

# THE FIELD POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN SURVEY  
OF PUBLIC OPINION ESTABLISHED IN 1947 AS  
THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

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**LARGE MAJORITIES OF CALIFORNIANS BELIEVE THE NATION'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM NEEDS FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES OR SHOULD BE COMPLETELY REBUILT. SUPPORT FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH HEALTH REFORM NOW.**

by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

A large majority of California voters (71%) believes that the nation's health care system either needs fundamental changes or should be completely rebuilt. Another two in three (67%) feel it is more important than ever to take on health reform now than say we can't afford it.

There is an unusual amount of bipartisan support for a number of health care reform proposals featured in last year's Presidential and Congressional elections and now occupying the attention of Congress and the Democratic administration. Some of the specific proposals endorsed overwhelmingly by California voters:

- Giving people an opportunity to choose between competing public and private health plans when purchasing their insurance coverage, backed by 85%.
- Requiring health insurance companies to offer coverage to anyone without regard to their health condition (81%).
- Offering tax credits to moderate income people who need to buy health insurance in the open market (76%).
- Expanding Medicare to cover uninsured people between ages 55 and 64 (74%).
- Requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund to cover those without insurance (69%).

Yet, not all of the proposals being advanced in Washington are embraced by Californians. For example, 70% oppose the idea of requiring people to maintain a minimum level of health insurance or be subject to a fine or tax penalty. In addition, voters are evenly divided about a proposal to cap the amount employers can deduct from their taxes when providing health coverage for their workers, with 48% in favor and 45% opposed.

These are the topline findings from a new statewide Field Health Policy Survey, funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation, which probed California voter opinions about reforming the nation's health care system. Other findings from the wide-ranging poll include:

- More Californians report being dissatisfied with the current health care system (48%) than are satisfied (45%), a change from two earlier Field Health Policy Surveys which found slightly more voters satisfied than dissatisfied.
- Voters display a high degree of insecurity about maintaining health coverage for themselves and their families. The poll finds a majority of California voters (54%) reporting that they are very concerned that they or someone close to them will be without health insurance in the near future or say they are already uninsured.
- As state government leaders grapple with a record budget deficit more Californians attach higher importance to government assuring basic health services to children than to other health reform goals. When asked about the priorities government should give to addressing various health care issues, 69% of Californians say a top government priority should be to provide basic preventive health care for children. This exceeds the proportions assigning top priority status to controlling health costs (58%), requiring insurance companies to offer health plans to everyone regardless of health status (53%) or reducing the number of people who are uninsured (52%).

The poll was conducted May 5-24, 2009 among a representative sample of 1,207 California registered voters in English and Spanish. The survey posed a number of questions that had also been asked in recent national polls conducted by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Pew Research Center and NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* to enable the poll to compare the opinions of Californians to those of the national public.

### **Californians' views about national health care reform**

The following is a summary of the survey findings reporting Californians' views about reforming the nation's health care system.

- Greater than seven in ten California voters (71%) say the nation's health care system needs either fundamental change or needs to be completely rebuilt. Eighty-two percent of Democrats and 73% of non-partisans believe the health care system needs fundamental changes or should be completely rebuilt. A 55% majority of Republicans concurs.
- Two in three Californians (67%) believe it is more important than ever to make the needed reforms to health care than say we can't afford to take this on now.
- Six in ten Californians (60%) believe that if a health care reform package is approved it would directly impact themselves or their families. This includes 41% who think health reform would make them better off and 19% who think they would be worse off. By comparison, fewer U.S. residents (47%) thought they would directly be affected by the

passage of health reform in a recent nationwide survey, 36% of whom say it would have a positive impact and 11% a negative effect.

- Similar majorities in both California (57%) and the U.S. overall (59%) believe the country as a whole would be better off if health care reform were to be enacted.
- There is strong bipartisan support among California voters for a number of health reform proposals being discussed in Congress. Greater than eight in ten favor offering tax breaks or other incentives to businesses that provide health insurance for their employees (89%), offering people a choice between competing public and private health plans (85%), linking actions that individuals can take like exercising, eating the right foods or controlling a pre-existing condition to cost savings in their health insurance (83%), and requiring health insurance companies to offer coverage to anyone without regard to their health condition (81%).
- Greater than two in three Californians also favor offering tax credits to moderate income people who need to buy health insurance in the open market (76%), expanding Medicare to cover uninsured Americans age 55-64 (74%), expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medi-Cal and the State's Children's Health Insurance Program (70%), and requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund that will pay to cover them (69%).
- However, not all of the proposals being advanced in Washington are embraced by California voters. For example, seven in ten Californians (70%) oppose a proposal that would require people to maintain a minimum level of health insurance or be subject to a fine or tax penalty. In addition, voters are evenly divided about a proposal to cap the amount employers can deduct from their taxes when providing health coverage for their workers, with 48% in favor and 45% opposed.
- Californians are no more likely than other Americans to say they would be willing to pay higher taxes so that every American can have health insurance. Statewide, 50% of voters here say they would be willing to increase their taxes for this purpose, similar to 49% of U.S. residents who reported this in a recent nationwide survey.
- Majorities of Californians would support paying for expanded health insurance coverage to the uninsured by either limiting the tax deductions (58%) or repealing Bush administration tax cuts to those earning more than \$250,000 per year (57%). On the other hand, majorities oppose paying for this by increasing the size of the federal budget deficit (70% opposed), requiring workers to pay taxes on a portion of the health care benefits they receive from work (59%) or creating a new value-added tax (55%).

### **Other health policy poll measures**

The survey included a range of other poll measures many of which were covered in previous Field Health Policy Surveys. They reveal the following:

- More Californians are dissatisfied with the current health care system (48%) than are satisfied (45%). This represents a change from two earlier Field Health Policy Surveys that found slightly larger proportions expressing satisfaction than dissatisfaction with the system.
- There is a high degree of insecurity among voters about going without health insurance. A majority (54%) reports being very concerned that they or someone close to them will be without health insurance in the near future or say they are already uninsured.
- Californians' hierarchy of personal health care concerns are similar to those found in previous Field Health Policy Surveys. Very large majorities continue to report being very or somewhat concerned about having to pay more out of pocket for health care or insurance coverage (84%), not being able to pay for all the costs associated with a major illness or injury (78%), having their own or a family member's coverage canceled or severely limited by an insurance provider due to a health condition (78%), having an employer cut back on the amount they contribute to workers' health care coverage (76%), not having or losing their health care coverage (75%), and not having access to quality doctors and health care services (71%).
- More Californians attach higher importance to government assuring basic health services to children than to other health reform goals. When asked about the priorities government should give to addressing various health care issues, 69% of Californians say a top government priority should be to provide basic preventive health care for children. This exceeds the proportions who give top priority status to controlling the costs of health care and health insurance (58%), requiring insurance companies to offer health plans to everyone regardless of health status (53%) or reducing the number of people without health insurance (52%).
- A plurality of California voters thinks they and their families would be better off getting health insurance coverage through an employer (38%) than through the government (28%) or assuming personal responsibility for this (26%). These findings represent a slight decline in the proportion preferring employer-provided coverage and a slight increase in the proportion choosing government-provided coverage.
- More Californians support making changes within the current system by encouraging shared responsibilities among employers, the government and individuals (43%) than favor replacing the current system with a new one run entirely by the government and covering all Americans (34%).
- When asked about the sources of information they would refer to if they wanted to learn more about health reform issues, most Californians say they would go to online websites (57%). This compares to 33% who would look to television or radio reports, 27% to newspapers, 18% to books or magazines, 16% to family, friends or co-workers and 15% to their employers or labor union. Preferences for websites are related to the age of voters, with more young voters than older voters citing this as a potential source of information about health care reform issues.

More results from the survey can be found in the survey's graphics packet and topline findings from questions asked, which accompany this press release.

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#### **Information About the Survey**

The 2009 Field Health Policy Survey is the third in an annual series of health policy surveys conducted among California voters by *The Field Poll*. Each survey was made possible through a grant from The California Wellness Foundation. This year's findings are based on a random sample survey of 1,207 California registered voters. Interviewing was conducted by telephone May 5-24, 2009, in English and Spanish from Field Research Corporation's central location telephone interviewing centers. Up to eight attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period.

The sample was developed from telephone listings of individual voters selected at random from a statewide list of registered voters in California. The statewide sample was stratified by age to ensure that all segments of the state's registered voter population were included in their correct proportions. Once a voter's name and telephone number are selected, interviews are attempted only with the specific voter selected. Interviews are conducted on either a voter's landline phone or cell phone, depending on the preference of the voter. After the completion of interviewing, results were weighted slightly to *Field Poll* estimates of the demographic and regional characteristics of the state's registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to any probability-based survey depend upon its sample size. According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from findings based on the total sample of 1,207 registered voters are subject to a maximum sampling error of 2.9 percentage points. The maximum sampling error is based on percentages in the middle of the sampling distribution (percentages around 50%). Percentages at either end of the distribution (percentages around 10% or around 90%) have a smaller margin of error. While there are other potential sources of error in surveys besides sampling error, the overall design and execution of the survey minimized the potential for these other sources of error. The maximum sampling error will be larger for analyses based on subgroups of the overall sample.

#### **About The California Wellness Foundation**

The California Wellness Foundation is an independent, private foundation created in 1992, with a mission to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. The Foundation prioritizes eight issues for funding: diversity in the health professions, environmental health, healthy aging, mental health, teenage pregnancy prevention, violence prevention, women's health, and work and health. It also responds to timely issues or special projects outside these funding priorities.

For more information, visit the Foundation's website, [www.calwellness.org](http://www.calwellness.org). Contact: Gary L. Yates, president and CEO, or Cecilia Laiché, communications officer at (818) 702-1900.

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## 2009 Field Health Policy Survey:

California Voter Views About  
Reforming the Nation's Health Care System  
and Other Health Policy Issues

Released June 18, 2009

-Graphics Packet-

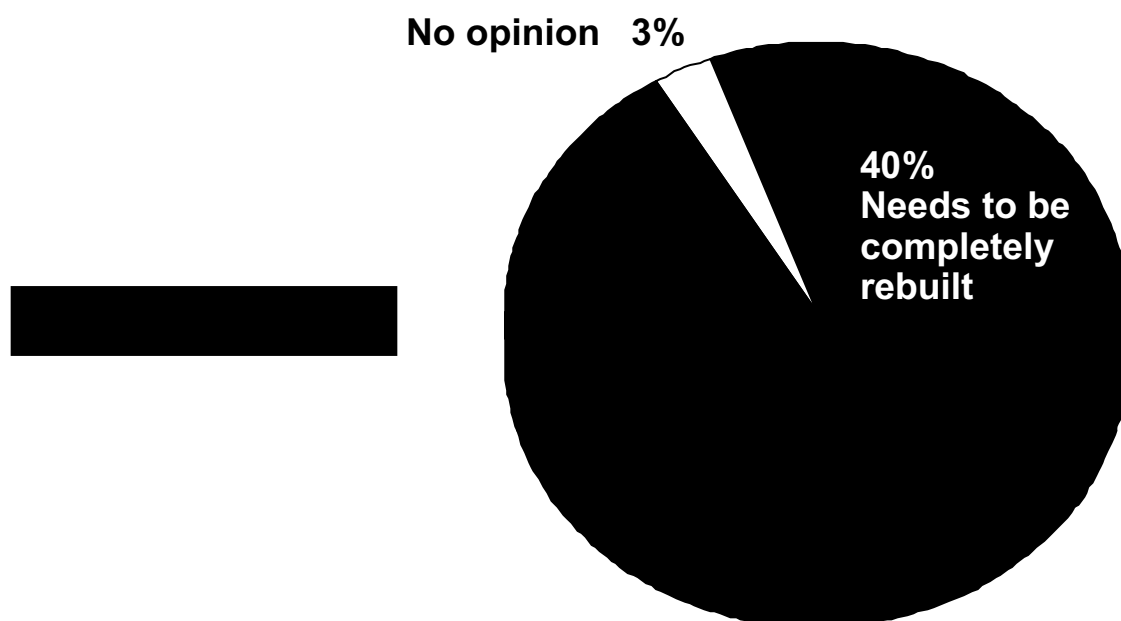
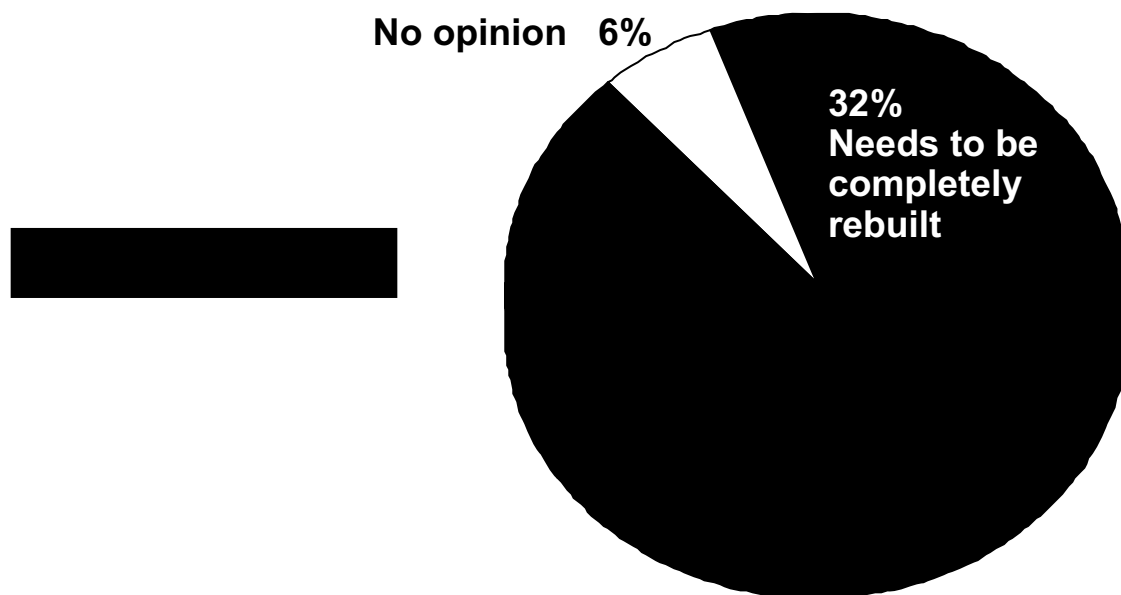
-Funded by a grant from-  
The California Wellness Foundation

