

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE**  
**NOVEMBER PSRAI OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**November 12-15, 2009**  
**N=1003**

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about health care...

**ASK ALL:**

Q.1 How much thought have you given to the debate in Washington over health care reform? **[READ]**

Nov 12-15

2009

55	A lot
32	A little
12	None at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.2 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress?

Nov 12-15 <u>2009</u>		Oct 28- Nov 8 <u>2009</u>	Sep 30- Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Sep 10-15 <u>2009</u>	Aug 20-27 <u>2009</u>	July 22-26 <u>2009</u>
42	Generally favor	38	34	42	39	38
39	Generally oppose	47	47	44	46	44
19	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	15	19	14	15	18

**ASK IF Q.2=1,2 [N=830]:**

Q.3 What would you say is the main reason you (favor/oppose) the health care proposals being discussed in Congress? **[OPEN END; RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY—DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD IN ORDER OF MENTION; UP TO THREE MENTIONS]**

**BASED ON THOSE WHO FAVOR [N=390]**

Nov 12-15 <u>2009</u>		July 22-26 <u>2009</u>
32	Support greater/universal coverage	42
17	Need to do something/change/country needs it	13
14	Control costs/Increase affordability/Boost economy	14
9	Personal experiences/reasons	9
6	Help poor/unemployed with health care	7
4	Trust/support Obama/Democrats	1
3	Help elderly with health care	1
2	Insurance companies do a bad job/Reduce insurance companies' influence	1
2	Support public option	--
1	Help children with health care	2
1	Prevents denial for pre-existing conditions	--
1	Abortion	--
6	Other	11
21	Don't know/Refused	11

Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

July N=558

**Q.3 CONTINUED...**

**BASED ON THOSE WHO OPPOSE [N=440]**

Nov 12-15 <u>2009</u>	July 22-26 <u>2009</u>
27 Too expensive/Can't afford it/Will increase deficit and taxes	26
27 Do not want Gov't in health care/Socialism/Bureaucracy	18
8 Hasn't been explained/Too complex/Not well thought out	8
8 Won't work/Current system works	6
6 Will hurt/won't help me/ Like what I have	2
5 Will worsen care for some/Not be fair	3
3 Distrust Congress/Obama/ political process	4
3 Will reduce quality & access/Take away choice	9
3 Cuts in Medicare	1
3 Abortion	*
3 Benefits illegal immigrants <sup>1</sup>	1
3 Oppose public option	*
2 Redistributive/Free-ride/People should earn own health care	6
2 Hurts business/economy/Costs jobs	3
2 Moving too fast	2
-- Does not work in other countries	3
8 Other	16
12 Don't know/Refused	11

July N=688

Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

**ASK THOSE WHO OPPOSE HEALTH CARE REFORM (Q.2=2) [N=440]**

Q.4 As I read some reasons people have given for opposing health care reform, please tell me if each one is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why you oppose the health care reform proposals being discussed in Congress. First **[INSERT AND RANDOMIZE]**. Is this a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason (why you oppose health care reform)?

	<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<b>(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u></b>
a. Too much government involvement in health care November 12-15, 2009	85	7	7	2
b. Your own health care may suffer November 12-15, 2009	70	16	13	1
c. Health care reform is too expensive for the country November 12-15, 2009	78	13	8	1
d. Government money might pay for abortions November 12-15, 2009	56	21	22	1
e. The plan might cover illegal immigrants November 12-15, 2009	67	20	14	*

<sup>1</sup> In July, category included those saying "Disproportionately benefits immigrants and minorities."

**IF MORE THAN ONE ITEM IN Q.4a-e IS GIVEN AS A “MAJOR REASON” ASK:**

Q.5 And of the ones you mentioned as major reasons, which is the most important reason why you oppose the health care reform proposals [READ ONLY THE ITEMS MENTIONED AS MAJOR REASON. READ IN SAME ORDER AS IN Q.4]

**BASED ON THOSE WHO OPPOSE [N=440]**

Nov 12-15

2009

38	Too much government involvement in health care
27	Health care reform is too expensive for the country
14	Your own health care may suffer
8	Government money might pay for abortions
7	The plan might cover illegal immigrants
1	Other reason (VOL.)
2	None (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.6 If the government health care reform plan guarantees certain medical benefits for all Americans, do you think that abortion should or should not be included as one of those benefits?

		-----Gallup-----		
Nov 12-15		Aug 8-9 <sup>2</sup>	July 15-17	June 25-28
<u>2009</u>		<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>
28	Abortion should be included	42	44	34
55	Abortion should not be included	49	48	59
11	Depends (VOL.)			
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	8	7

**NO QUESTIONS 7-9**

**QUESTIONS 10-20 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.30 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose making it more DIFFICULT for a woman to get an abortion?<sup>3</sup>

	----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	Strongly Favor	Favor	Total	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	
Nov 12-15, 2009	40	21	20	43	19	24	16
August 11-17, 2009 <sup>4</sup>	41	19	22	50	23	27	9
January, 2007	35	17	18	56	27	29	9
March, 2006	37	15	22	56	24	32	7
December, 2004	36	19	17	55	29	26	9
Early February, 2004	36	17	19	58	30	28	6
November, 2003	35	19	16	57	29	28	8
August, 2003 <sup>5</sup>	36	17	19	57	30	27	7

<sup>2</sup> Gallup question wording in 1994 was: “If the federal government guarantees certain medical benefits for all Americans, do you think that abortion should or should not be included as one of those benefits?”

<sup>3</sup> Questions 30 and 40 were asked later in the survey.

<sup>4</sup> In August 11-17, 2009 and earlier, the question was asked as part of a list.

**Q.30 CONTINUED...**

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
May, 1993	32	15	17	60	35	25	8
May, 1992	30	--	--	62	--	--	8
May, 1990	38	21	17	55	29	26	7
May, 1987	41	18	23	51	33	18	8
May, 1985	47	--	--	49	--	--	4

**Q.40 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

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<sup>5</sup> In August 2003 and earlier the question was worded: "Changing the laws to make it more difficult for a woman to get an abortion."

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent? **IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean	
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>	
				<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>	
Nov 12-15, 2009	25	38	30	5	1	1	11	12	
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13	
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14	
September 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17	
August 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16	
August 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15	
July, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14	
June, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16	
May, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14	
April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18	
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17	
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17	
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2	11	16	
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3	8	15	
<b>Yearly Totals</b>									
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4	
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7	
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5	
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9	
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4	
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0	
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6	
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4	
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4	
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5	
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6	
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5	
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5	
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8	
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6	
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9	
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6	
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7	
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8	
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8	
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3	
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--	
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--	