency care, chronic care and preventive services was extremely or very important. More than half also indicated this was true for having one doctor who coordinates patients' care with other doctors and health care providers when needed (55%), and a similar percentage (54%) indicated this was true for having one doctor who helps manage patients' chronic medical conditions (asthma, diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, etc.). The strength of these percentages was fairly consistent across political parties as well as across virtually all demographic groups measured in the study.