**Table 1**

**Seven in ten Californians believe the health care system needs fundamental changes or should be completely rebuilt**

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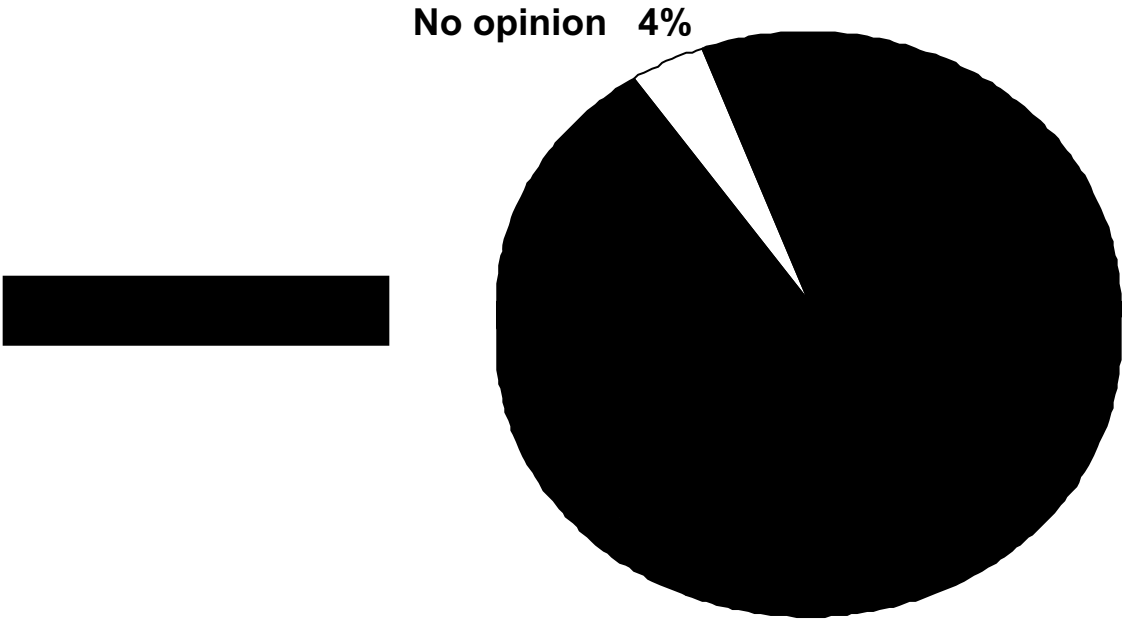
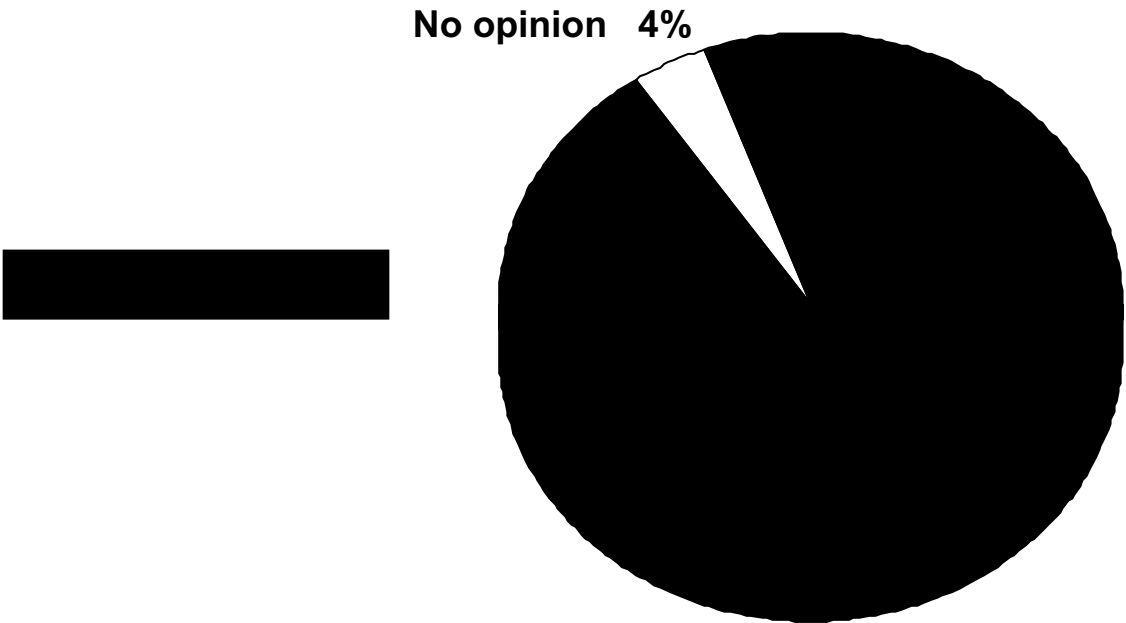
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\* Nationwide survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, March 9-12, 2009, among 1,308 U.S. adults.

Table 2  
**Two in three Californians say it's important to take on  
health care reform now rather than later**

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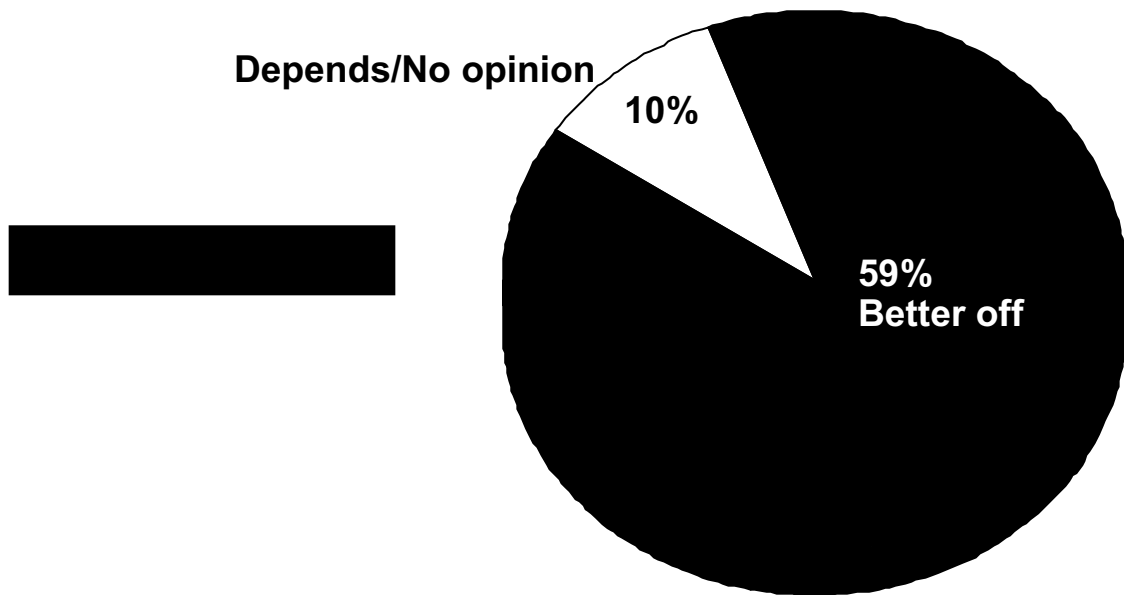
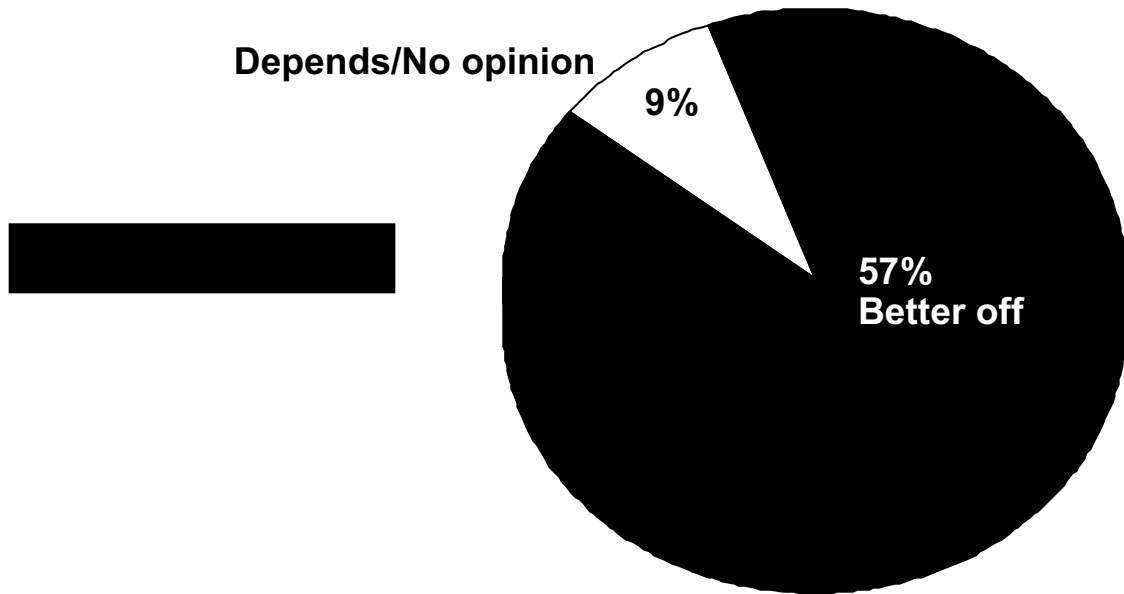
\* Nationwide survey conducted by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, February 3-12, 2009, among 1,204 U.S. adults.



**Table 3**

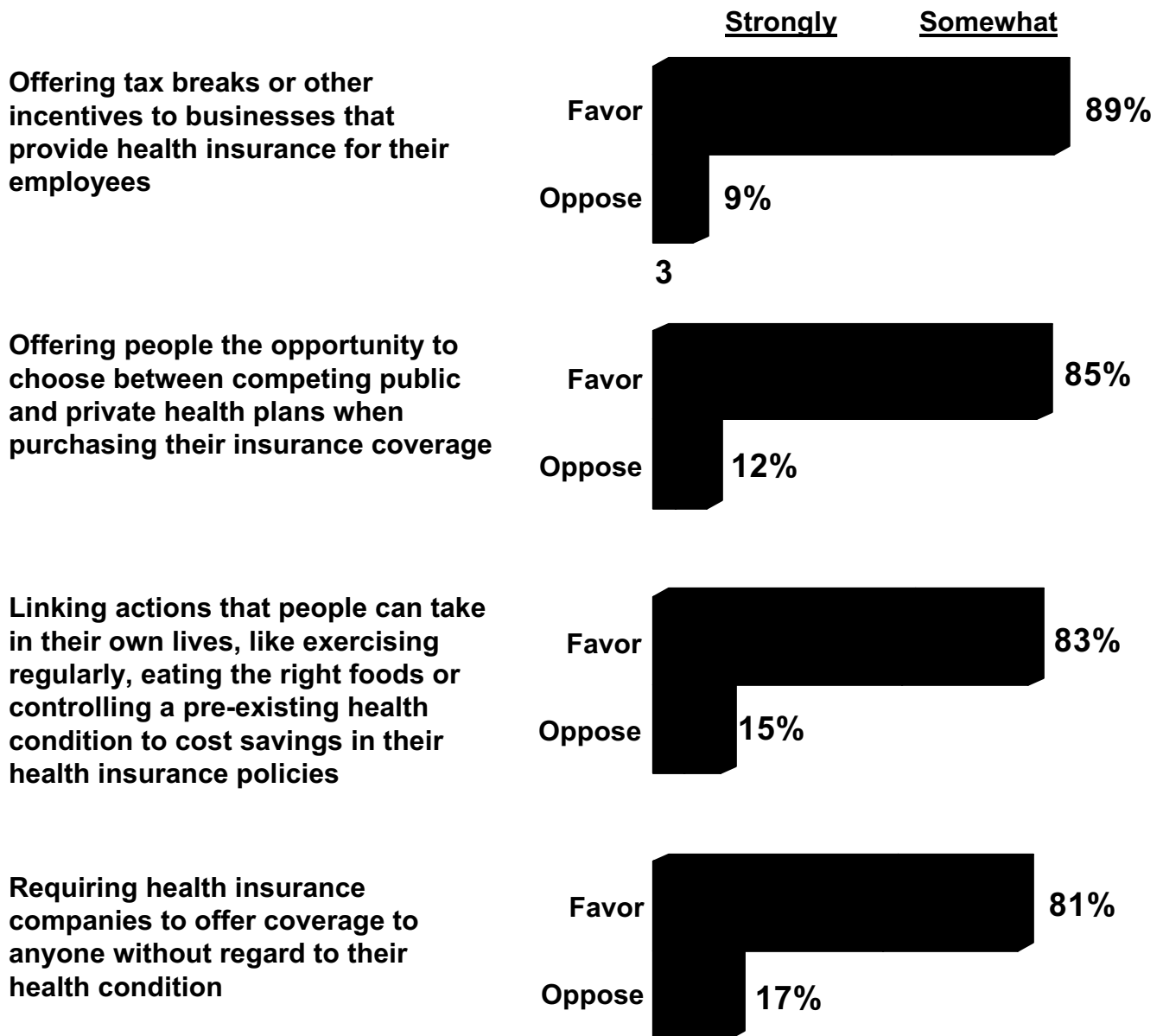
**Majority of Californians agree that the country would be better off if a health care reform were approved**

*Perceived impact that health reform would have on the country as a whole*



\* Nationwide survey conducted by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, February 3-12, 2009, among 1,204 U.S. adults.

