

January/March 2008

Q.1. Which of the following would you say best describes your family's financial situation? Select one.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Getting ahead	16	18
Having just enough to get by	56	58
Falling behind	27	23
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.2. Do you think the standard of living for the next generation will be better than today, worse than today or about the same? Select one.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Better than today	5	6
Worse than today	84	80
Same as today	11	13
Not sure/refused	-	1

Q.4. Thinking about health care in America overall, are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with (READ ITEM)?

**the cost of health care in our country**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Satisfied	4	5
Dissatisfied	95	94
Not sure/refused	1	1

**the quality of health care in our country**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Satisfied	35	37
Dissatisfied	64	62
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.5a. Do you and your family have health care coverage?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Yes	77	82
No	6	4
Some family members in the household do, some do not	16	14
Not sure/refused	1	-

**(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY "YES" Q.5a)**

Q.5b. Do you and your family have health care coverage?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Coverage provided through employer (yours, spouse's, partner's or parents)	78	84
Medicare	20	20
Coverage purchased by you or someone in your family	15	13
Other	9	7
Not sure/refused	3	2

**(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY “NO,” “SOME FAMILY MEMBERS DO” OR “NOT SURE” Q.5a)**

Q.5c. Who does not have coverage?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Self	36	31
Spouse/Partner	21	18
Children younger than 18	9	6
Children ages 18-24	21	22
Children ages 24 and older	27	28
Other relatives (parent, sister, brother, etc.)	21	19
Not sure/refused	7	7

Q.6a. Does your health insurance cover all the care you need at a price you can afford?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Yes	42	50
No	52	45
Not sure/refused	6	5

**(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY “NO” Q.6a)**

Q.6b. What is not covered or not affordable?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Prescription drugs	46	47
Preventive care and checkups	36	31
Tests	40	33
Specialists	43	39
Other	35	36
Not sure/refused	8	8

Q.7. If you have employer-provided health coverage, how have your costs for it changed in the past couple years? Select one.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Stayed about the same	20	27
Improved	2	2
Gotten worse	61	59
Not sure/refused	17	12

Q.8. How much did you and your family spend out of pocket for health care in the past year (include premium costs you pay, co-pays, deductibles and prescription costs)?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Nothing	2	1
\$1-\$100	4	5
\$100-\$1,000	30	36
\$1,000-\$5,000	46	45
More than \$5,000	17	12
Not sure/refused	1	1

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Q.9. In the past year, did you or a family member experience any of the following?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Did not visit doctor when sick because of cost	31	22
Skipped medical test, treatment or follow-up recommended by doctor because of cost	33	23
Did not fill a prescription or skipped doses because of cost	29	24
Had serious problems paying or were unable to pay medical bills	23	16
Ran up credit card or other debt you're still paying off due to medical costs	22	17
Considered or filed for personal bankruptcy because of medical debt	5	3
Had to choose between paying for medical care or prescriptions and other essential needs (rent or mortgage, utilities, etc.)	24	19
Not sure/refused	38	47

Q.10. In the past year, has an insurance company initially refused to cover a medical treatment for you or a family member that should have been covered?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Yes	32	32
No	65	66
Not sure/refused	3	2

Q.11. Have you or has a family member stayed in a job to maintain health benefits when you would have preferred changing jobs?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Yes	48	44
No	49	53
Not sure/refused	3	3

Q.12. Overall, what do you think about today's health care system? Choose one.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
It works pretty well. Only minor changes are needed	4	7
Fundamental changes are needed	43	49
It should be completely rebuilt	52	44
Not sure/refused	1	-

Q.13. Looking ahead over the next few years, are you concerned about affording health insurance?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Not concerned	4	6
Somewhat concerned	22	27
Very concerned	73	66
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.14. Are you concerned about losing health coverage because you may lose your job or change jobs?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Not concerned	24	29
Somewhat concerned	26	28
Very concerned	46	40
Not sure/refused	4	3

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Q.15. How important is health care to you as a voting issue in the 2008 elections?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Very important	79	77
One of many serious issues but not top tier	19	20
Not important	1	2
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.16. How much have you heard about health care proposals from the presidential candidates?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
A lot	20	19
Some	69	71
Nothing	10	9
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.18. Below are some of the changes that have been suggested by candidates for office. For each one, choose whether you think it is a good idea that will help you and people like you or whether it is a bogus solution.

**Offer choice of health insurance plans with benefits at least as generous as members of Congress receive**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Good idea	85	85
Not a good idea	12	12
Not sure/refused	3	3

**Require employers to provide health care coverage or contribute to its cost**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Good idea	76	80
Not a good idea	19	16
Not sure/refused	5	4

**Cover preventive care at little or no cost**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Good idea	93	93
Not a good idea	5	4
Not sure/refused	2	3

**Set rules and establish a watchdog on insurance companies to reduce costs**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Good idea	87	88
Not a good idea	9	9
Not sure/refused	4	3

**Use technology to increase efficiency and reduce paperwork**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Good idea	85	86
Not a good idea	10	10
Not sure/refused	5	4

**Establish a watchdog on drug companies to reduce costs**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Good idea	90	91
Not a good idea	7	7
Not sure/refused	3	2

Q.19. Which of the two following statements do you most agree with?

Health care reform should be based on the current private insurance market. If we let the market do its job, companies will compete for customers and that will control costs and quality. People who don't have health coverage now should get tax incentives to help them pay for insurance.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Health care reform should control costs and ensure everyone gets health care at least as good as what they have now. It should let people choose their own doctor and establish government as a watchdog on quality and costs.	13	13
	83	83
Not sure/refused	4	4

Q.20. What steps would you be willing to take to improve health care?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Write a letter to the editor of a magazine or newspaper	39	37
Write to or visit an elected official	61	62
Actively volunteer for a political party or candidate	31	26
Sign a petition	90	89
Attend a rally/demonstration	45	43
Talk to family/friends about the issue	71	68
Send an e-mail to friends or elected officials on the issue	72	72
Not sure/refused	3	3

Q.21. Are you?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Currently employed	70	72
Retired	20	20
Not currently employed and not retirement age	9	7
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.22. What is your age?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
18-29 years	5	5
30-39 years	12	12
40-49 years	21	22
50-64 years	49	48
65 years or older	12	12
Not sure/refused	1	1

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Q.23. What is the last year of schooling you have completed?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
First-11th grade	1	1
High school graduate	11	10
Non-college post-high school (technical school, for example)	8	5
Some college	29	24
College graduate	27	29
Post-graduate school	24	31
Not sure/refused	-	-

Q.24. Are you?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
White/Caucasian, non-Hispanic	86	83
African American, non-Hispanic	5	6
Hispanic/Latino	4	5
Asian Pacific American/East Asian	1	1
Native American	1	1
Biracial/multiracial	2	2
Not sure/refused	1	2

Q.25. Please check all that describe you:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Student	7	7
Have children younger than 18 living with me	22	23
Married	57	55
Domestic partner	8	8
LGBT	4	3
Union member	57	70
Someone in my family or household is a union member	18	21
Not sure/refused	9	6

Q.26. Are you registered to vote?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Yes	97	98
No	2	1
Not sure/refused	1	1

Q.27. Are you planning to vote in the November 2008 elections?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>New York</u>
Yes	97	98
No	2	1
Not sure/refused	1	1