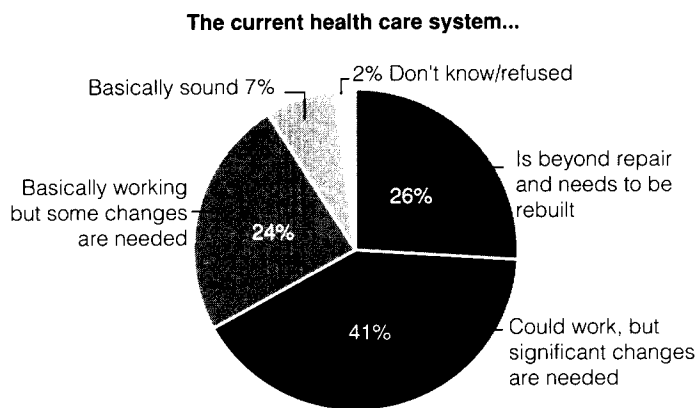


HEALTH CARES

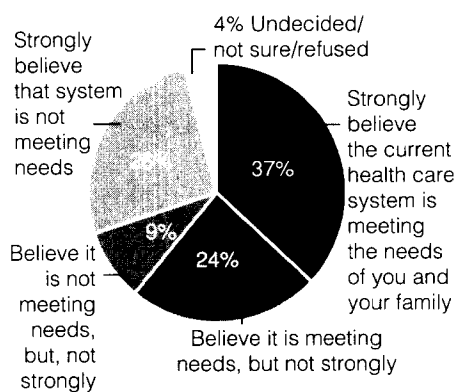
In most polls, at least 60% of Americans say they are satisfied with the health care they and their families receive. Still, by substantial margins they say the system at large is in crisis or in need of major repairs.

Question: I am going to read you the beginning of a sentence and I would like you to complete this sentence using one of the following four phrases which best describes how you feel. The sentence begins ... The current health care system ... is beyond repair and needs to be rebuilt ... could work, but significant changes are needed ... is basically working now, but some changes are needed ... is basically sound as it is, and only minor changes are needed.

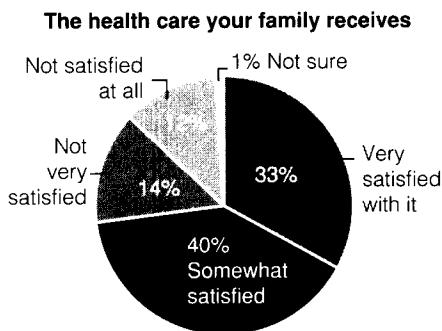


Source: Survey by Mellman and Lazarus and Public Opinion Strategies, for the Health Insurance Association of America, January 4-5, 1992.

Question: **Just generally speaking, is the current health care system meeting the needs of you and your family?**

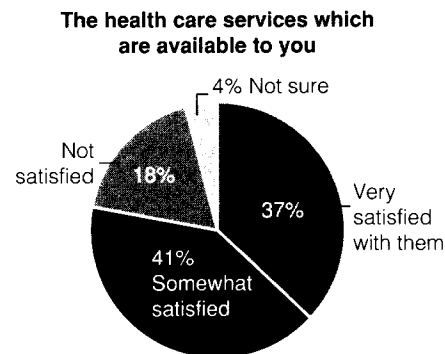


Question: **In general, how satisfied are you with the health care your family receives ...?**



Source: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, December 6-9, 1991.

Question: **How satisfied are you with the health care services which are available to you now ...**



Source: Survey by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman for Time and CNN, August 27-28, 1991.

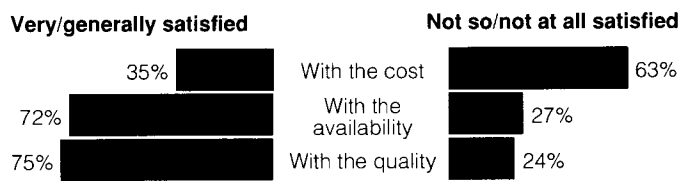
Source: Survey by Mellman and Lazarus and Public Opinion Strategies for the Health Insurance Association of America, January 4-5, 1992.

Where Does It Hurt? In Our Wallets ...

Costs are the root of much dissatisfaction with and anxiety about health care. Only a third of respondents say they are satisfied with the cost of health care they receive, compared to three-fourths who say they are satisfied with the quality.