**Table 4**  
**Specific elements of a health care reform package**  
**that over eight in ten Californians support**



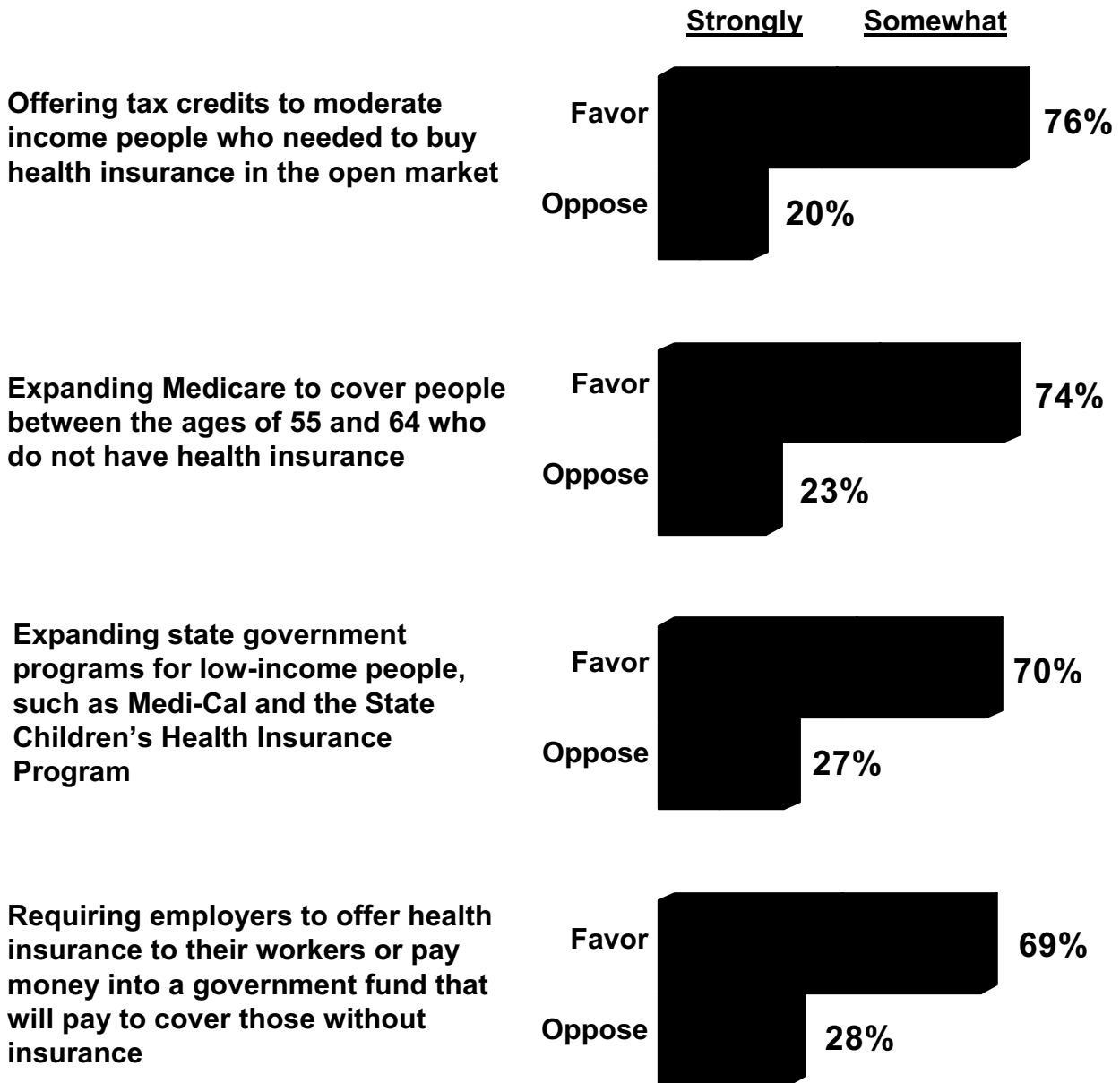
*Note: Differences between 100% and sum of percentages for each item equal proportions with no opinion.*

**Table 5**  
**Specific elements of a health care reform package supported by greater than two in three California voters**

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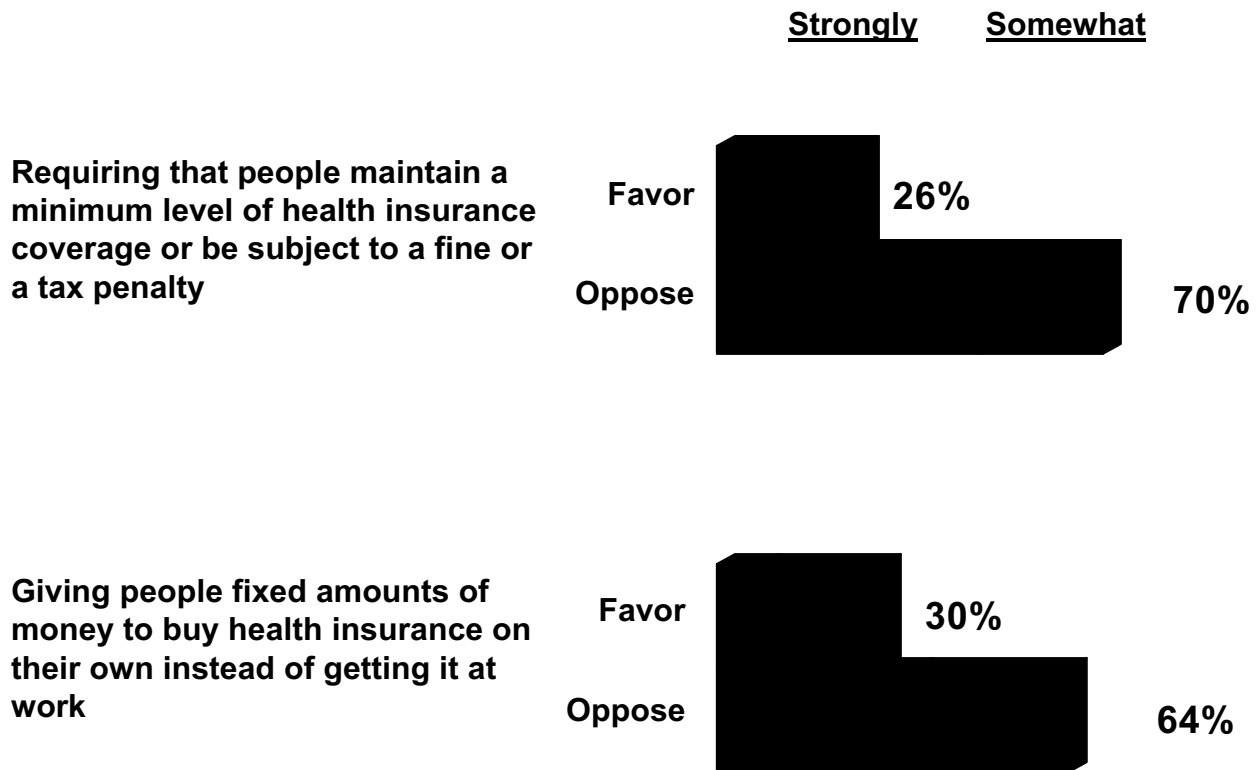
*Note: Differences between 100% and sum of percentages for each item equal proportions with no opinion.*

**Table 6**  
**Specific elements of a health care reform package  
 opposed by a majority of California voters**

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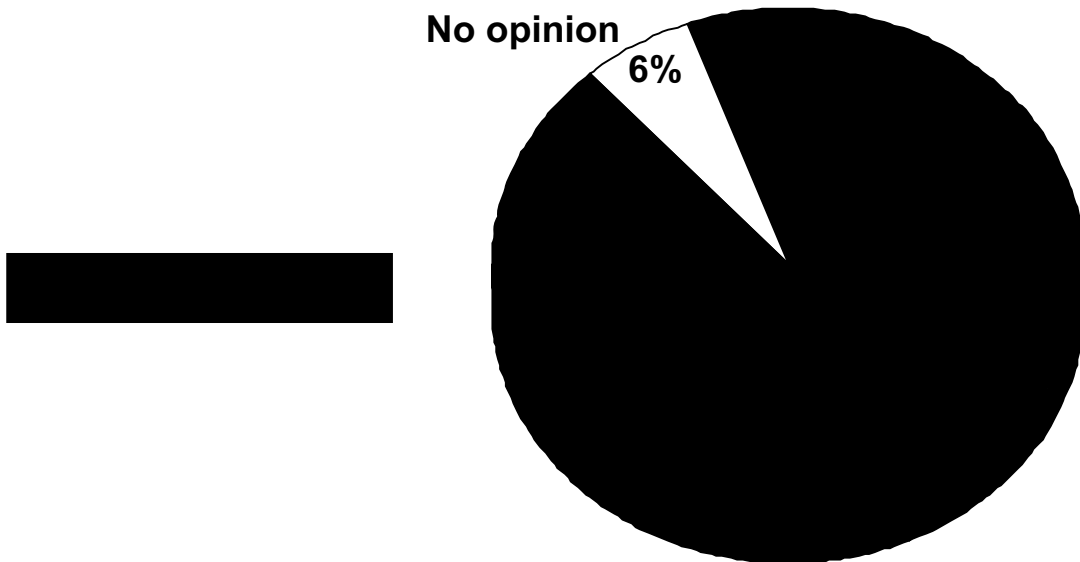
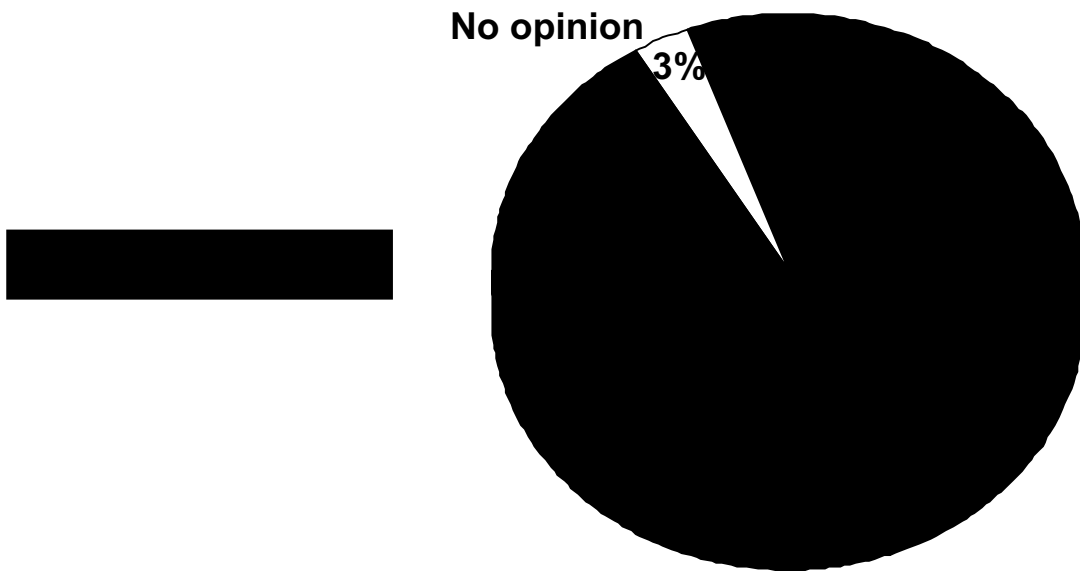
*Note: Differences between 100% and sum of percentages for each item equal proportions with no opinion.*

**Table 7**  
**Californians as divided as the U.S. public**  
**about their willingness to pay higher taxes to ensure**  
**all Americans have health insurance**

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*Agree/Disagree: "I would be willing to pay higher taxes so that every American can have health insurance."*



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\* Nationwide survey conducted by NBC News/The Wall Street Journal, February 26–March 1, 2009 among 1,204 U.S. adults.

