Texas Lyceum Day 1 Executive Summary

Executive Summary of Texans' Attitudes towards Healthcare

Texans see the health of American adults and particularly that of children as worse than 20 years ago, but express little trust in political institutions, whether federal or state, to do what's best for Texans when it comes to healthcare. Given this context, it's not surprising to find that most Texas adults disapprove of how both parties in Congress are handling the issue of healthcare, with the President receiving roughly equal treatment.

When evaluating the current healthcare system, Texans as a whole prize affordability over quality and access, but are split on whether the federal government is responsible for providing healthcare coverage to Americans. Among those who say that this is a government responsibility, about half would support a move to a universal health insurance system, while among those who say that the government is not responsible for providing healthcare coverage, the vast majority express acceptance of government run programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

And despite the political rhetoric, evaluations of Medicare and Medicaid, while more positive for the former, are rather similar among adult Texans, with a majority expressing favorable attitudes towards both programs and roughly a fifth expressing negative opinions.

While most Texans say that reducing the size of the state's uninsured population is important, there is little consensus on who is most responsible for achieving this goal between the federal government, the state government, and individuals.

Despite Texas' relatively high rate of vaccine abstentions, the vast majority of Texans say that the benefits of vaccines outweigh the risks, and only a small, though sizeable minority, say that parents should be allowed to opt their children out of vaccinations.

And while Texas is not considered part of the epicenter of the nation's opioid crisis, roughly a third of Texas adults say that they know someone who has been addicted to prescription pain killers.

Evaluations, Trust, and Approval

A plurality of Texans (48%) say that American adults are less healthy today than they were 20 years ago, with only a quarter saying that American adults are healthier, and 22% saying that their overall health is about the same. However, when it comes to children, a majority of Texans (61%) say that the children of today are less healthy compared with those of 20 years ago, with only 17% saying that American children are healthier and 18% saying that their health is about the same.

Compared with 20 years ago, do you think most American adults are...

Compared with 20 years ago, do you think most American children are...

Percent (y-axis, 0 to 70)

- Healthier today: ~17
- Less healthy today: ~61
- About the same: ~18
- Don't know: ~4
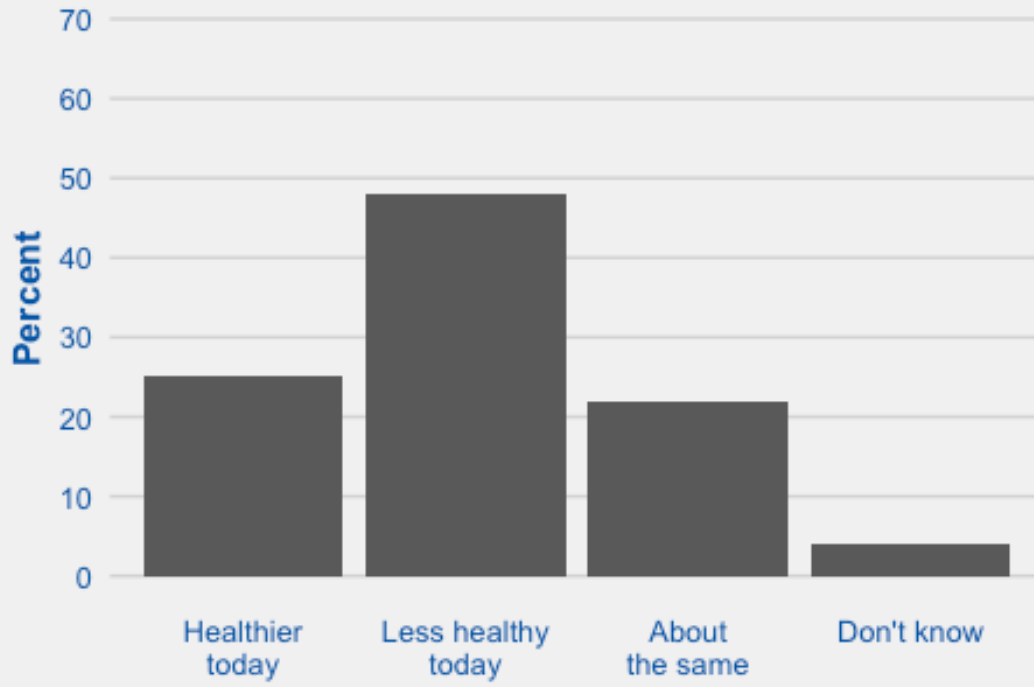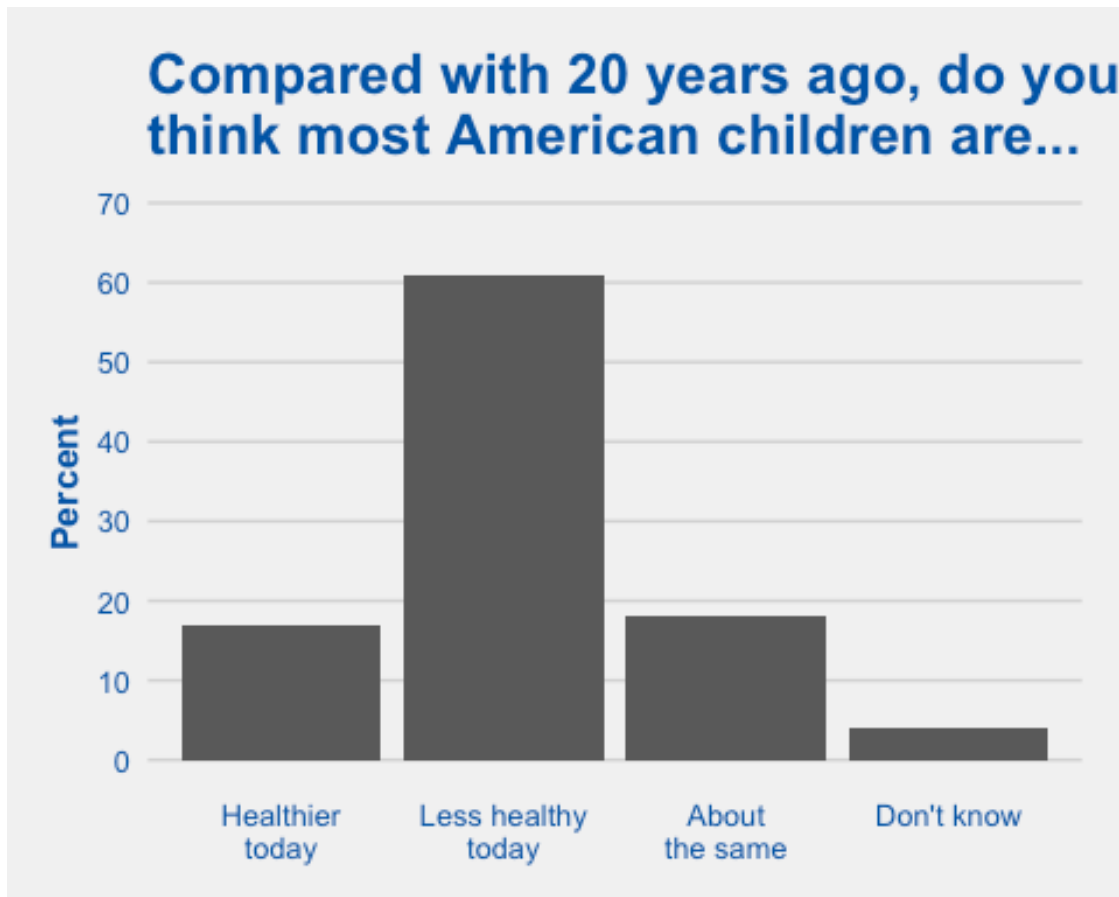
Given this context, Texans place limited faith in the federal government when it comes to heathcare, with only 6% of adults saying that they trust the federal government *a great deal* "to do what's best for Texans when it comes to healthcare." Another 25% say that they trust the federal government "a fair amount," with the remaining 71% saying that they either have little or no trust in the federal government's ability to do what's best for Texans when it comes to healthcare.

