

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(202) 234-5570

Interviews: 805 adults, including  
81 reached by cell phone  
Date: August 15-17, 2009

**FINAL**

Study #9669  
NBC News Health Care Survey  
August 2009

48 Male  
52 Female  
**[109]**

***Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.***

***The margin of error for 805 interviews is ± 3.5%***

**(ASKED ONLY OF SAMPLE TYPE 2--CELL PHONE ONLY RESPONDENTS.)**

1. Do you have a landline in addition to your cell phone, or is your cell phone the only telephone you have?

Have a landline .....	-	<b>TERMINATE</b>	<b>[138]</b>
Cell phone is only telephone.....	100	<b>CONTINUE</b>	
Not sure .....	-	<b>TERMINATE</b>	

2a. For statistical purposes only, would you please tell me how old you are? (IF "REFUSED," ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

18-24 .....	7		<b>[145-146]</b>
25-29 .....	5		
30-34 .....	10		
35-39 .....	6		
40-44 .....	8		
45-49 .....	9		
50-54 .....	11		
55-59 .....	10		
60-64 .....	10		
65-69 .....	9		
70-74 .....	5		
75 and over.....	8		
Not sure/refused .....	2		

2b. To ensure that we have a representative sample, would you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

Yes, Hispanic.....	10		<b>[147]</b>
No, not Hispanic .....	90		
Not sure/refused .....	-		

2c. And again, for statistical purposes only, what is your race—white, black, Asian, or something else?

White .....	78		<b>[148]</b>
Black.....	11		
Asian .....	1		
Other .....	2		
Hispanic (VOL) .....	8		
Not sure/refused .....	-		

3. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that Barack Obama is doing as president?

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	<u>6/09</u>	<u>4/09</u>	<u>2/09</u>	
Approve .....	51	53	56	61	60	<b>[149]</b>
Disapprove.....	40	40	34	30	26	
Not sure .....	9	7	10	9	14	

4. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing in handling the issue of health care reform?

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	<i>Bill Clinton</i>		
			<u>7/94</u>	<u>6/94</u>	
Approve .....	41	41	40	43	<b>[150]</b>
Disapprove.....	47	46	52	47	
Not sure .....	12	13	8	10	

5. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the way that Republicans in Congress are handling the issue of health care reform?

Approve .....	21	<b>[151]</b>
Disapprove .....	62	
Not sure.....	17	

**Thinking some more about the issue of health care . . .**

6. Do you think the American health care system needs a complete overhaul, major reform, minor reform, or is there no need for change?

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>4/09</u>	
A complete overhaul.....	21	33	<b>[152]</b>
Major reform .....	39	37	
Minor reform .....	31	21	
No need for change .....	7	7	
Not sure .....	2	2	

7a. From what you have heard about Barack Obama's health care plan, do you think his plan is a good idea or a bad idea? If you do not have an opinion either way, please just say so.

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	<u>6/09</u>	<u>4/09</u>	
Good idea .....	36	36	33	33	<b>[153]</b>
Bad idea .....	42	42	32	26	
No opinion .....	17	17	30	34	
Not sure .....	5	5	5	7	

- 7b. And from what you have heard about Barack Obama's health care plan, do you believe it will result in the quality of your health care getting better, worse, or staying about the same as now? If you do not have an opinion, please just say so.

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	<u>4/09</u>	
Getting better .....	24	21	22	<b>[154]</b>
Getting worse.....	40	39	24	
Staying about the same .....	27	29	29	
No opinion.....	7	9	20	
Not sure .....	2	2	5	

8. Thinking about efforts to reform the health care system, which would concern you more?

Not doing enough to make the health care system better than it is now by lowering costs and covering the uninsured. OR

Going too far and making the health care system worse than it is now in terms of quality of care and choice of doctor.

Not doing enough .....	41	<b>[155]</b>
Going too far.....	54	
Not sure.....	5	

**And thinking about one aspect of the debate on health care legislation. . .**

9. Would you favor or oppose creating a public health care plan administered by the federal government that would compete directly with private health insurance companies?

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	
Favor .....	43	46	<b>[156]</b>
Oppose .....	47	44	
Not sure .....	10	10	

10. Please tell me which ONE statement you agree with more on the issue of creating a new public health plan administered by the federal government.

**(Some/Other)** people say it would help lower health care costs because it would compete with private health plans. This new public plan would provide coverage for the uninsured and all Americans would have an option for quality affordable health care.

**(Some/Other)** people say that patients might not always have access to their choice of doctors and the government would lower costs by limiting medical treatment options and decisions that should be made instead by patients and doctors.

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	<u>6/09</u>	
Lower costs and provide health care for all Americans .....	45	41	47	<b>[157]</b>
Limit access to doctors and medical treatment options .....	48	52	42	
Not sure.....	7	7	11	

11. Do you have a health plan, that is, are you covered by a private health insurance plan or by a government program such as Medicare, Medicaid, or Tricare? **(IF RESPONDENT OFFERS MORE THAN ONE, ASK:)** Well, what kind of plan would you say your primary plan is?

