



AP-NORC SURVEY: MAJORITY OF U.S. ADULTS SUPPORT A GREATER GOVERNMENT ROLE IN HEALTH CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS

Republicans and Democrats alike favor a variety of policies to help pay for the costs of receiving and providing long-term care.

Chicago, IL, September 12, 2022 — A new study funded by The SCAN Foundation from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that about half of adults in America think Medicare and Medicaid have a large responsibility to pay for ongoing living assistance for older adults. While many also think private insurers should be responsible, few think that individuals or families should be shouldering the costs of long-term care.

There is bipartisan support for a host of policies to help pay for the costs of long-term care and caregiving, many of which would involve an expanded role for the federal government. Seventy-five percent favor long-term care coverage through Medicare Advantage or supplemental insurance, and about two-thirds support a government-administered long-term care insurance program, government funding for low-income people to receive long-term care in their homes, or Social Security earnings credit for providing care to a loved one.

There is also broad support for the expansion of Medicare into new areas of coverage, like dental care, eye exams, hearing aids, and long-term care, all of which it does not currently cover.

“Too many older adults can’t afford to live where they want as they age. Thankfully, there is broad bipartisan support for reimagining how the government can help all Americans age with choice and dignity,” said Dr. Sarita A. Mohanty, president and CEO of The SCAN Foundation. “The public and private sector must work together to find ways to innovate and scale promising, affordable solutions. Our aging population and caregivers deserve no less.”

Public satisfaction with the current state of health care – overall and for older adults – is quite low. Just 12% of adults think health care in general is handled very or extremely well in the United States, and few think health care for older adults (11%), community support and resources for older adults (11%), and the quality of care at nursing homes (6%) are handled well. Overall, 48% are concerned about personally having access to high-quality health care when they need it.

The survey finds that white adults express more negative attitudes than Black or Hispanic adults about how the United States handles health care generally, the costs of prescription medication, and mental health care, though negativity is high among each of these groups. On the other hand, Black and Hispanic adults express more concern than white adults about personally having access to high-quality health care when they need it (58% and 56%, respectively, vs. 44%).

Women also express more concerns than men about accessing quality health care (53% vs. 42%).

“Dissatisfaction with the health care status quo is widespread across a variety of demographic groups, especially when it comes to caring for older adults,” said Jennifer Benz, deputy director of The AP-NORC Center. “The survey reveals evidence of long-standing health disparities with Black and Hispanic adults especially concerned about their ability to access quality health care as they age.”

About the Study

This survey, funded by The SCAN Foundation, was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Staff from NORC at the University of Chicago, The Associated Press, and The SCAN Foundation collaborated on all aspects of the study.

Survey Methodology

The nationwide poll was conducted in English and Spanish between July 28 and August 1, 2022, using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC’s probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. Online and telephone interviews using landline and cell phones were conducted with adults age 18 and older representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia; 1,505 completed the survey—1,434 via the web and 71 via telephone. African American and Hispanic respondents were sampled at a higher rate than their proportion of the population for reasons of analysis. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.6 percentage points.

For more information, please visit www.longtermcarepoll.org.

About The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

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The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals. In its 10 years, The AP-NORC Center has conducted more than 250 studies exploring the critical issues facing the public, covering topics like health care, the economy, COVID-19, trust in media, and more.

About The SCAN Foundation

The SCAN Foundation is an independent public charity dedicated to creating a society where older adults can access health and supportive services of their choosing to meet their needs. Our mission is to advance a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. Learn more at www.thescanfoundation.org and [@TheSCANFndtn](https://www.instagram.com/TheSCANFndtn).

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