Texans' trust for their state government is only somewhat better, with 8% saying that they have *a great deal* of trust that the state government will do what's best for Texans when it comes to healthcare. Another 33% say that they have a fair amount of trust, with 34% saying that they have *not very much* trust, and 24% saying that they have no trust at all.

Looking to the current political environment, a majority of Texas adults (53%) say that they disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling the issue of healthcare, with 30% approving. Between the parties in Congress, 61% disapprove of the way Republicans are handling the issue of healthcare, while an almost equal share (58%) disapprove of the way that Democrats in Congress are handling the issue of healthcare.

The Texas Legislature receives slightly better ratings than their federal counterparts, with only 40% disapproving of its handling of healthcare, but without necessarily leading to more positive evaluations. Only 25% of Texans approve of the Legislature's handling of

healthcare, compared with 30% for President Trump, 20% for Republicans in Congress, and 19% for Democrats in Congress.
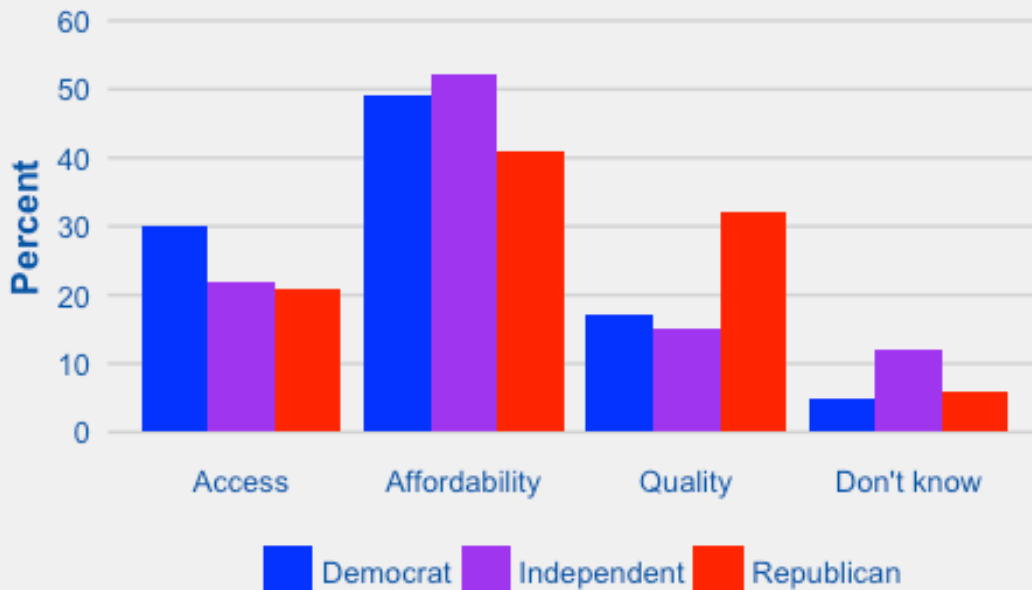
Evaluating the Current Healthcare System and Alternatives

