



spotlight on health care

What Does The Public Want In Health Care?

(NAPSA)—According to a recent survey, over three in four Americans—76 percent—believe health care is in need of major reform. But Congress, the states and policy experts have found little consensus on how to address the problem.

The new poll shows that Americans are worried about rising health care costs and their effect on family budgets. The fear of having to pay for procedures out of pocket keeps 50 percent of all Americans—uninsured and those with coverage—from seeing a physician. And more middle-income families are finding it impossible to pay their increasing share of costs for health insurance offered at the workplace.

Even if job-based coverage is available now, workers are concerned whether their employer will continue to provide it in the future. The number of uninsured increased by 7 million people between 2000 and 2005—mostly full-time workers.

There is also mounting evidence of poor quality and inefficient spending in our health care system. Compared to most nations, we spend twice as much but achieve worse medical outcomes across many measures of care. Nearly 50 percent of Americans do not get recommended care when they seek treatment and many are subject to medical errors.

To help find a solution to the growing health care crisis, the National Coalition on Health Care—the nation's largest, most broadly based nonpartisan alliance seeking health care reform, with 75 member organizations representing over 150 million people—has joined forces with Code-

Americans' Overall Views of the U.S. Health Care System		
Percent saying:	Fundamental changes needed	Rebuild completely
Total	46	30
Insurance status		
Total insured	48	28
Uninsured during year	35	48
Political affiliation		
Republican	43	19
Democrat	44	41
Independent	53	27

Source: Commonwealth Fund Survey of Public Views of the U.S. Health Care System, 2006



More than three-quarters of Americans believe health care in this country is in need of major reform.

BlueNow!, a national, nonpartisan, grassroots organization with members in 47 states.

Together, the organizations are distributing the Health Care Values and Ideas America Opinionnaire®, which allows consumers to weigh in on what is important to them when it comes to health care. This new, interactive, online survey will let people share their views and track how others feel about how to improve our health care system.

“The American public has seldom been asked what is important to them in health care. This Opinionnaire® will permit us to find areas of common ground and to let our elected officials know what our citizens want,” said Patricia Schoeni, Executive Director of the National Coalition.

To give your views on health care reform, fill out The Opinionnaire at www.nchc.org.