



## Debating Health: Election 2008 Americans' Views on Socialized Medicine

This survey is part of the series, *Debating Health: Election 2008*. The series focuses on current health issues in the presidential campaign. The survey design team includes Professor Robert Blendon, Tami Buhr, John Benson and Kathleen Weldon of the Harvard School of Public Health; and Humphrey Taylor, Scott Hawkins and Justin Greeves of Harris Interactive.

This survey was conducted by telephone within the United States among a nationwide cross section of adults aged 18 and over. The survey was conducted March 5 to 8, 2008 among a representative sample of 1026 respondents. Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region, number of adults in the household, size of place (urbanicity) and number of phone lines in the household were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100 percent response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

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To begin...

Q1 Some people say that the United States has the best health care system in the world. Others say that the health care systems of some other countries are better than the U.S. How about you? Do you think that in general the U.S. has the best health care system or are there other countries with better health care systems?

45% U.S. has best  
39% Other countries have better  
15% Don't know/Refused

Q2. Specifically thinking about Canada, would you say that overall the United States has a better health care system than Canada or a worse health care system than Canada?

40% Better than Canada  
30% Worse than Canada  
4% The same (volunteer)  
26% Don't know/Refused

Q3. What about France? Would you say that overall the United States has a better health care system than France or a worse health care system than France?

31% Better than France  
14% Worse than France  
3% The same (volunteer)  
53% Don't know/Refused

Q4. Specifically thinking about Great Britain, would you say that overall the United States has a better health care system than Great Britain or a worse health care system than Great Britain?

37% Better than Great Britain  
17% Worse than Great Britain  
6% The same (volunteer)  
40% Don't know/Refused

Q5. Thinking about the countries I have just mentioned, would you say that, in general, the United States has a better health care system or a worse health care system than these countries when it comes to ...?

A. Waiting times to see specialists or to be admitted to the hospital

53% U.S. is better  
16% U.S. is worse  
6% Same (volunteer)  
25% Don't know/Refused

B. Making sure everyone can get affordable health care

26% U.S. is better  
52% U.S. is worse  
4% Same (volunteer)  
18% Don't know/Refused

C. The quality of care patients receive

55% U.S. is better  
16% U.S. is worse  
8% Same (volunteer)  
21% Don't know/Refused

D. Controlling health care costs

21% U.S. is better  
56% U.S. is worse  
4% Same (volunteer)  
19% Don't know/Refused

SUMMARY TABLE OF US IS BETTER THAN OTHER COUNTRIES

53% A. Waiting times to see specialists or to be admitted to the hospital  
26% B. Making sure everyone can get affordable health care  
55% C. The quality of care patients receive  
21% D. Controlling health care costs

## SUMMARY TABLE OF US IS WORSE THAN OTHER COUNTRIES

- 16% A. Waiting times to see specialists or to be admitted to the hospital
- 52% B. Making sure everyone can get affordable health care
- 16% C. The quality of care patients receive
- 56% D. Controlling health care costs

Q6. Would you be more likely or less likely to support a presidential candidate who said the United States health care system should be more like the system in these other countries, or would it not make a difference to your vote?

- 37% More likely to support
- 21% Less likely to support
- 29% Doesn't make much difference
- 12% Don't know/Refused

Q7. In politics today, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, an independent or what?

- 26% Republican
- 33% Democrat
- 31% Independent
- 9% Don't know/Refused