When asked to consider what's most important in the healthcare system in the United States between affordability, access, and quality, the vast majority of Texans think that each is *very important* (at least 84% for each). But when asked which among affordability, access, and quality is most important, a plurality of Texans (46%) say that affordability is most important, with roughly equal shares saying access (25%) and quality (22%).
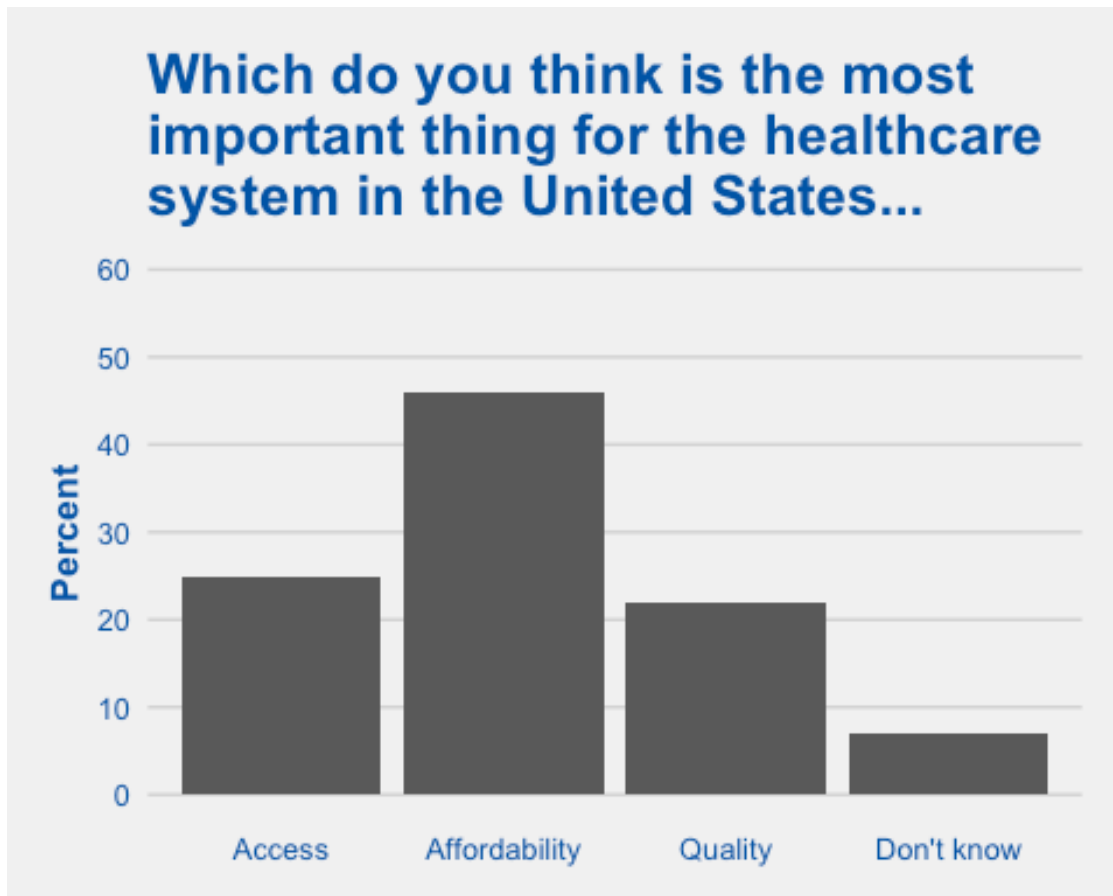

Among partisans, affordability is still the plurality choice, but differences emerge as to the second highest rated goal, with Democrats choosing access and Republicans choosing quality.

Which do you think is the most important thing for the healthcare system in the United States...

When considering the current healthcare system, and given the negative evaluations that Texans offer for the federal government's handling of healthcare, the survey asked Texans whether they think making sure all Americans have healthcare coverage *is* a responsibility of the federal government, or whether it is not a government responsibility. Overall, a slight majority of Texans (54%) say that "it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have healthcare coverage," with an almost equal share (46%) saying that this is not a government responsibility.

Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have healthcare coverage?
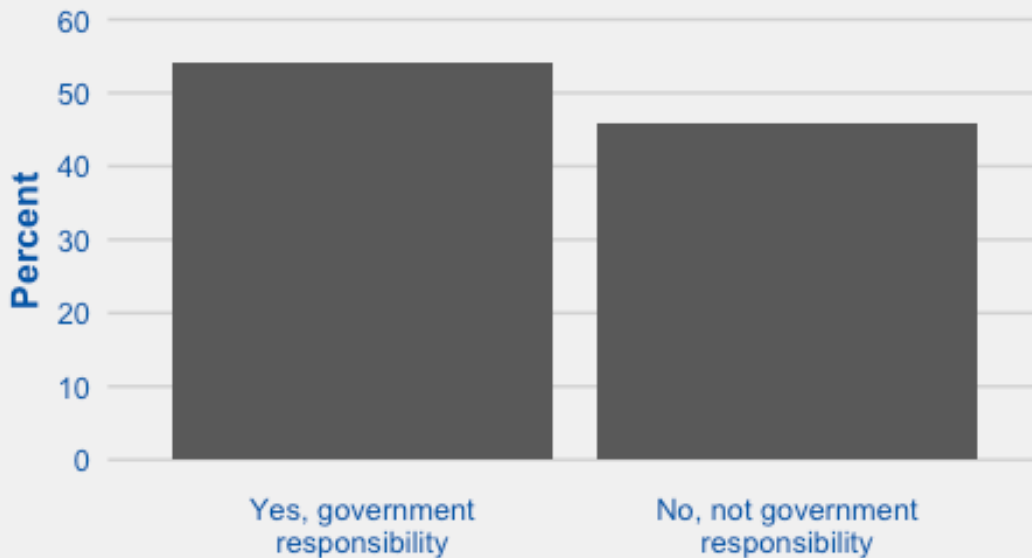
Not surprisingly, there are major partisan differences to these results: the vast majority of Texas Democrats (79%) say that ensuring healthcare coverage is a government responsibility, while 72% of Texas Republicans say the opposite.

However, the federal government is already heavily involved in the U.S. healthcare system, so respondents were asked a follow-up question depending on their initial answer to probe deeper attitudes about government involvement in healthcare. Among those who said that providing healthcare coverage is a government responsibility (54%), they were then asked which of the following is closer to their opinion regarding health insurance: it should be provided by a single national health insurance system, or by a mix of private insurance companies and government programs. Texas adults were split between these two options, with 46% preferring a national health insurance system provided by the government, and 43% endorsing what is essentially the current system of private health insurance and government programs.

Among those who say that the federal government should not be responsible for providing healthcare coverage (46%), the vast majority (84%) said that the government should continue programs like Medicare and Medicaid, while only 11% of those respondents (or 5% of Texans overall) said that the government should play no role in providing healthcare coverage.

Medicare and Medicaid

Given the broad acceptance of government health insurance programs like Medicare and Medicaid, and in particular, the latter's ever-present consideration in Texas' budgets, the Lyceum poll asked respondents to evaluate each of the best known government run health insurance programs.

Overall, a majority of Texans have a favorable view of Medicare (64%), with only 21% expressing an unfavorable attitude. Democrats were more favorable than Republicans (70% to 63%), but both groups were overwhelmingly positive.

When it comes to Medicaid, there were clearer differences, but less negativity than one might expect given the political rhetoric around the government run health insurance program for the poor. Overall, 57% expressed a favorable attitude towards Medicaid, while 23% expressed an unfavorable attitude. Sixty-eight percent of Democrats expressed a favorable attitude towards Medicaid compared with 51% of Republicans.
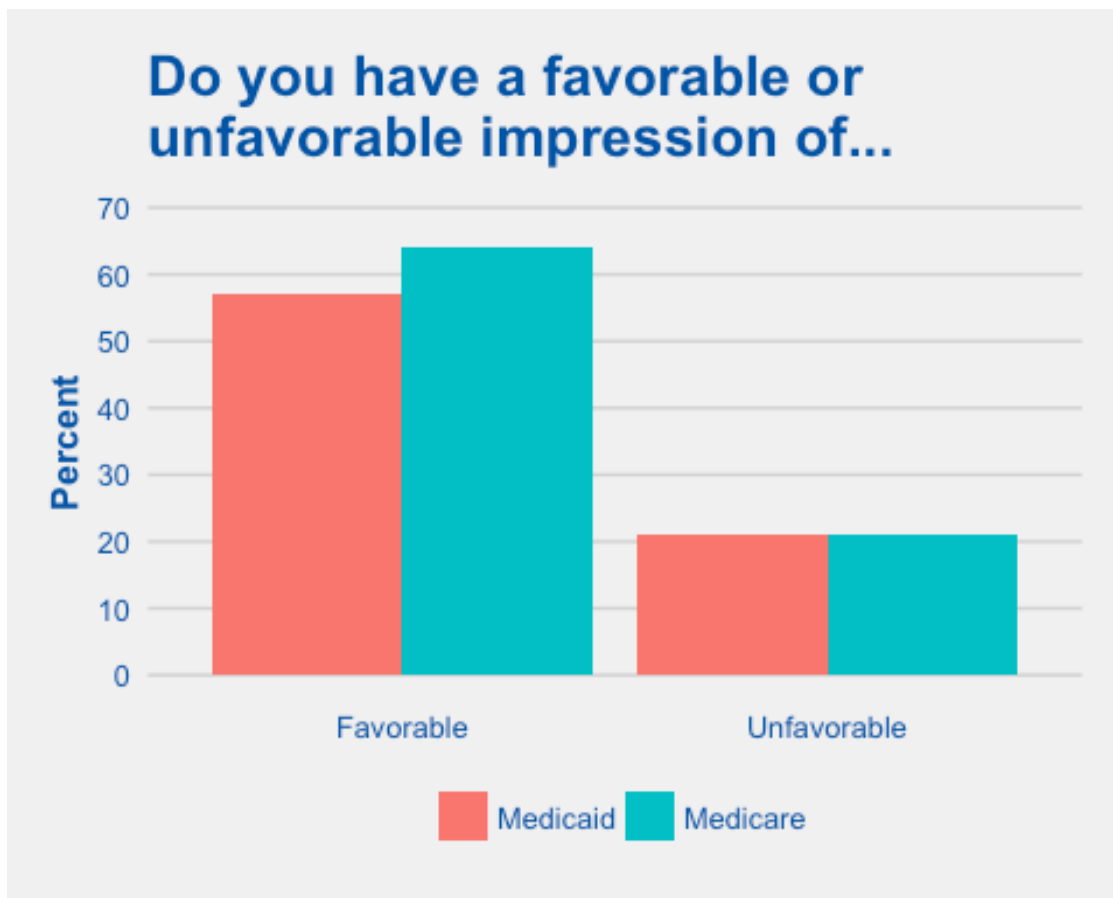