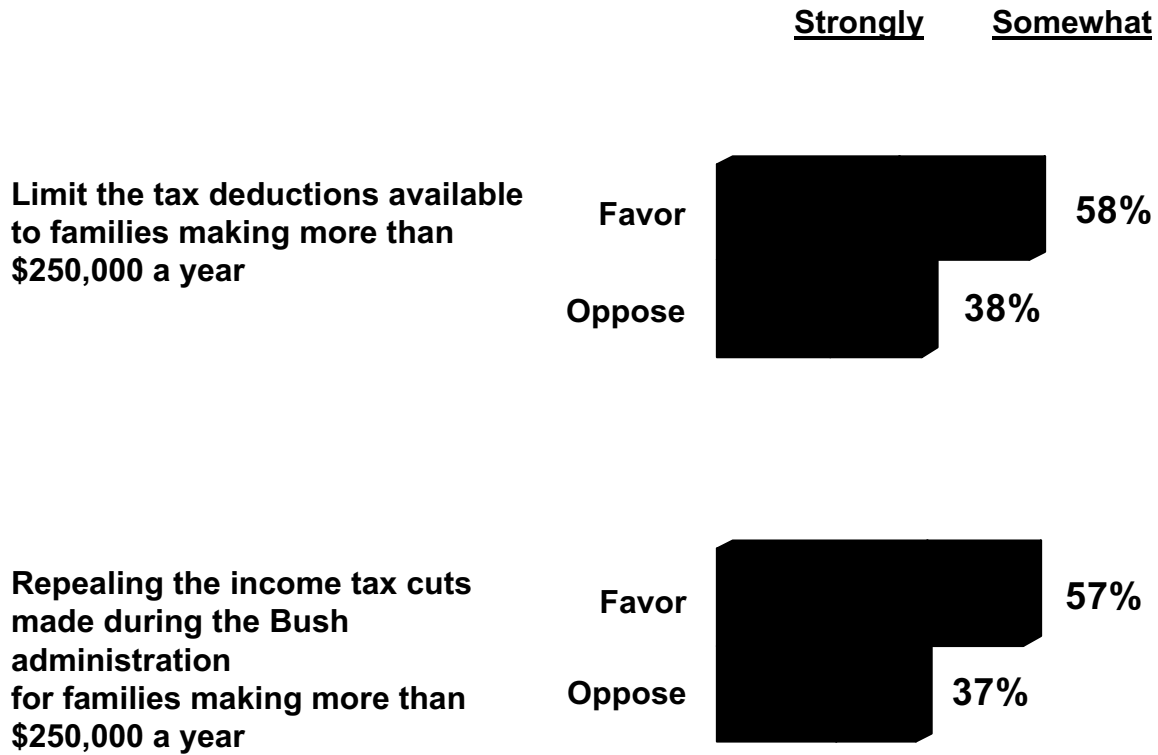
**Table 8**  
**Support for limiting deductions or repealing Bush administration tax cuts to the wealthy to expand health coverage to the uninsured**

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*Paying for expanded health coverage to the uninsured*

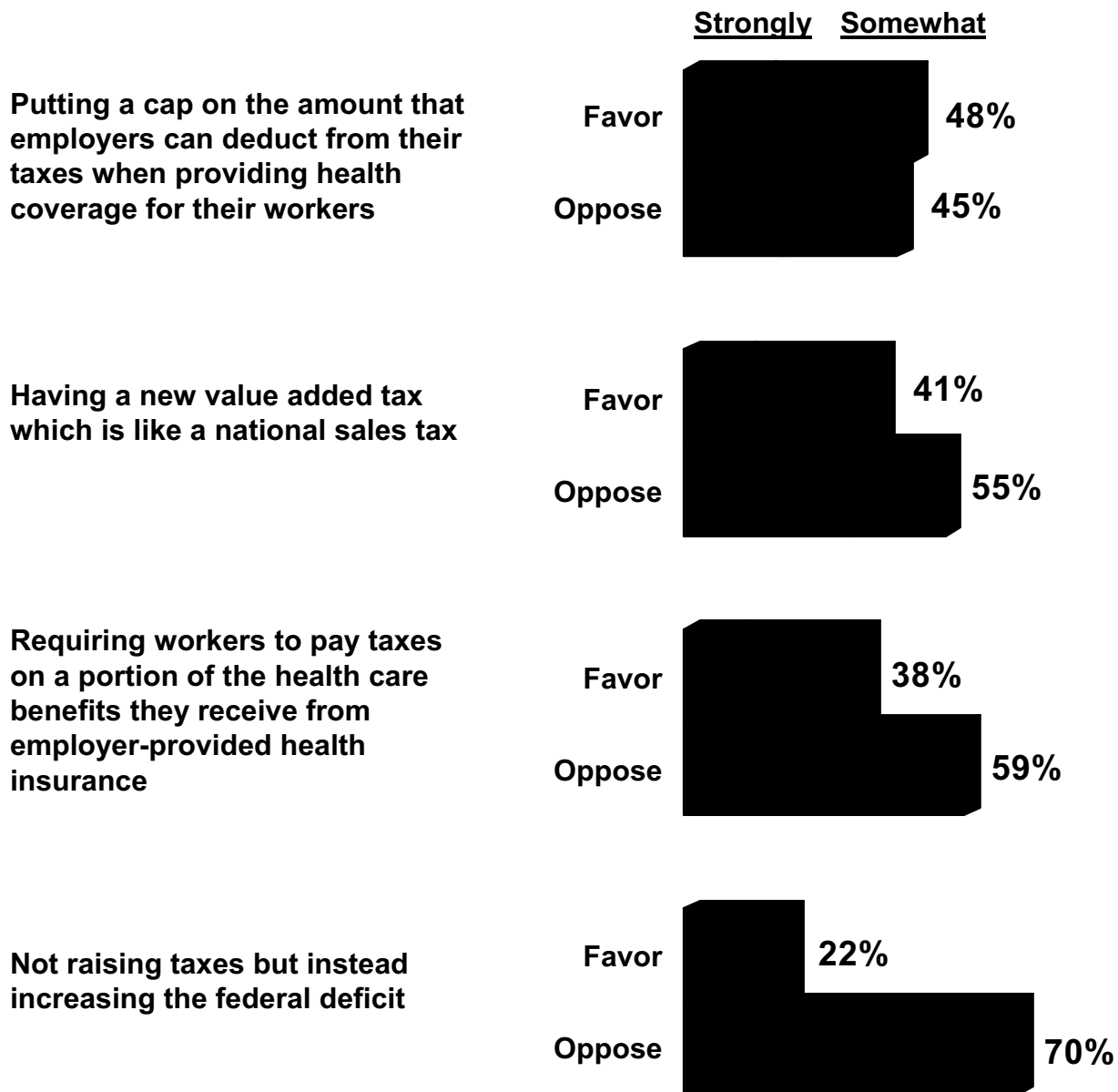


*Note: Differences between 100% and sum of percentages for each item equal proportions with no opinion.*

**Table 9**

**Opposition to increasing the federal deficit, taxing employee health care benefits or creating a new value added tax. Voters divided about capping tax deductions on employer health costs.**

*Paying for expanded health coverage to the uninsured*



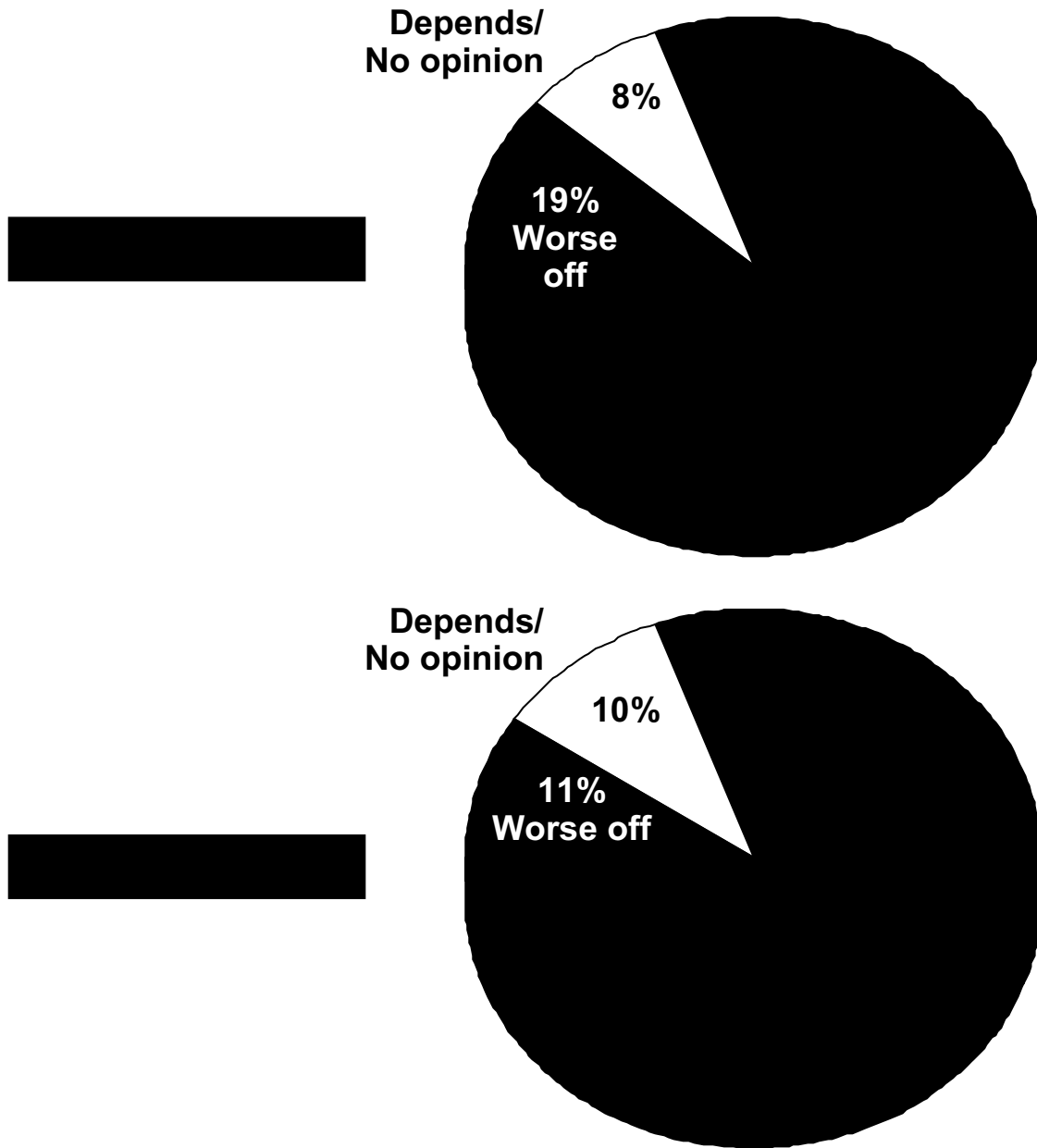
*Note: Differences between 100% and sum of percentages for each item equal proportions with no opinion.*

**Table 10**  
**More Californians than U.S. residents believe health care reform would impact themselves and their families directly**

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*Perceived impact that health reform would have on you and your family*



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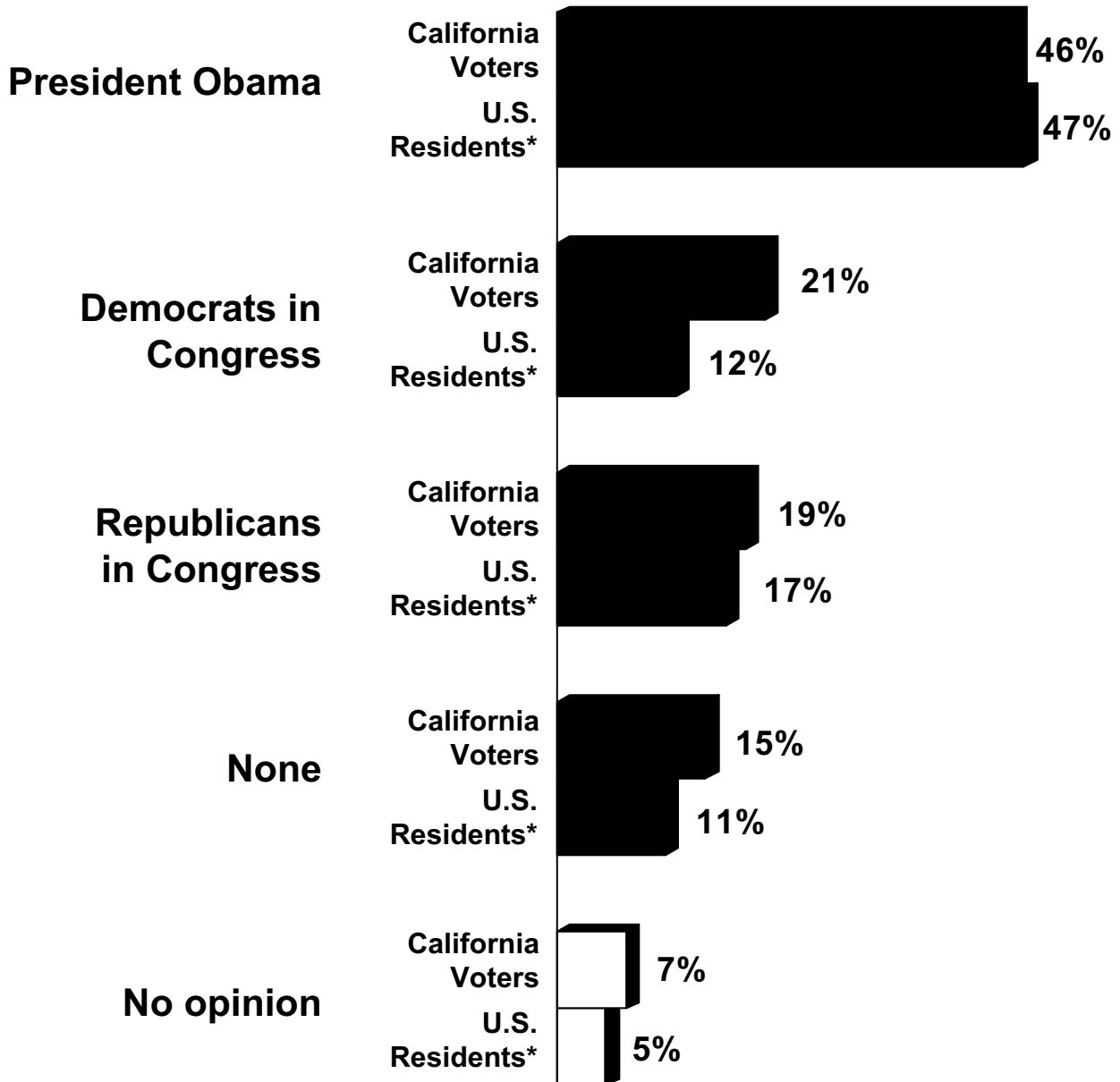
\* Nationwide survey conducted by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, February 3-12, 2009, among 1,204 U.S. adults.