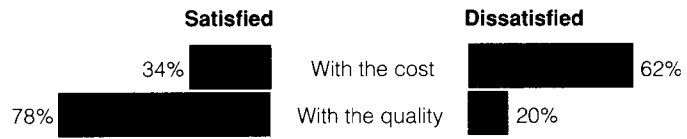
Question: **How satisfied are you with ...?**

The health care you receive



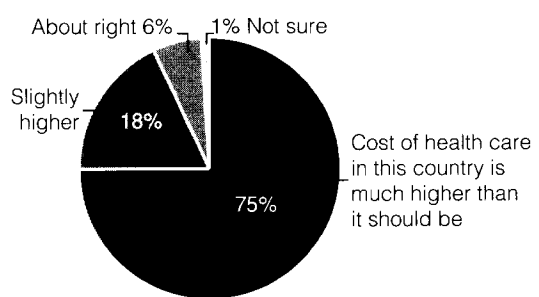
Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, December 11-15, 1991.

Question: **On the whole, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the (quality/cost) of health care available to you and your family?**



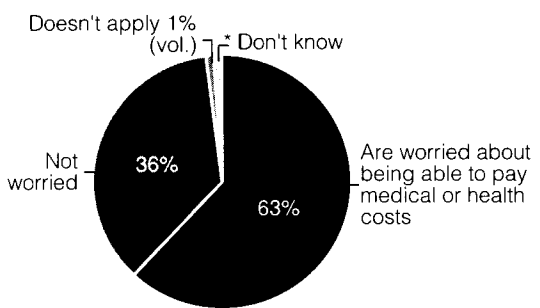
Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, August 18-22, 1991.

Question: **Do you think the cost of health care in this country is about right, slightly higher than it should be, or much higher than it should be?**



Source: Survey by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman for Time and CNN, August 27-28, 1991.

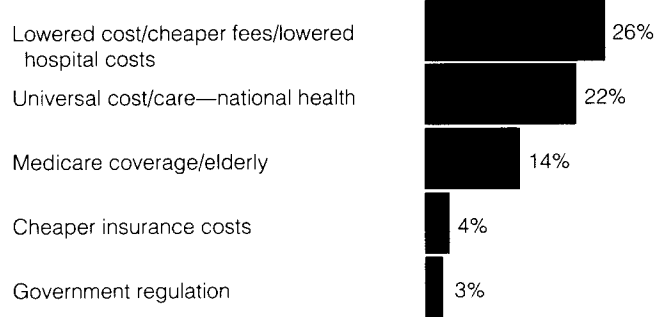
Question: **As a result of what is happening in the economy, please tell me whether or not you are worried about each of the following. Are you worried about ... being able to pay medical or health costs?**



Note: * = less than 5%. Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, Oct. 24-25, 1991.

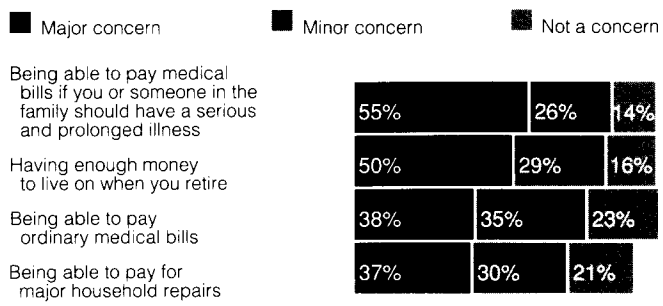
Question: **What is the single most important change you'd like to see in the U.S. health care system?**

Most important change would like to see in the U.S. health care system



Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, August 18-22, 1991.

Question: **Different people worry about different things when it comes to having enough money to pay for things. Here is a list of some of them. Would you read down that list, and tell me for each one whether it is at the present time a major concern of yours ...?**



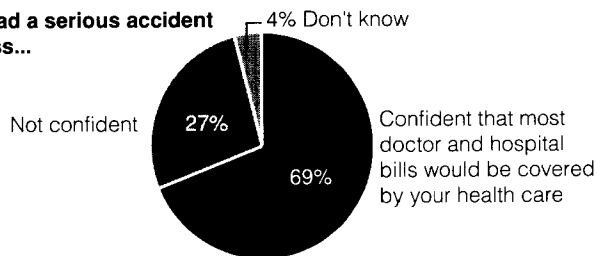
Note: Top five responses shown. "Doesn't apply to me" and "Don't know" responses not shown. Source: Survey by the Roper Organization (Roper Reports 91-2), January 5-19, 1991.