Texas' Uninsured Population and Access to Care

Given that Texas regularly ranks at the top of lists of states with the highest rates of uninsured individuals, the survey asked Texas adults how important it is that we reduce the number of Texans who currently lack health insurance. Overall, 64% of Texas adults

said that reducing the number of uninsured Texans is *very important*, with another 26% saying that it is *somewhat important*, and only 10% saying that it is either *not very* or *not at all important*.

The relative intensity attached to this opinion varied by party, with 79% of Democrats saying that reducing the uninsured population is *very important* compared with 50% of Republicans. Women were also more likely than men to say that reducing the uninsured population was very important (70% to 58%).

When asked who is most responsible for reducing the number of Texans who do not currently have health insurance, opinions were mixed. A slight plurality of adult Texans (28%) said the federal government, with an almost equal share (24%) saying the state government, and another 22% saying that it is the responsibility of individuals.

Who do you think is most responsible for reducing the number of Texans who do not have health insurance?
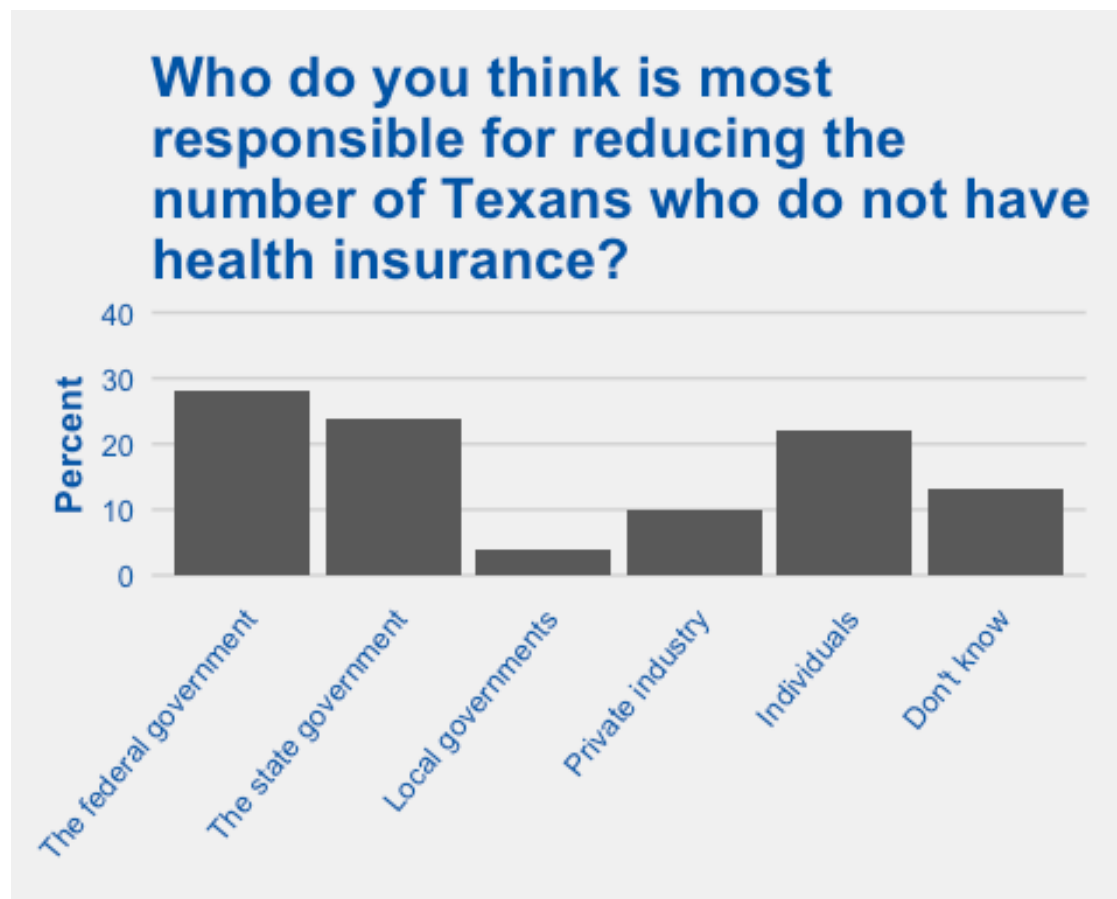
Among partisans, a larger plurality of Republicans see reducing the uninsured population as the responsibility of individuals (38%), while among Democrats, a larger plurality see this as the responsibility of the federal government (40%).