**Table 11**

**Like the U.S. public, Californians trust President Obama to do a better job handling health care reform than Congress**

*Who do you trust to do a better job handling health care reform?*



\* Nationwide survey conducted by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, February 3-12, 2009, among 1,204 U.S. adults.

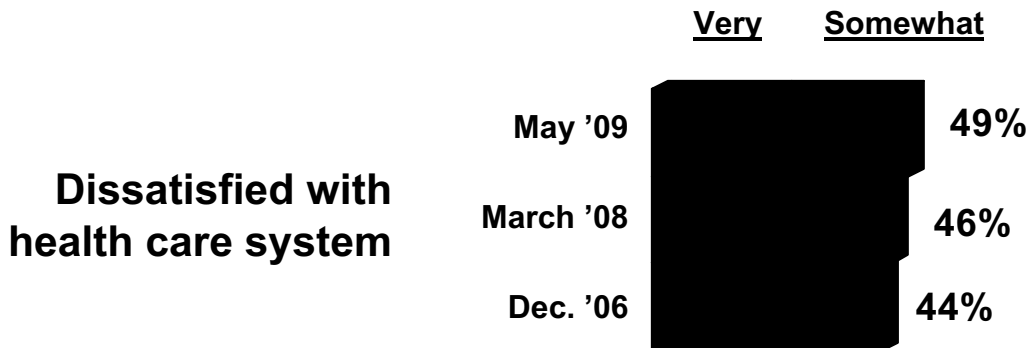
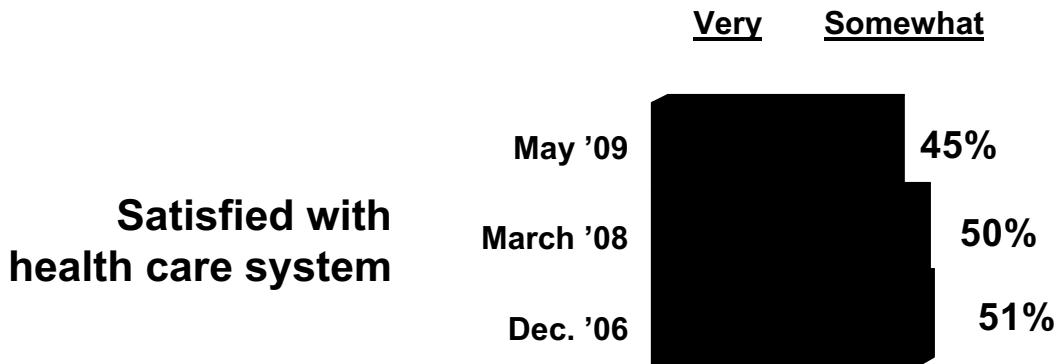
**Table 12**  
**Declining proportions of Californians**  
**are satisfied with the health care system**

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*Overall satisfaction with the health care system*

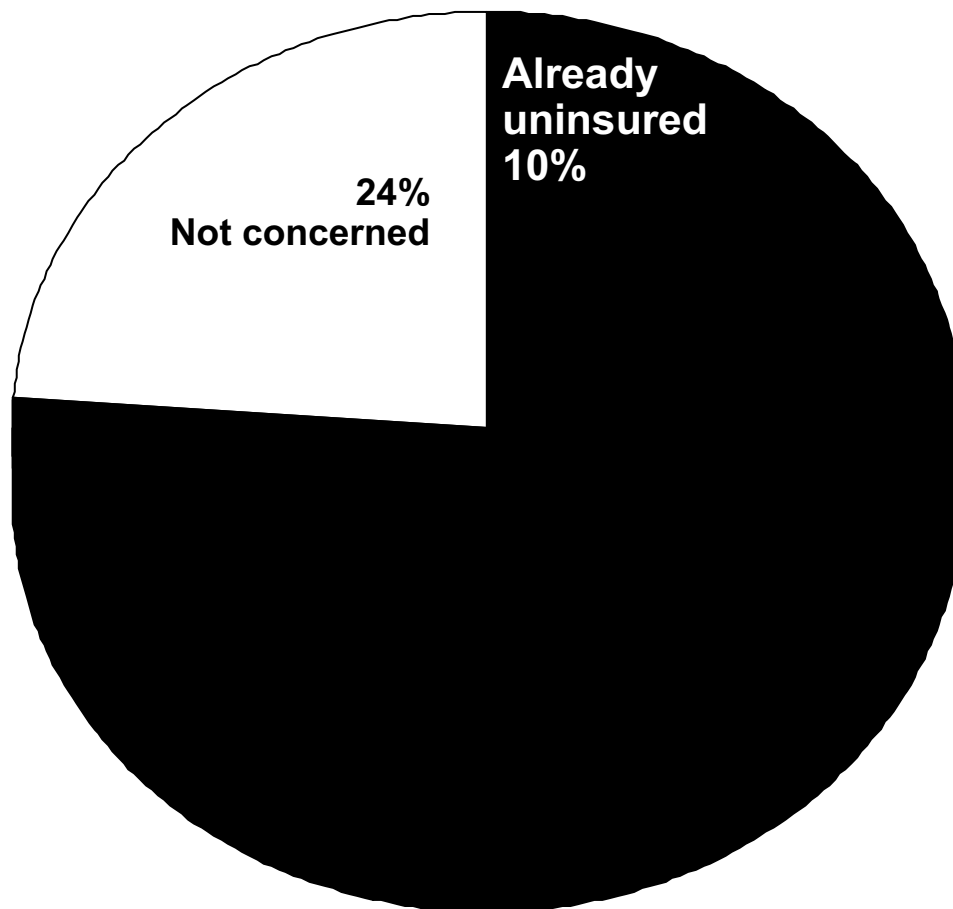


*Note: Differences between the sum of each year's percentages and 100% equal proportion with no opinion.*

**Table 13**  
**Majority of California voters are very concerned  
about going without health insurance**

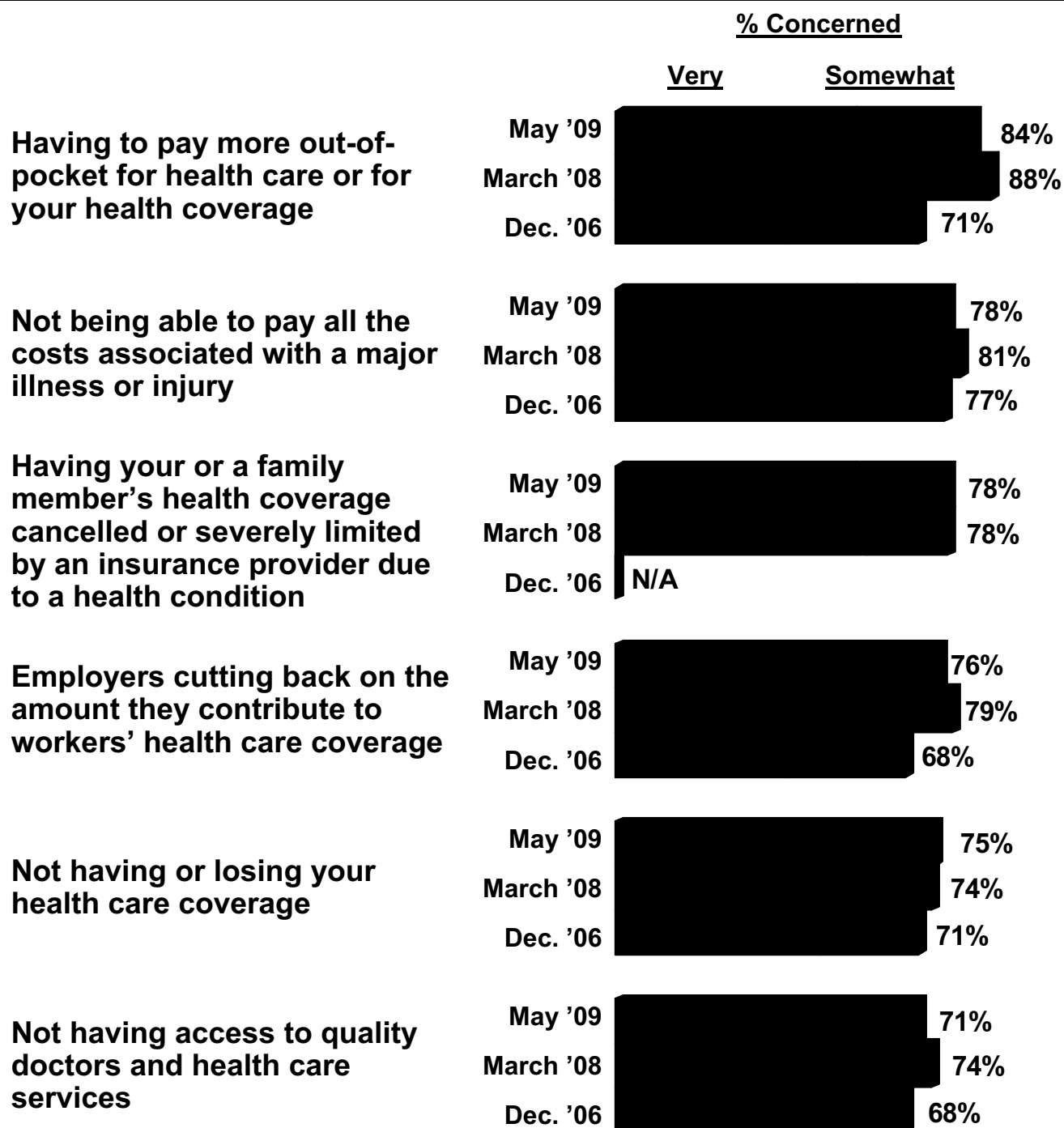
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*Degree of concern that you or someone close to you  
will be without health insurance in the near future*

**Table 14**  
**Trend of Californians' own personal concerns**  
**about the health care system**



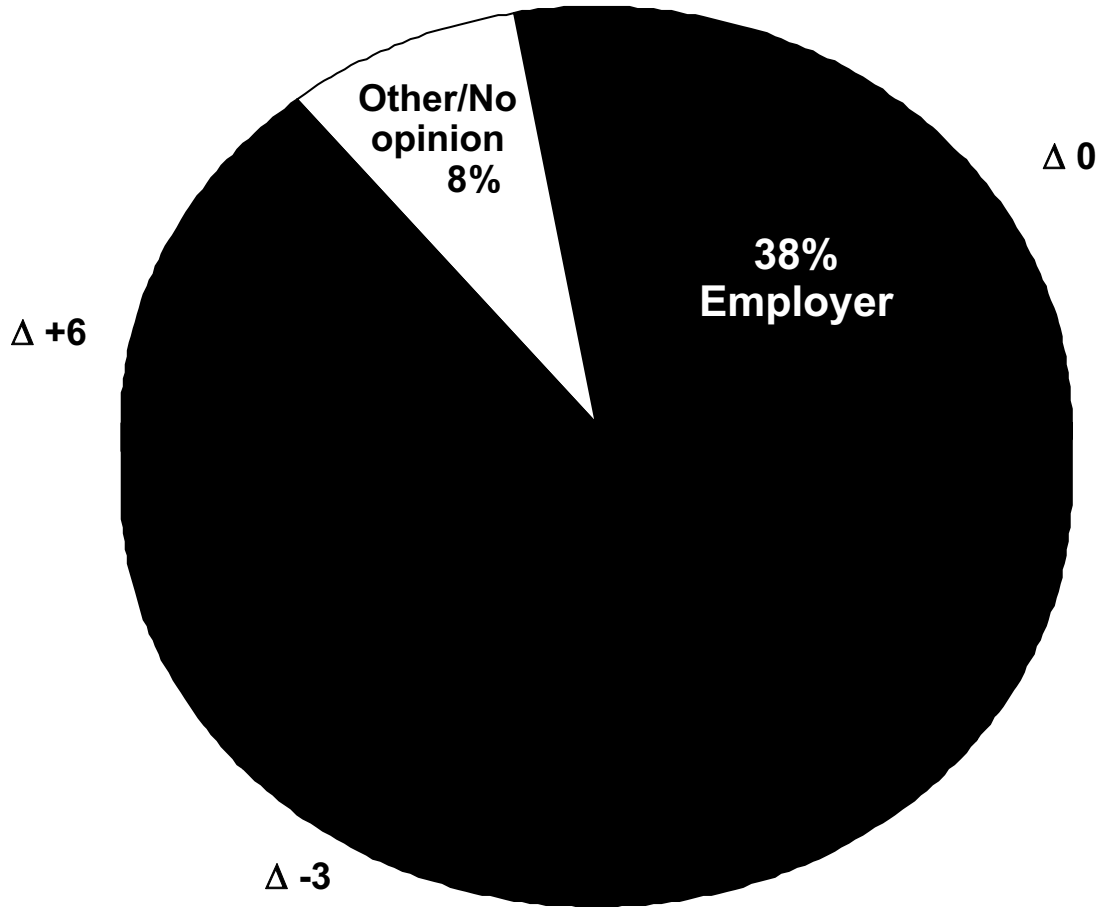
*N/A: Not asked in December 2006 Field Health Policy Survey.*