And In Our Fears About the Future

While seven in ten are confident that they would be covered if they had a serious accident or illness, far fewer believe they would be covered or could pay for catastrophic illness or long-term care. A third of respondents say that in the last two years their employer has cut back on health benefits or required them to pay a greater share.

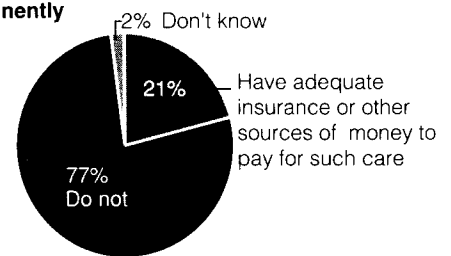
Question: **If you had a serious accident or illness, are you confident or not confident that most doctor or hospital bills you might have would be covered by your health care plan?**

If you had a serious accident or illness...



Question: **What if you became permanently disabled from disease, an accident or old age required care in a nursing home facility for the rest of your life. Do you think you have adequate insurance or other sources of money to pay for such care or not?**

If you became permanently disabled or needed lifetime care

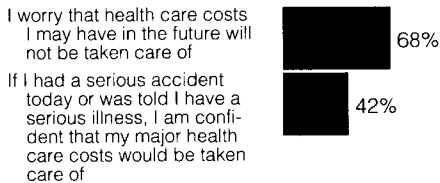


Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, August 18-22, 1991.

Source: Survey by ABC News/*Washington Post*, December 11-15, 1991.

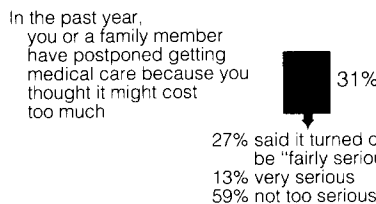
Question: **Do you agree or disagree with the following statement ...?**

Agree



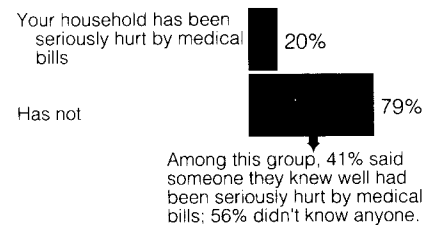
Source: Survey by ABC News/*Washington Post*, December 11-15, 1991.

Question: **In the past year have you or a member of your immediate family postponed getting medical care because you thought that it might cost too much?**



Note: Note an August 1991 CBS News/*New York Times* survey 39% said that they had decided "not to see a doctor for a medical problem" because it would have cost too much.
Source: Survey by ABC News/*Washington Post*, December 11-15, 1991.

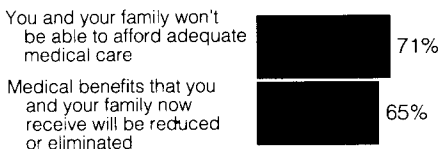
Question: **Has your household ever been seriously hurt financially by medical bills? Is there anyone you know well who has been seriously hurt financially by medical bills?**



Note: In another question in this survey, 51% said that they had had to take money out of savings to pay for doctors bills. In a different question, 17% said they had had to take out a loan or had gone into debt to pay for medical bills.
Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, August 18-22, 1991.

Question: **For each item I name will you tell me if it worries you a great deal, a good amount, just a little, or not at all ...?**

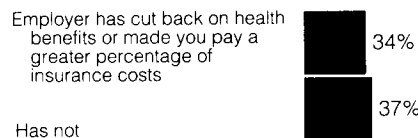
Worries you a great deal/a good amount



Source: Survey by ABC News/*Washington Post*, October 2-6, 1991.

Question: **If you work, in the last two years, has your employer cut back on health benefits or made you pay a greater percentage of health insurance costs?**

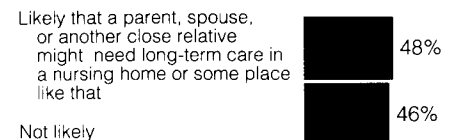
In the last two years ...