Despite the issues with healthcare coverage, 75% of Texas adults say that they currently have one person that they think of as their primary care doctor or healthcare provider, and a similar share (74%) say that they have gone to a healthcare provider for a physical or

checkup in the last year. Rates for dental checkup and/or cleanings (64%), eye exams (57%), and flu shots (51%) were lower.

Vaccines

Texas also has one of the highest rates of unvaccinated children in the country according to recent studies, but Texans as a whole agree that children should be vaccinated: 76% of Texas adults say that the benefits of vaccines outweigh the risks, compared to only 13% who say that the risks outweigh the benefits. In addition, Texans overwhelmingly believe that even healthy children should be required to get vaccinated (78%), with a small, though sizeable minority (16%), expressing the opinion that parents should be able to decide NOT to vaccinate their children.
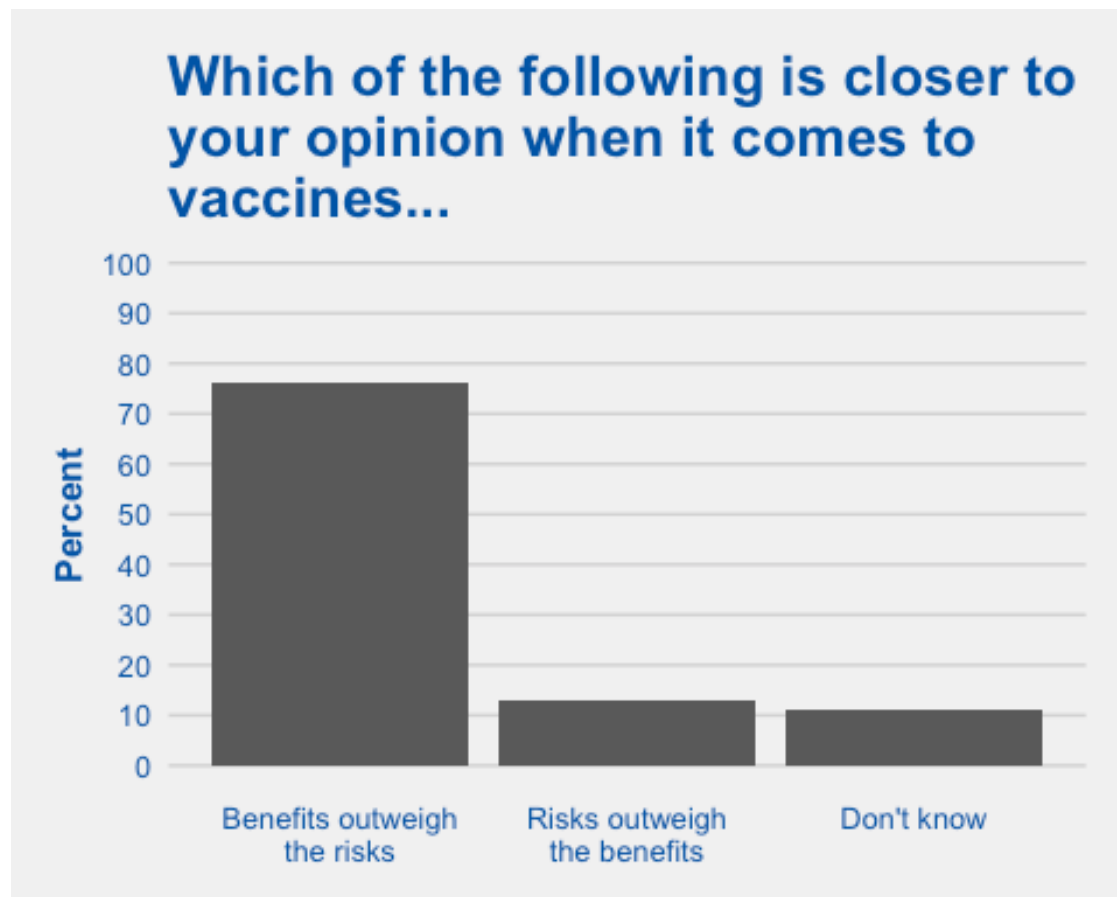
Opioid Crisis and its Toll on Texas

While Texas is not considered part of the epicenter of the nation's opioid crisis, roughly a third of Texas adults (36%) say that they know someone who has been addicted to prescription pain killers. Anglo Texans are more likely than Hispanic or African American Texans to say that they know someone who has been addicted to prescription drugs (49% among Anglos, 23% among Hispanics, and 24% among African Americans).

