



COLORADO STATEWIDE POLL ON HEALTH CARE QUALITY, ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Key Findings

AUGUST 2021

consumers4qualitycare.org

INTRODUCTION

Before the pandemic, Consumers for Quality Care (CQC) research showed that Americans were more concerned with health care costs than costs related to retirement, housing, childcare and higher education. The pandemic put even more stress on our nation's health care infrastructure and exposed serious flaws in the system for patients; at the center of the issue is how much Americans are paying for care.

Recent research conducted by ALG Research and Keating Research, conducted on behalf of Consumers for Quality Care, shows voters in Colorado and across the U.S. want elected officials to get those costs down, so that they can feel confident that they have access to the quality health care they want, when they need it.



SURVEY RESULTS

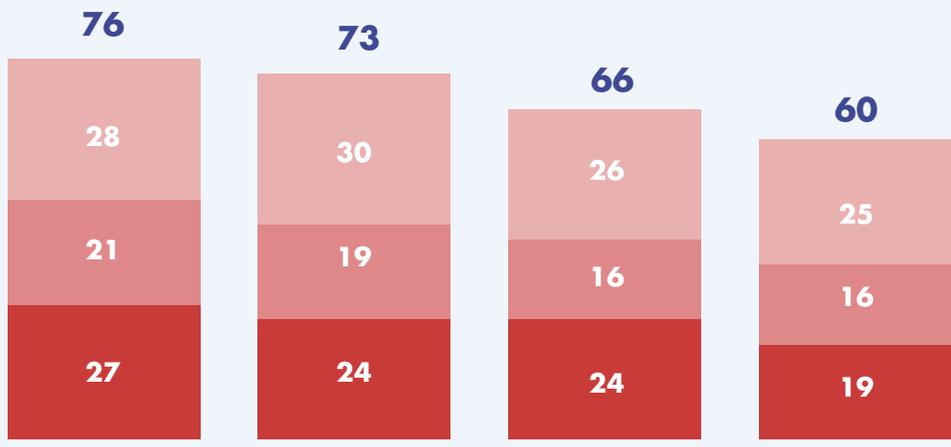
Voters in ALG Research's recent Colorado poll see affordability as a major issue in the state's health care system. While voters generally believe the health care system is meeting their needs and are wary of making fundamental changes to it, especially as we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it's clear out-of-pocket costs are having a serious impact. As a result, voters – even some with insurance – are struggling to afford quality care and are racking up medical debt as costs continue to climb.

**THE OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS THAT BOTHER PEOPLE MOST:
SURPRISE BILLS, HIGH DEDUCTIBLES, AND MONTHLY PREMIUMS.**

Majorities are concerned about getting a surprise bill (76% concerned), being unable to afford a high deductible (73%), and being unable to afford the monthly premium (60%). When it comes to reducing the costs of health care, Colorado voters would most like to see ensuring pre-existing conditions are covered (20%), lower premiums (17%), and lower deductibles (17%).

HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?

■ *Extremely concerned*
 ■ *Very concerned*
 ■ *Somewhat concerned*



I'll get a surprise medical bill that is thousands of dollars

I'll be unable to afford a high deductible for care I need

I'll need to delay seeking care because of high health care costs

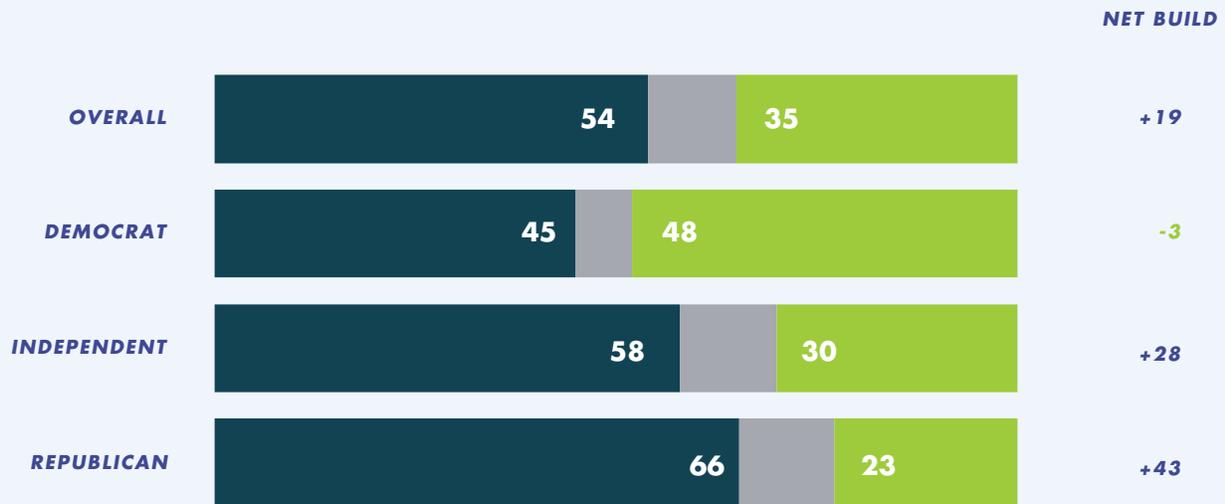
I'll be unable to afford my monthly health care premium

VOTERS WANT TARGETED, CAREFUL FIXES – ESPECIALLY COMING OUT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC – NOT A GOVERNMENT-RUN SYSTEM.