Note: Twenty percent of those surveyed said they did not work, 4% said health benefits were not provided by their employers, and 3% said they were self-employed. A CBS/*New York Times* survey in August found that 48% had benefits cut or premiums cut in recent years.
Source: Survey by ABC News/*Washington Post*, December 11-15, 1991.

Question: **Do you think it is likely or not likely that at any time in the next four years a parent, spouse, or another close relative might need long-term care in a nursing home or some place like that?**

In the next four years ...

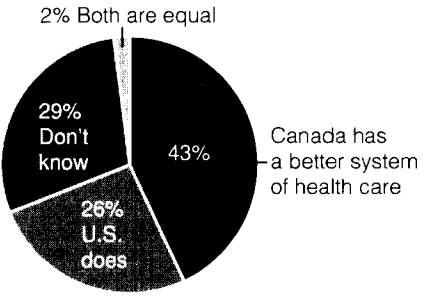


Note: Of those who said "likely", 30% said they were extremely concerned about being able to pay for such an expense, 28% very concerned, 30% somewhat concerned, and 13% not concerned at all.
Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, August 18-22, 1991.

No Consensus About Reform

Polls do not provide clear guidance for policymakers about the direction of reform. Different question wordings pull respondents in one direction or another. In some questions, for example, Americans appear to endorse a Canadian system (about which they in fact know little), and in others, one like our own.

Question: **Is it your impression that Canada or the United States has a better system of health care?**



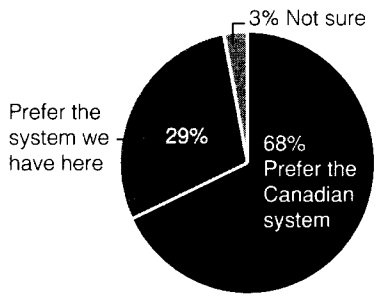
Source: Survey the Gallup Organization, July 11-14, 1991.

Question: **Which of the following do you think is the better way to deal with our nation's health care problems?**



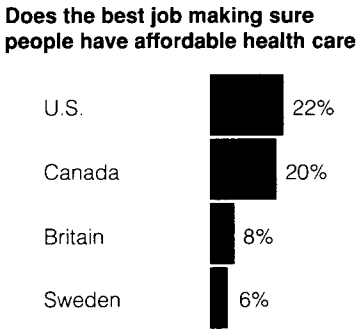
Note: Asked of 462 adults who had viewed the State of the Union address.
Source: Survey the Gallup Organization for CNN and USA Today, January 28, 1992.

Question: **In Canada, they have a system of national health insurance, under which the government pays most of the cost of health care for everyone out of taxes, and the government sets all fees charged by doctors and hospitals. Under the Canadian system, people can choose their own doctors and hospitals. On balance, would you prefer the Canadian system or the system we have here?**



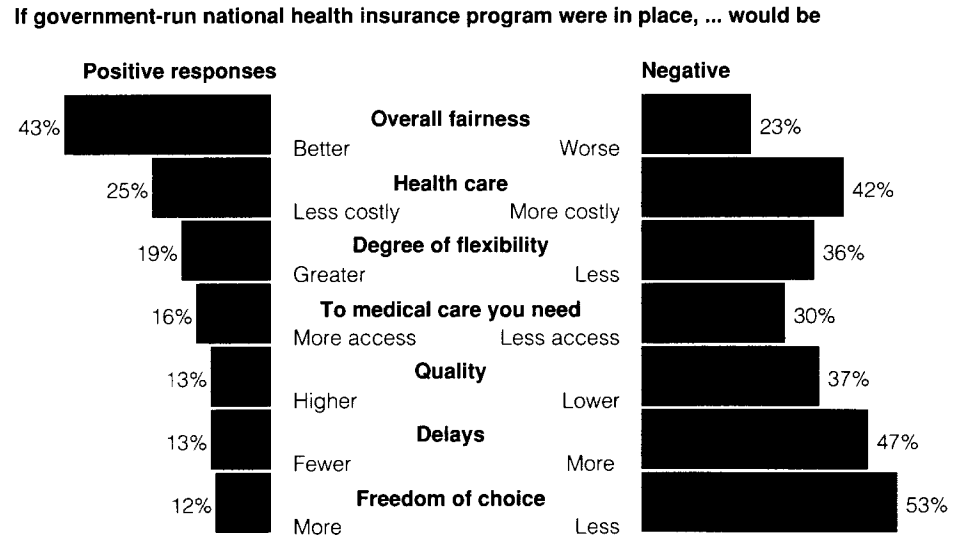
Source: Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, November 13-18, 1991.