Do you personally know anyone who has ever been addicted to prescription painkillers, or not?
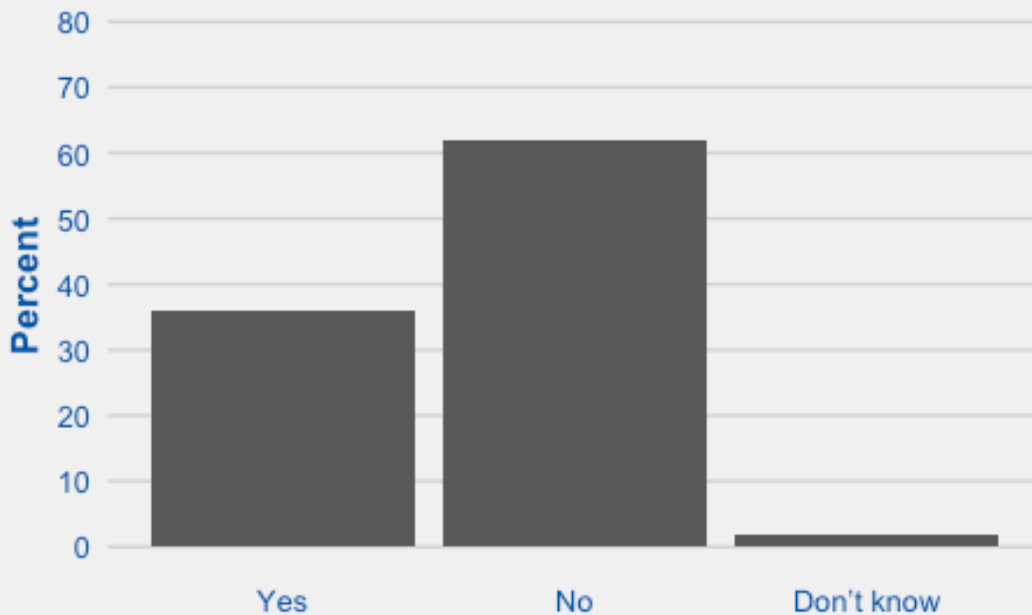
Healthcare News

A plurality of Texas adults (28%) say that they most trust cable news for information about proposed changes to the U.S. healthcare system. Another 15% say that their most trusted source is national broadcast news, followed by local television and online news (9% each).

Methodology

From July 9-26, 2018, The Texas Lyceum conducted a telephone survey of adult citizens from the state of Texas. The survey utilized a stratified probability sample design, with respondents being randomly selected at the level of the household and questioned by live interviewers. The survey also employed a randomized cell phone supplement, with 50 percent of completed interviews being conducted among cell phone only or cell phone dominant households. A Spanish-language instrument was developed and bilingual interviewers offered respondents a chance to participate in English or Spanish. On average, respondents completed the interview in 17 minutes. Approximately 6,100 records were drawn to yield 1,005 completed interviews. To insure an appropriate sub-sample of unregistered citizens, a supplement of 173 interviews among Texans confirmed as unregistered was completed online. This yields a total statewide sample of 1,178 adults, 806 registered voters (confirmed by matching individual respondents with records from the Texas statewide voter file), and 441 likely voters (determined by past vote history from

the voter file and current interest in the election). The final data set is weighted by race/ethnicity, age and gender to achieve representativeness as defined by the Texas Department State Health Services 2018 population projections. The overall margin of error for the poll is +/- 2.86 percentage points. The margin of error for the registered voters is +/- 3.45 percentage points. The margin of error for likely voters is +/- 4.67 percentage points.

The Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum has committed to annual probability samples of the state of Texas to bolster its understanding of public opinion on crucial policy issues. The professional rationale for the Texas Lyceum Poll is straightforward: a non-partisan, high quality, scientific survey designed to provide (1) specific data points on issues of interest, and (2) a time series of key demographics, attitudes, and opinions. Towards this end, the trademark of the Texas Lyceum Poll is transparency. Top-line and detailed cross-tabular results of each poll will be made available on the Texas Lyceum website at www.texaslyceum.org.

The Texas Lyceum, now 38 years strong, is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of Texas leaders. The Texas Lyceum consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state. Directors begin their service while under the age of 46 and have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas.

The Texas Lyceum acts as a catalyst to bring together diverse opinions and expertise to focus on national and state issues, and seeks to emphasize constructive private sector, public sector, and individual responses to the issues. To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts periodic public forums, commissions The Texas Lyceum Poll, and convenes programs for the Directors to explore and discuss key economic and social issues of the state and nation.

