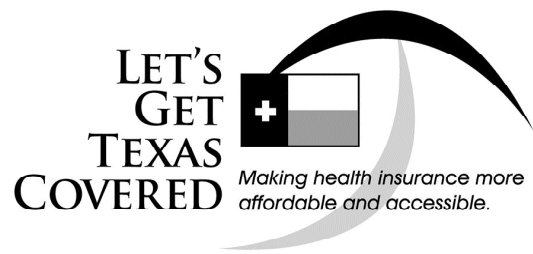


KEY FINDINGS – STATEWIDE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

January 2006



A public opinion survey of 800 Texans in January 2006 found that . . .

1. Respondents overwhelmingly believe that health insurance should be more affordable and accessible.

- Respondents were asked: *“Thinking about health insurance coverage, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose making health insurance more accessible and affordable.”*
- Nearly nine in 10 (86 percent) of respondents favor making health insurance more accessible and affordable, and a significant majority (64 percent) say they *“strongly favor”* it.

2. Respondents overwhelmingly believe that a solution is needed now.

- Eighty-seven percent (87 percent) of respondents agree with the statement: *“Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured residents . . . A solution is needed now.”*
- Sixty-nine percent (69 percent) agree with this statement: *“The fear of losing your job and subsequently your health insurance coverage makes you more supportive of efforts to develop additional ways health care coverage is provided.”*
- Three-quarters (75 percent) of respondents say that the cost of health care has increased compared to one year ago.

3. Respondents clearly understand how every Texan is affected by the high number of uninsured.

- Respondents believe that government programs/taxpayers (42 percent) and people with insurance (29 percent) pay the most for the care hospitals provide to uninsured patients.
- Nearly nine of 10 (88 percent) agree Texas should find a way to increase health insurance among those who need it so that the portion paid by those with health benefits does not continue to increase.
- Eighty-two percent (82 percent) said it is much less expensive to provide health insurance to people so they can see a doctor on a regular basis than it is to pay for their treatment when they go to a hospital without any insurance coverage.
- Seventy percent (70 percent) of respondents said hospitals will be able to provide better care to all patients if the number of insured patients increases.

METHODOLOGY

The statewide telephone survey of 800 Texas voters was conducted by Baseline & Associates, Inc., on behalf of the Texas Hospital Association during Jan. 22-26, 2006. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.5 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.



TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

This information courtesy of the Texas Hospital Association. For more information, contact THA's Communications Department at 512/465-1050 or via e-mail to info@tha.org.