Question: **Which country in the world do you think does the best job of making sure people have affordable health care?**



Note: No other country was mentioned by more than 5%.
Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, August 18-22, 1991.

Question: **If a government-run national health insurance program were in place, do you think ... would be ...**



Source: Survey by Mellman and Lazarus and Public Opinion Strategies for the Health Insurance Association of America, January 4-5, 1992.


The Politics of Health Reform


Access to health care, regardless of one's ability to pay, has long been viewed as a right. Yet the additional taxes respondents are willing to bear to ensure that right are modest. The Democrats enjoy a substantial edge as the party Americans prefer on the health care issue.

A mixed message from voters in the Pennsylvania Senate election

No clear direction for reform

Favor ...

A Canadian national health insurance program for the United States  60%

A system with a choice of private health insurance plans along with public plans for the poor and elderly (U.S. system)  60%

Note: Sample = 600 people who voted in Pennsylvania Senate election. Question wordings—"Now, thinking specifically about the health care issue, if there were a government policy to assure everyone is covered for medical expenses, which of the following would you prefer: A system with choice of private health insurance plans along with public plans for the elderly and the poor, or a system in which everyone would be enrolled in a single government-run health care program?" (left-hand chart); Now I am going to read you a short statement about the health insurance system in Canada. In the Canadian system of national health insurance, the government pays most of the cost of health care for everyone out of taxes and the government sets all fees charged by doctors and hospitals. Under the Canadian system people can choose their own doctors and hospitals. Based on what you just heard, would you favor or oppose adopting this type of national health insurance program here in the United States?" (right-hand chart).
Source: Survey by Public Opinion Strategies and Mellman & Lazarus for the Health Insurance Association of America, November 6-7, 1991.

Question: **Do you think the government should be responsible for providing medical care for people who are unable to pay for it?**

Government should be responsible for providing medical care for people who are unable to pay for it



Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of June 27-30, 1991.

Question: **I am going to read some statements that candidates may be making next year in the election campaign. For each statement tell me whether you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it, or completely disagree with it.**

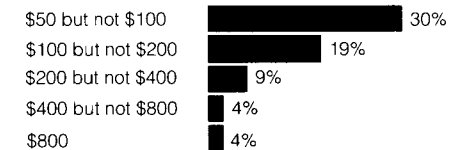
The government should guarantee that everyone is covered by health insurance



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Times Mirror Center for the People and the Press, October 31-November 10, 1991.

Question: **Let's assume for a minute the government did decide to get involved to try to provide health insurance coverage to the 30 or 40 million people who currently are not covered. To assure that all Americans had health insurance coverage, would you be willing to pay as much as ...?**

Willing to pay as much as ... in additional taxes to provide health insurance to uninsured

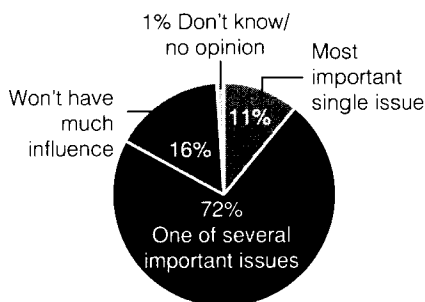


No, not willing to pay \$50 per year  31%

Source: Survey by Mellman and Lazarus and Public Opinion Strategies for the Health Insurance Association of America, January 4-5, 1992.

Question: **In the next presidential election, how important will a candidate's position on health care be in determining your vote: Is it ...?**

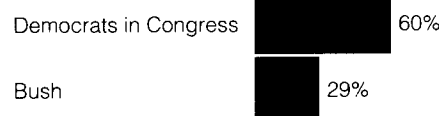
In the next presidential election, health care will be...



Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, December 11-15, 1991.

Question: **Who do you trust to do a better job on improving the health care system in this country—Bush or the Democrats in Congress?**

Trust to do a better job on improving the health care system in this country



Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, January 30-February 2, 1992.

Question: **Which political party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job on providing affordable health care?**

Trust to do a better job on providing affordable health care



Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, January 30-February 2, 1992.