**Table 15**

**More Californians say they would be better off getting health insurance coverage through an employer than the government or having personal responsibility for this**

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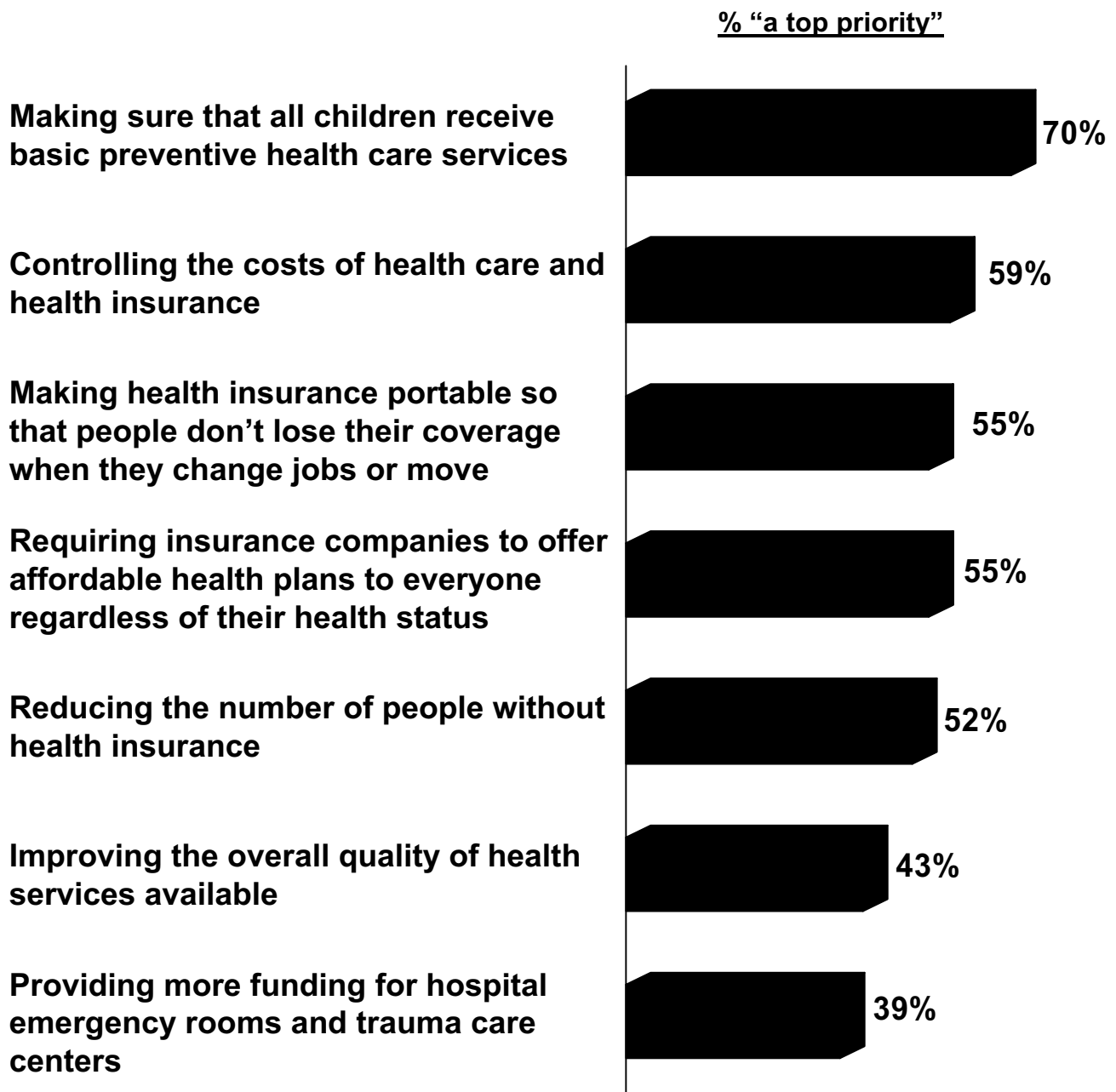


*From which source would you prefer to get your health insurance coverage?*

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*Δ denotes change between the results from the current survey and a previous Field Health Policy Survey, among 1,202 California registered voters, conducted March 12-30, 2008.*

**Table 16**  
**Priorities government should give to addressing various health care issues**

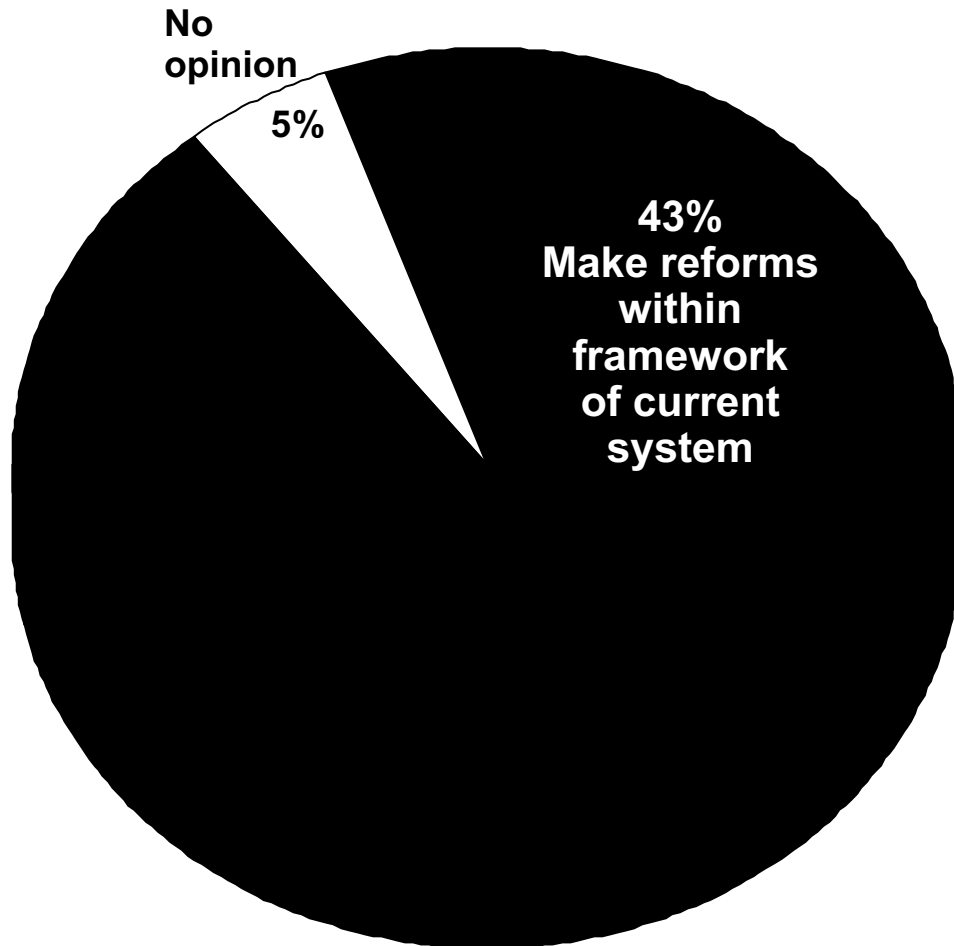


**Table 17**

**Greater than four in ten support making reforms within the current system, but one in three favor replacing it with a government-run system**

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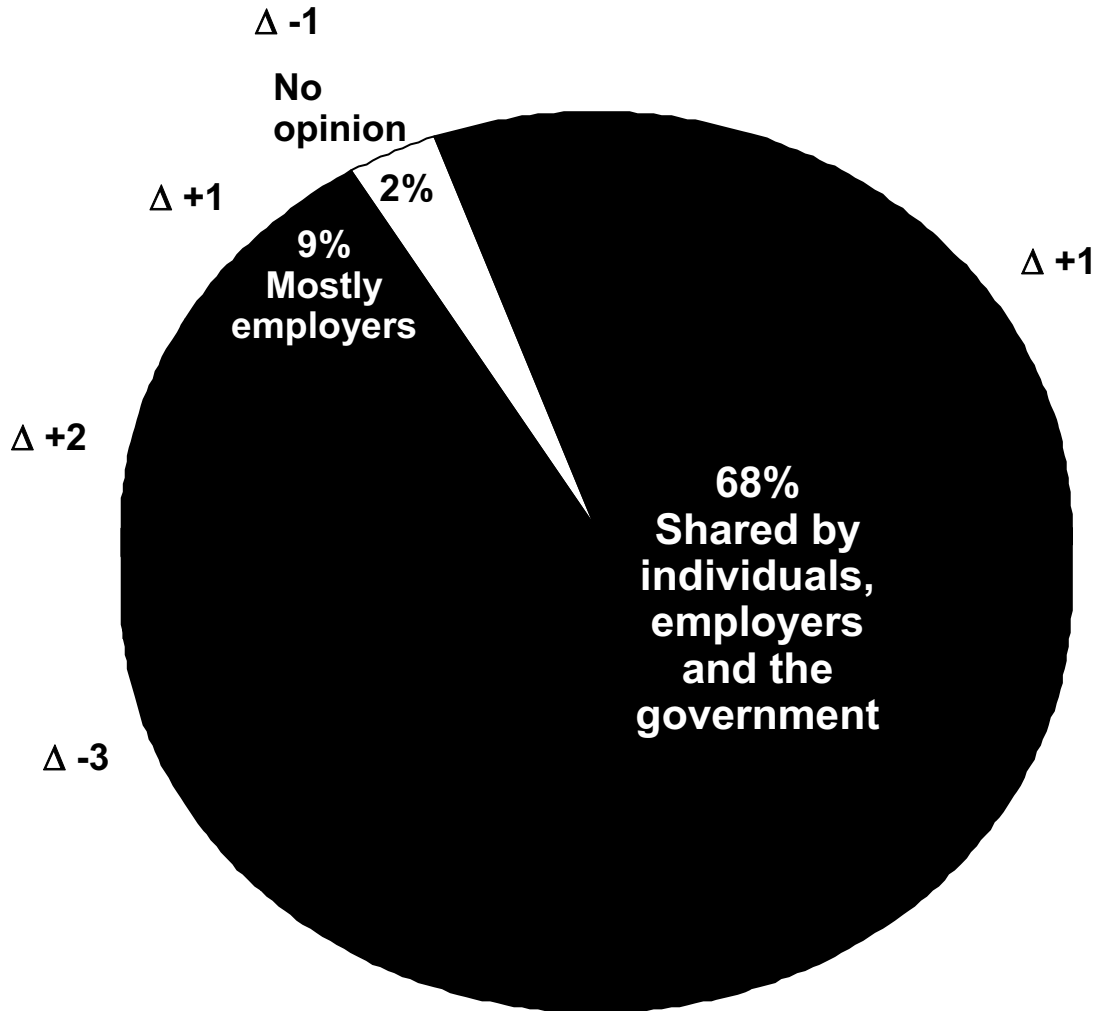
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*What should the U.S. do to improve the nation's health care system?*

**Table 18**

**Two in three Californians say health insurance costs should be shared by individuals, employers and the government**



***Who should pay for health insurance costs?***

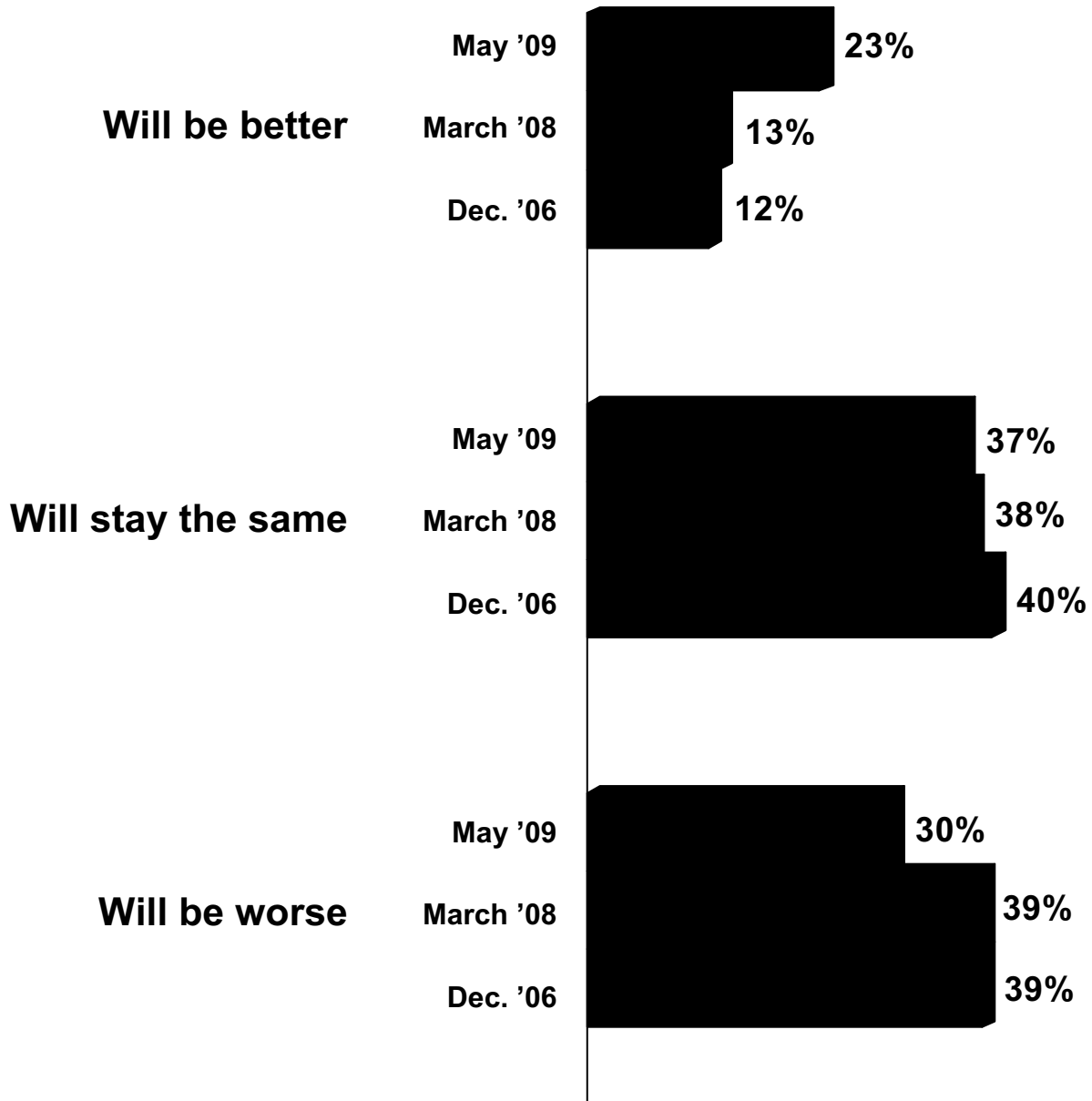
$\Delta$  Changes noted are the differences between results from the current survey and a previous Field Health Policy Survey, among 1,202 California registered voters, March 12-30, 2008.