YES, private health insurance .....	60	<b>[158]</b>
YES, MediCARE .....	17	
YES, MediCAID .....	3	
YES, Tricare .....	2	
NO, do not have a health plan.....	14	
Other .....	3	
Don't know/refused.....	1	

12. Now I am going to tell you more about the health care plan that President Obama supports and please tell me whether you would favor or oppose it.

The plan requires that health insurance companies cover people with pre-existing medical conditions. It also requires all but the smallest employers to provide health coverage for their employees, or pay a percentage of their payroll to help fund coverage for the uninsured. Families and individuals with lower- and middle-incomes would receive tax credits to help them afford insurance coverage. Some of the funding for this plan would come from raising taxes on wealthier Americans.

Do you favor or oppose this plan? **(IF "FAVOR/OPPOSE," ASK:)** And do you strongly or only somewhat (favor/oppose) this plan?

	8/09	7/09	6/09	4/09 <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Favor</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>[166]</b>
Strongly .....	35	NA	NA	NA	
Somewhat.....	18	NA	NA	NA	
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	
Somewhat.....	14	NA	NA	NA	
Strongly .....	29	NA	NA	NA	
Depends (VOL).....	2	3	3	6	
Not sure.....	2	3	7	5	

<sup>1</sup>In April 2009, this question was worded, "...the health care plan President Obama proposed..."

13. Have you seen, read, or heard the news coverage about people protesting against the health care plan at town hall meetings with Members of Congress?

Yes.....	85	<b>CONTINUE</b>	<b>[167]</b>
No.....	14	<b>Skip to Q.15</b>	
Not sure.....	1		

**(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE SEEN/READ/HEARD NEWS COVERAGE OF PROTESTS IN "YES" IN Q.13.)**

- 14a. Has what you have seen, read, or heard about these town hall meeting protests made you more favorable toward, less favorable toward, or made no difference in your feelings about President Obama's health care plan?

More favorable.....	16	<b>[168]</b>
Less favorable .....	19	
Made no difference.....	62	
Not sure.....	3	

**(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE SEEN/READ/HEARD NEWS COVERAGE OF PROTESTS IN "YES" IN Q.13.)**

14b. And do you think that these protests are doing more harm than good, or more good than harm?

More harm than good .....	43	<b>[169]</b>
More good than harm .....	42	
Both (VOL).....	4	
Neither (VOL) .....	5	
Not sure.....	6	

**(ASK EVERYONE)**

15. Let me read you a number of criticisms that town hall protesters have made about the proposed health care plan. For each one, please tell me whether this seems to you to be likely to happen or unlikely to happen.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY LIKELY TO HAPPEN*

	Likely To Happen	Unlikely To Happen	Not Sure	
Will give health insurance coverage to illegal immigrants .....	55	34	11	<b>[170]</b>
Will lead to a government takeover of the health care system.....	54	39	7	<b>[173]</b>
Will use taxpayer dollars to pay for women to have abortions .....	50	37	13	<b>[172]</b>
Will allow the government to make decisions about when to stop providing medical care to the elderly.....	45	50	5	<b>[171]</b>

16. From which ONE of the following television news sources do you get MOST of your information about the health care debate? If you do not watch any of these, please just say so.

Broadcast network news, such as NBC, ABC, or CBS .....	40	<b>[174]</b>
The cable channel CNN .....	17	
The cable channel MSNBC .....	7	
The cable channel Fox News .....	23	
None of these.....	11	
Not sure .....	2	

**FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.**

F1. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school .....	1	<b>[175-176]</b>
Some high school .....	5	
High school graduate.....	26	
Some college, no degree.....	17	
Vocational training/2-year college.....	10	
4-year college/bachelor's degree .....	25	
Some postgraduate work, no degree.....	2	
2-3 years postgraduate work/master's degree.....	10	
Doctoral/law degree.....	2	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

F2. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else? **(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:)** Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? **(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:)** Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent?

Strong Democrat .....	24	<b>[177]</b>
Not very strong Democrat.....	9	
Independent/lean Democrat .....	8	
Strictly Independent.....	22	
Independent/lean Republican.....	9	
Not very strong Republican .....	8	
Strong Republican .....	12	
Other (VOL).....	5	
Not sure.....	3	

F3. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative? **(IF "LIBERAL" OR "CONSERVATIVE," ASK:)** Do you consider yourself to be very (liberal/conservative) or somewhat (liberal/conservative)?

Very liberal.....	9	<b>[178]</b>
Somewhat liberal .....	14	
Moderate .....	34	
Somewhat conservative .....	22	
Very conservative .....	16	
Not sure.....	5	

F4. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than ten thousand dollars, between ten thousand dollars and twenty thousand dollars, between twenty thousand dollars and thirty thousand dollars, between thirty thousand dollars and forty thousand dollars, between forty thousand dollars and fifty thousand dollars, between fifty thousand dollars and seventy-five thousand dollars, between seventy-five thousand dollars and one hundred thousand dollars, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$10,000 .....	4	<b>[179]</b>
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000.....	7	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	11	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000.....	8	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000.....	9	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	16	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000.....	12	
More than \$100,000 .....	19	
Not sure/refused .....	14	