Most agree we should be thoughtful and cautious making changes as we come out of the COVID-19 pandemic (65% agree), and they are looking to Congress for targeted fixes that build on the current system (54%) rather than fundamentally transforming it (35%). A majority of voters (57%) want to see at least some government involvement in providing coverage, but just 15% overall, including 24% of Democrats, want a fully government-run system.

THINKING ABOUT CHANGES CONGRESS COULD MAKE TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, WHICH IS CLOSER TO YOUR VIEW?

Congress should focus more on building upon the current system by making specific fixes, such as reducing out-of-pocket costs
 Don't know
 Congress should focus more on fundamentally transforming the health care system

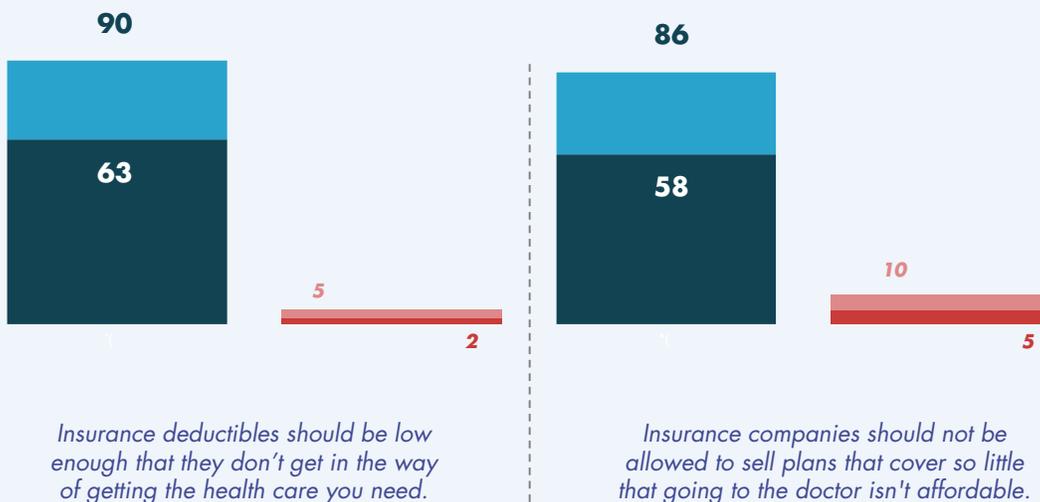


INSTEAD, LEGISLATION THAT ALIGNS WITH THEIR PRIORITIES WOULD:

- Make sure insurance deductibles are low enough that they don't get in the way of getting quality care (90% agree with this).
- Prevent insurance companies from selling plans that cover so little that it isn't affordable to get care (86% agree with this).

DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Somewhat disagree



A MAJORITY, 6-OF-10 VOTERS SUPPORT THE COLORADO STANDARD HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN ACT

that was recently passed by the state legislature (62% support / 16% oppose). Democrats overwhelmingly support the plan (80% support / 9% oppose) and it's noteworthy that Republicans are also supportive by a strong 32-point margin (55% support / 23% oppose).

BY MORE THAN A 5-TO-1 MARGIN, SENATOR MICHAEL BENNET'S LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS THE FDA TO ACCELERATE APPROVAL OF BREAKTHROUGH THERAPIES MAKES VOTERS MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR HIM

(42% more likely / 8% less likely / 39% no difference). Among Independents, 34% say the law he passed would make them more likely to vote for him, 48% say it wouldn't make a difference, and just 5% say it would make them less likely.

ABOUT CONSUMERS FOR QUALITY CARE (CQC)

Consumers for Quality Care (CQC) is a coalition of advocates and former policymakers working to provide a voice for patients in the health care debate as they demand better care. CQC is led by a board of directors that includes the Honorable Donna Christensen, physician and former Member of Congress; Jim Manley, former senior advisor to Senators Edward Kennedy and Harry Reid; and Jason Resendez, community advocate, and health care strategist.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CONSUMERS FOR QUALITY CARE AND THE ISSUES CONSUMERS ARE EXPERIENCING, VISIT

CONSUMERS4QUALITYCARE.ORG

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Key Findings

These findings are from an online survey, designed by ALG Research and Keating Research and conducted by ALG Research July 16-21, 2021 among N=603 registered voters in Colorado. Overall results were weighted to reflect the composition of registered voters in the state.

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