**Table 19**

**Californians are a little less pessimistic about what the health care system will look like five years from now**

*The health care system five years from now...*

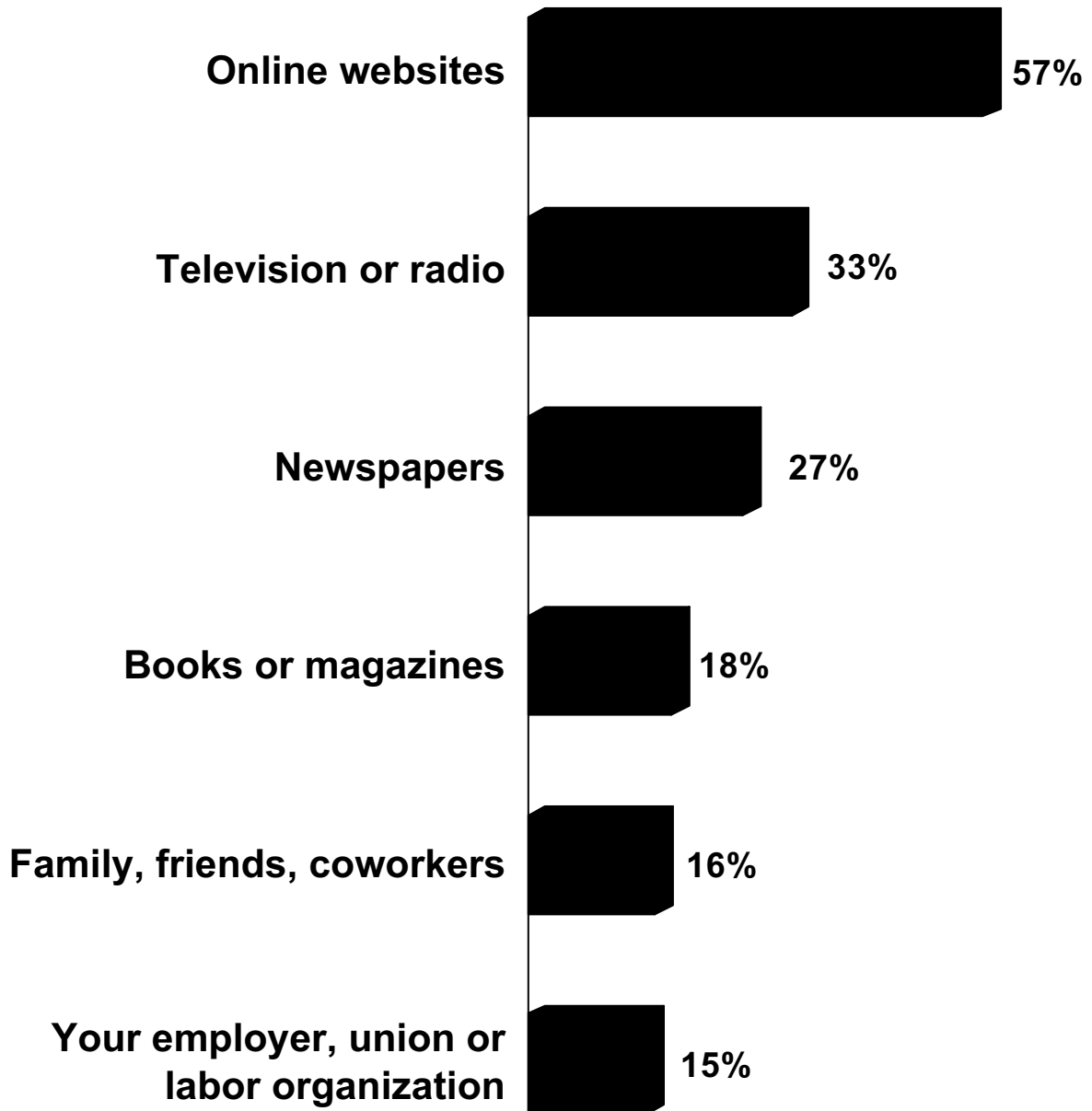


*Note: Differences between 100% and the sum of each year's percentages equals proportion with no opinion.*

**Table 20**

**Most Californians say they would go online if they wanted to learn more about health reform issues**

*Information sources voters would turn to to learn more about health reform issues*



*Note: Adds to more than 100% due to multiple mentions.*

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## 2009 Field Health Policy Survey:

California Voter Views About  
Reforming the Nation's Health Care System  
and Other Health Policy Issues

Released June 18, 2009

-Top Line Results from Questions Asked-

-Funded by a grant from-  
The California Wellness Foundation

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|  | <u>Total</u> | <u>Democrats</u> | <u>Republicans</u> | <u>Non-partisan/<br/>other</u> |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. How satisfied are you with the way the health care system is working in California? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?   |              |                  |                    |                                |
| VERY SATISFIED   | 14%          | 10%              | 21%                | 12%                            |
| SOMEWHAT SATISFIED   | 31           | 27               | 35                 | 32                             |
| SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED  | 25           | 28               | 17                 | 29                             |
| VERY DISSATISFIED  | 24           | 29               | 18                 | 21                             |
| NO OPINION   | 6            | 6                | 9                  | 6                              |
| 2. Do you think the health care system in this country works pretty well and requires only minor changes, do you think it needs fundamental changes, or do you think it needs to be completely rebuilt?  |              |                  |                    |                                |
| ONLY MINOR CHANGES   | 23%          | 13%              | 39%                | 19%                            |
| FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES  | 39           | 41               | 34                 | 42                             |
| COMPLETELY REBUILT   | 32           | 41               | 21                 | 31                             |
| NO OPINION   | 6            | 5                | 6                  | 7                              |
| 3. Looking ahead, do you think that five years from now California's health care system will be better off, worse off or just about the same as now?   |              |                  |                    |                                |
| BETTER OFF   | 23%          | 28%              | 13%                | 25%                            |
| WORSE OFF  | 30           | 26               | 38                 | 27                             |
| SAME AS NOW  | 37           | 35               | 39                 | 39                             |
| NO OPINION   | 10           | 11               | 10                 | 9                              |
| 4. I am going to read some concerns that people have about health care and for each, please tell me how much of a concern this is to you. (ITEMS READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) Is this something you are very concerned about, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned about? |              |                  |                    |                                |
| a. not having or losing your health care coverage  |              |                  |                    |                                |
| VERY CONCERNED   | 56%          | 63%              | 43%                | 58%                            |
| SOMEWHAT CONCERNED   | 19           | 20               | 19                 | 17                             |
| NOT TOO CONCERNED  | 14           | 10               | 19                 | 15                             |
| NOT AT ALL CONCERNED   | 10           | 6                | 16                 | 10                             |
| NO OPINION   | 1            | 1                | 3                  | *                              |
| b. not being able to pay for all the costs associated with a major illness or injury   |              |                  |                    |                                |
| VERY CONCERNED   | 55%          | 65%              | 39%                | 58%                            |
| SOMEWHAT CONCERNED   | 24           | 22               | 28                 | 24                             |
| NOT TOO CONCERNED  | 11           | 6                | 20                 | 9                              |
| NOT AT ALL CONCERNED   | 9            | 6                | 13                 | 7                              |
| NO OPINION   | 1            | 1                | *                  | 2                              |
| c. not having access to quality doctors and health care services   |              |                  |                    |                                |
| VERY CONCERNED   | 49%          | 54%              | 39%                | 52%                            |
| SOMEWHAT CONCERNED   | 22           | 23               | 23                 | 21                             |
| NOT TOO CONCERNED  | 16           | 14               | 20                 | 16                             |
| NOT AT ALL CONCERNED   | 12           | 9                | 17                 | 9                              |
| NO OPINION   | 1            | *                | 1                  | 2                              |

\* less than 1/2 of 1%.

|  | <u>Total</u> | <u>Democrats</u> | <u>Republicans</u> | <u>Non-partisan/<br/>other</u> |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| d. employers cutting back on the amount they contribute to workers' health care coverage |              |                  |                    |                                |
| VERY CONCERNED   | 45%          | 56%              | 32%                | 42%                            |
| SOMEWHAT CONCERNED   | 31           | 31               | 32                 | 31                             |
| NOT TOO CONCERNED  | 13           | 7                | 18                 | 18                             |
| NOT AT ALL CONCERNED   | 8            | 5                | 14                 | 8                              |
| NO OPINION   | 2            | 1                | 4                  | 1                              |

e. having to pay more out of pocket for health care or for your health insurance coverage

|                      |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| VERY CONCERNED       | 55% | 64% | 42% | 54% |
| SOMEWHAT CONCERNED   | 29  | 25  | 34  | 30  |
| NOT TOO CONCERNED    | 10  | 7   | 15  | 11  |
| NOT AT ALL CONCERNED | 5   | 4   | 8   | 5   |
| NO OPINION           | 1   | *   | 1   | *   |

f. having your or a family member's health coverage canceled or severely limited by an insurance provider due to a health condition

|                      |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| VERY CONCERNED       | 55% | 63% | 42% | 56% |
| SOMEWHAT CONCERNED   | 23  | 19  | 27  | 26  |
| NOT TOO CONCERNED    | 13  | 12  | 17  | 8   |
| NOT AT ALL CONCERNED | 8   | 6   | 12  | 9   |
| NO OPINION           | 1   | *   | 2   | 1   |

5. President Obama and the Congress are considering a number of proposals aimed at reforming the nation's health care system. How closely have you been following discussions in Washington about health care reform – very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or not at all?

|                    |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| VERY CLOSELY       | 22% | 23% | 24% | 17% |
| SOMEWHAT CLOSELY   | 45  | 48  | 41  | 43  |
| NOT TOO CLOSELY    | 24  | 22  | 25  | 28  |
| NOT AT ALL CLOSELY | 9   | 7   | 10  | 11  |
| NO OPINION         | *   | *   | *   | 1   |

6. Given the serious economic problems facing the country, which of the following two statements comes closest to your own views regarding what should be done about health care reform? **(ROTATE OPTIONS)**

|  |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| We cannot afford to take on health care reform right now               | 29% | 13% | 56% | 24% |
| It is more important than ever to take on health care reform right now | 67  | 85  | 39  | 69  |
| NO OPINION   | 4   | 2   | 5   | 7   |

\* less than 1/2 of 1%.

|   | <u>Total</u> | <u>Democrats</u> | <u>Republicans</u> | <u>Non-partisan/<br/>other</u> |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| (Q. 7a and 7b were rotated)   |              |                  |                    |                                |
| 7a. Do you think <u>you and your family</u> would be better off or worse off if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference? |              |                  |                    |                                |
| BETTER OFF  | 41%          | 53%              | 20%                | 46%                            |
| WORSE OFF   | 19           | 5                | 43                 | 12                             |
| NO DIFFERENCE   | 32           | 32               | 30                 | 33                             |
| NO OPINION  | 8            | 10               | 7                  | 9                              |

7b. Do you think the country as a whole would be better off or worse off if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference?

|               |     |     |     |     |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| BETTER OFF    | 57% | 74% | 30% | 59% |
| WORSE OFF     | 18  | 4   | 44  | 11  |
| NO DIFFERENCE | 16  | 15  | 18  | 16  |
| NO OPINION    | 9   | 7   | 8   | 13  |

8. I am going to read some issues facing the health care system today. For each, please tell me how important you feel it is for government to address this issue in the coming year. **(ITEMS READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:)** In your opinion should this be one of their top priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important or should not be done at all?

