



CBS NEWS POLL
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HEALTH CARE REFORM

August 27-31, 2009

Most Americans find the health care reforms being discussed in Congress confusing, and say President Barack Obama has not clearly explained his plans for health care reform.

Two in three Americans call the health care plans under discussion in Congress confusing; only 31% feel they have a clear understanding of them. This evaluation cuts across party lines, with majorities of both Republicans (69%) and Democrats (58%) finding the current health care proposals confusing.

DO YOU HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF HEALTHCARE REFORM IDEAS?

Yes, understand reforms	31%
No, they're confusing	67

In addition, most Americans (60%) do not think the President has clearly explained his plans for health care reform. While slightly more than half of Democrats think Mr. Obama has clearly explained his plans, majorities of Republicans and independents say he hasn't.

HAS PRES. OBAMA CLEARLY EXPLAINED HIS PLANS FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	31%	12%	52%	25%
No	60	85	38	65

GOVERNMENT VS. PRIVATE INDUSTRY

Americans are now doubtful as to how the government would compare with private insurers. Just under half think the government would do a worse job on providing medical coverage, and only 36% think it would do better -- marking a change since earlier this summer.

There has also been a significant drop in the percentage that thinks government would do better than insurers keeping costs down, from 59% in June to 47% now. Still, more think the government rather than private insurers would do a better job containing costs.

GOVT. VS. PRIVATE INSURERS

	<u>Providing Medical Coverage</u>		
	Now	6/2009	2/2007
Better job	36%	50%	30%
Worse job	47	34	44
No different	5	2	3

	<u>Holding Down Costs</u>		
	Now	6/2009	2/2007
Better job	47%	59%	47%
Worse job	38	26	37
No different	4	3	2

TOWN HALLS

Most Americans have heard or read something about the protestors who have attended recent town hall meetings concerning health care reform. Among those who have heard about them, nearly half (49%) say the protestors do not reflect the views of most Americans, but 41% say they do.

Republicans (66%) think the protestors reflect the opinions of Americans as a whole, while Democrats do not (73%). Among those age 65 and over, 45% believe the protestors' views are in line with those of most Americans - the highest of any age group.

DO TOWN HALL PROTESTORS REFLECT VIEWS OF MOST AMERICANS?

(among those who have heard about protestors)

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	41%	66%	18%	45%
No	49	23	73	44

 This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,097 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone August 27-31, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.