a. controlling the costs of health care and health insurance

|                                |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A TOP PRIORITY                 | 58% | 70% | 42% | 57% |
| IMPORTANT BUT NOT TOP PRIORITY | 29  | 24  | 32  | 32  |
| NOT TOO IMPORTANT              | 5   | 2   | 11  | 3   |
| SHOULD NOT BE DONE             | 7   | 3   | 13  | 7   |
| NO OPINION                     | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   |

b. improving the overall quality of health services available

|                                |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A TOP PRIORITY                 | 42% | 54% | 24% | 46% |
| IMPORTANT BUT NOT TOP PRIORITY | 39  | 37  | 43  | 37  |
| NOT TOO IMPORTANT              | 10  | 6   | 17  | 9   |
| SHOULD NOT BE DONE             | 7   | 2   | 13  | 6   |
| NO OPINION                     | 2   | 1   | 3   | 2   |

c. reducing the number of people without health insurance

|                                |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A TOP PRIORITY                 | 52% | 67% | 28% | 54% |
| IMPORTANT BUT NOT TOP PRIORITY | 29  | 23  | 36  | 32  |
| NOT TOO IMPORTANT              | 8   | 3   | 18  | 6   |
| SHOULD NOT BE DONE             | 8   | 4   | 13  | 6   |
| NO OPINION                     | 3   | 3   | 5   | 2   |

d. providing more funding for hospital emergency rooms and trauma care units

|                                |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A TOP PRIORITY                 | 38% | 46% | 26% | 39% |
| IMPORTANT BUT NOT TOP PRIORITY | 42  | 44  | 38  | 42  |
| NOT TOO IMPORTANT              | 10  | 6   | 16  | 9   |
| SHOULD NOT BE DONE             | 8   | 3   | 16  | 7   |
| NO OPINION                     | 2   | 1   | 4   | 3   |

|   | <u>Total</u> | <u>Democrats</u> | <u>Republicans</u> | <u>Non-partisan/<br/>other</u> |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| e. requiring insurance companies to offer affordable health plans to everyone regardless of their health status |              |                  |                    |                                |
| A TOP PRIORITY  | 53%          | 65%              | 36%                | 53%                            |
| IMPORTANT BUT NOT TOP PRIORITY  | 30           | 29               | 32                 | 30                             |
| NOT TOO IMPORTANT   | 8            | 3                | 15                 | 9                              |
| SHOULD NOT BE DONE  | 7            | 2                | 15                 | 6                              |
| NO OPINION  | 2            | 1                | 2                  | 2                              |

f. making health insurance portable so that people don't lose their coverage when they change jobs or move

|                                |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A TOP PRIORITY                 | 55% | 66% | 41% | 54% |
| IMPORTANT BUT NOT TOP PRIORITY | 32  | 28  | 39  | 30  |
| NOT TOO IMPORTANT              | 8   | 4   | 9   | 12  |
| SHOULD NOT BE DONE             | 4   | 2   | 10  | 2   |
| NO OPINION                     | 1   | *   | 1   | 2   |

g. making sure that all children receive basic preventive health care services

|                                |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A TOP PRIORITY                 | 69% | 84% | 47% | 69% |
| IMPORTANT BUT NOT TOP PRIORITY | 21  | 13  | 32  | 24  |
| NOT TOO IMPORTANT              | 5   | 2   | 10  | 3   |
| SHOULD NOT BE DONE             | 4   | 1   | 8   | 4   |
| NO OPINION                     | 1   | *   | 3   | *   |

9. Who do you trust to do a better job handling health care reform in Washington? (ITEMS READ IN RANDOM ORDER) (CAN BE A MULTIPLE)

|                             |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| President Obama             | 46% | 62% | 17% | 54% |
| The Republicans in Congress | 19  | 5   | 44  | 13  |
| The Democrats in Congress   | 21  | 32  | 6   | 18  |
| NONE                        | 15  | 7   | 28  | 13  |
| NO OPINION                  | 7   | 5   | 8   | 11  |

10. Which of the following statements is closer to your view of what the U.S. should do to improve the nation's health care system:

|   |     |    |     |     |
|---|-----|----|-----|-----|
| Rely on free market competition to improve the current health insurance system  | 18% | 6% | 38% | 14% |
| Make reforms within the framework of the current health insurance system, by encouraging shared responsibilities by employers, government and individuals | 43  | 44 | 47  | 38  |
| Replace the current system with a new system administered entirely by government and covering all Americans   | 34  | 44 | 12  | 42  |
| NONE  | 1   | 1  | 1   | 2   |
| NO OPINION  | 4   | 5  | 2   | 4   |

\* less than 1/2 of 1%.



Non-partisan/  
other

|  | <u>Total</u> | <u>Democrats</u> | <u>Republicans</u> | <u>Non-partisan/<br/>other</u> |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|

11. Do you think you and your family would be better off if you were to get health insurance coverage through an employer, from the government or having personal responsibility for getting your own coverage?

|            |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| EMPLOYER   | 38% | 33% | 43% | 39% |
| GOVERNMENT | 28  | 39  | 11  | 31  |
| INDIVIDUAL | 26  | 18  | 40  | 22  |
| OTHER      | 2   | 2   | 1   | 2   |
| NO OPINION | 6   | 8   | 5   | 6   |

12. Who do you think should pay for health insurance? Should insurance costs be mostly paid for by individuals, mostly by employers, mostly by the government, or should insurance costs be shared by individuals, employers and the government?

|  |     |    |     |    |
|--|-----|----|-----|----|
| MOSTLY INDIVIDUALS                                 | 10% | 3% | 23% | 8% |
| MOSTLY EMPLOYERS                                   | 9   | 7  | 13  | 7  |
| MOSTLY GOVERNMENT                                  | 11  | 13 | 5   | 16 |
| SHARED BY INDIVIDUALS, EMPLOYERS<br>AND GOVERNMENT | 68  | 76 | 56  | 68 |
| NO OPINION   | 2   | 1  | 3   | 1  |

13. I am going to read some elements that could be included in the proposed health reform plan. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each one? **(ITEMS READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:)** Do you favor this strongly, favor it somewhat, oppose it somewhat, or oppose it strongly?

a. requiring health insurance companies to offer coverage to anyone without regard to their health condition

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 51% | 58% | 36% | 58% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 30  | 28  | 34  | 28  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 10  | 5   | 17  | 9   |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 7   | 5   | 11  | 4   |
| NO OPINION      | 2   | 4   | 2   | 1   |

b. offering people the opportunity to choose between competing public and private health plans when purchasing their insurance coverage

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 43% | 43% | 45% | 41% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 42  | 42  | 39  | 45  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 7   | 7   | 7   | 6   |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 5   | 4   | 7   | 5   |
| NO OPINION      | 3   | 4   | 2   | 3   |

c. offering tax breaks or other incentives to businesses that provide health insurance for their employees

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 53% | 52% | 53% | 55% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 36  | 37  | 37  | 36  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 6   | 6   | 6   | 5   |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 3   | 3   | 3   | 1   |
| NO OPINION      | 2   | 2   | 1   | 3   |

|   | <u>Total</u> | <u>Democrats</u> | <u>Republicans</u> | <u>Non-partisan/<br/>other</u> |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| d. requiring that people maintain a minimum level of health insurance coverage or be subject to a fine or a tax penalty |              |                  |                    |                                |

|                 |     |     |    |    |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----|----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 10% | 12% | 9% | 7% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 16  | 17  | 11 | 19 |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 22  | 24  | 19 | 23 |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 48  | 43  | 59 | 45 |
| NO OPINION      | 4   | 4   | 2  | 6  |

e. offering tax credits to moderate income people who needed to buy health insurance in the open market

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 35% | 40% | 31% | 33% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 41  | 38  | 44  | 43  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 11  | 11  | 11  | 12  |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 9   | 8   | 10  | 8   |
| NO OPINION      | 4   | 3   | 4   | 4   |

f. expanding Medicare to cover people between the ages of 55 and 64 who do not have health insurance

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 44% | 53% | 27% | 48% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 30  | 30  | 30  | 32  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 13  | 10  | 20  | 10  |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 10  | 5   | 20  | 7   |
| NO OPINION      | 3   | 2   | 3   | 3   |

g. giving people fixed amounts of money to buy health insurance on their own instead of getting it at work

|                 |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 8% | 9% | 9% | 6% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 22 | 23 | 20 | 24 |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 28 | 29 | 23 | 30 |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 36 | 34 | 42 | 34 |
| NO OPINION      | 6  | 5  | 6  | 6  |

h. linking actions that people can take in their own lives like exercising regularly, eating the right foods or controlling a pre-existing health condition to cost savings in their health insurance policies

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 55% | 58% | 50% | 56% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 28  | 28  | 29  | 27  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 8   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 7   | 5   | 10  | 6   |
| NO OPINION      | 2   | 2   | 2   | 2   |

i. requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund that will pay to cover those without insurance

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 36% | 46% | 20% | 37% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 33  | 35  | 28  | 36  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 14  | 10  | 18  | 15  |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 14  | 6   | 31  | 9   |
| NO OPINION      | 3   | 3   | 3   | 3   |

Total      Democrats      Republicans      Non-partisan/  
other

j. expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medi-Cal and the State Children's Health Insurance Program

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 39% | 53% | 19% | 39% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 31  | 30  | 29  | 34  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 14  | 9   | 20  | 16  |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 13  | 5   | 28  | 7   |
| NO OPINION      | 3   | 3   | 4   | 4   |

14. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: I would be willing to pay higher taxes so that every American can have health insurance.

|            |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AGREE      | 50% | 66% | 25% | 54% |
| DISAGREE   | 47  | 32  | 73  | 43  |
| NO OPINION | 3   | 2   | 2   | 3   |

15. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose each of the following as ways to help pay for expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured (ITEMS READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) Do you favor this strongly, favor it somewhat, oppose it somewhat, or oppose it strongly as a way to help pay for expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured?

a. putting a cap on the amount that employers can deduct from their taxes when providing health coverage for their workers

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 16% | 20% | 13% | 13% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 32  | 36  | 27  | 34  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 24  | 22  | 25  | 25  |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 21  | 14  | 31  | 20  |
| NO OPINION      | 7   | 8   | 4   | 8   |

b. limit the tax deductions available to families making more than \$250,000 a year

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 31% | 40% | 20% | 30% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 27  | 29  | 22  | 30  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 17  | 15  | 20  | 19  |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 21  | 12  | 36  | 16  |
| NO OPINION      | 4   | 4   | 2   | 5   |

c. having a new value added tax which is like a national sales tax

|                 |     |     |    |    |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----|----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 12% | 17% | 7% | 9% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 29  | 36  | 18 | 30 |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 19  | 18  | 18 | 25 |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 36  | 25  | 56 | 32 |
| NO OPINION      | 4   | 4   | 1  | 4  |

d. repealing the income tax cuts made during the Bush administration for families making more than \$250,000 a year

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 36% | 49% | 17% | 37% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 21  | 19  | 18  | 28  |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 15  | 13  | 19  | 15  |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 22  | 14  | 41  | 13  |
| NO OPINION      | 6   | 5   | 5   | 7   |

|   | <u>Total</u> | <u>Democrats</u> | <u>Republicans</u> | <u>Non-partisan/<br/>other</u> |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| e. not raising taxes but instead increasing the federal deficit |              |                  |                    |                                |
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 9%           | 11%              | 9%                 | 8%                             |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 13           | 13               | 11                 | 14                             |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT   | 24           | 28               | 18                 | 25                             |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY   | 46           | 41               | 56                 | 45                             |
| NO OPINION  | 8            | 7                | 6                  | 8                              |

f. requiring workers to pay taxes on a portion of the health care benefits they receive from employer-provided health insurance

|                 |     |     |    |    |
|-----------------|-----|-----|----|----|
| FAVOR STRONGLY  | 10% | 12% | 9% | 7% |
| FAVOR SOMEWHAT  | 28  | 32  | 18 | 34 |
| OPPOSE SOMEWHAT | 24  | 24  | 23 | 25 |
| OPPOSE STRONGLY | 35  | 27  | 48 | 31 |
| NO OPINION      | 3   | 5   | 2  | 3  |

16. If you wanted to learn more about health reform issues facing the state and the nation, which of the following sources would you most likely turn to for information? (CATEGORIES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) (CAN BE A MULTIPLE)

|  |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Your employer, union or labor organization | 15% | 16% | 14% | 14% |
| Family, friends or co-workers              | 16  | 16  | 16  | 17  |
| Television or radio                        | 33  | 35  | 30  | 34  |
| Newspapers                                 | 27  | 34  | 21  | 23  |
| Books or magazines                         | 18  | 20  | 14  | 19  |
| On-line websites                           | 57  | 50  | 59  | 65  |
| Some other source                          | 4   | 4   | 5   | 3   |
| DON'T KNOW                                 | 1   | 1   | 2   | *   |

17. Do you currently have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance through your or your spouse's employer, a plan you buy independently, or through a government plan such as Medicare, Medi-Cal or Tri-Care?

|            |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| YES        | 89% | 90% | 91% | 86% |
| NO         | 10  | 10  | 8   | 13  |
| DON'T KNOW | 1   | *   | 1   | 1   |

(ASKED OF THOSE WITH INSURANCE)

18. Have you or has anyone close to you been without health insurance coverage at any time the past two years?

|                     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| YES                 | 40% | 41% | 37% | 42% |
| NO                  | 49  | 47  | 53  | 45  |
| DON'T KNOW          | 1   | 1   | 1   | *   |
| CURRENTLY UNINSURED | 10  | 11  | 9   | 13  |

19. How concerned are you that there could be a time in the near future when you or someone close to you will be without health insurance – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?

|                      |    |    |    |    |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| CURRENTLY UNINSURED  | 10 | 11 | 9  | 13 |
| VERY CONCERNED       | 44 | 54 | 27 | 47 |
| SOMEWHAT CONCERNED   | 22 | 18 | 27 | 21 |
| NOT TOO CONCERNED    | 14 | 9  | 22 | 14 |
| NOT AT ALL CONCERNED | 10 | 8  | 15 | 5  |

\* less than 1/2 of 1%.