SECTION III: ISSUES & POLICY

Now, turning to the issue of health care...

[RANDOMIZE Q17A-Q17B]

Q17A.   How much do you trust the federal government to do what's best for Texans when it comes to health care? A great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or not at all.

1. A great deal   6%
2. A fair amount   25
3. Not very much   34
4. Not at all   35

Q17B.   How much do you trust the state government to do what's best for Texans when it comes to health care? A great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or not at all.

1. A great deal   8%
2. A fair amount   33
3. Not very much   34
4. Not at all   24

Q18A.   Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the issue of health care?

1. Approve   30%
2. Disapprove   53
3. DON'T KNOW   17

[ROTATE Q18B-Q18C]

Q18B.   Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress are handling the issue of health care?

1. Approve   20%
2. Disapprove   61
3. DON'T KNOW   19

Q18C.   Do you approve or disapprove of the way Democrats in Congress are handling the issue of health care?

1. Approve   19%
2. Disapprove   58
3. DON'T KNOW   23

Q19.   Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Texas Legislature is handling the issue of health care?

1. Approve   25%
2. Disapprove   40
3. DON'T KNOW   35

[RANDOMIZE Q20-Q21]

Q20.   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Medicare? *Would that be somewhat or very (favorable/unfavorable)?*

1. Very favorable   25%
2. Somewhat favorable   39
3. Somewhat unfavorable   15
4. Very unfavorable   6
5. DON'T KNOW   16

Q21.   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Medicaid? *Would that be somewhat or very (favorable/unfavorable)?*

1. Very favorable   19%
2. Somewhat favorable   38
3. Somewhat unfavorable   14
4. Very unfavorable   9
5. DON'T KNOW   20

Q22.   Thinking about the health care system in the United States, how important is **[RANDOMLY SELECT FROM A-C BELOW]**? Very important, somewhat important, not very important, not at all important? How about **[RANDOMIZE FROM REMAINDER OF LIST; KEEP DRAWING UNTIL LIST IS COMPLETE]**? **[REPEAT RESPONSE OPTIONS IF NECESSARY]**

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important
Affordability	88%	10%	1%	2%
Quality	86%	12%	1%	1%
Access	84%	14%	1%	1%

Q22A.   And which do you think is the most important thing for the health care system in the United States among ...**[RANDOMIZE 1-3]**

1. Affordability   46%
2. Quality   22
3. Access   25
4. DON'T KNOW   7

Q23.   How important is it that we reduce the number of Texans who do not have health insurance? Very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important.

1. Very important   64%
2. Somewhat important   26
3. Not very important   4
4. Not at all important   6

Q24.   Who do you think is most responsible for reducing the number of Texans who do not have health insurance? **[RANDOMIZE 1-5]**

1. The federal government   28%
2. The state government   24
3. Individuals   22
4. Private industry   10
5. Local governments   4
6. Don't know/No opinion   13

Q25.   Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, or is that not the responsibility of the federal government?

1. Yes, government responsibility   54%
2. No, not government responsibility   46

Q26A.   **[ASK IF Q25 = 1]** Which of the following is closer to your opinion, health insurance should...

1. Be provided through a single national health insurance system run by the government, or   46%
2. Continue to be provided through a mix of private insurance companies and government programs   43
3. DON'T KNOW   11

Q26B.   **[ASK IF Q25 = 2]** Which of the following is closer to your opinion, the government should...

1. Not be involved in providing health insurance at all, or   11%
2. Continue programs like Medicare and Medicaid for seniors and the very poor   84
3. DON'T KNOW   5

Q27.   Which of the following is closer to your opinion when it comes to vaccines…

1. The benefits of childhood vaccines for
    measles, mumps and rubella outweigh
    the risks, or   76%
2. The risks of childhood vaccines for
    measles, mumps and rubella outweigh
    the benefits   13
3. DON'T KNOW   11

Q28.   And which of the following is closer to your opinion when it comes to vaccines…
[RANDOMIZE 1-2]

1. Parents should be able to decide
    NOT to vaccinate their children,
    even if that may create health risks
    for other children and adults   16%
2. Healthy children should be required to
    be vaccinated in order to attend public
    schools because of the potential risk for
    others when children are not vaccinated   78
3. DON'T KNOW   5

Q29.   What type of health insurance do you currently have?

1. Employer provided   44%
2. Individually pay for it   15
3. Enrolled in a government health insurance
    program (for example, Medicare or Medicaid)   26
4. Do not currently have health insurance   13
5. Don't know/Refused

Q30.   Compared with twenty years ago, do you think most American adults are…

1. Healthier today   25%
2. Less healthy today   48
3. About the same   22
4. DON'T KNOW   4

Q31.   Compared with twenty years ago, do you think most American children are…

1. Healthier today   17%
2. Less healthy today   61
3. About the same   18
4. DON'T KNOW   3

Q32.   Within the past 12 months, have you... **[RANDOMIZE FROM LIST; KEEP DRAWING UNTIL LIST IS COMPLETE]**

       A. Gone to a health care provider for a general physical checkup exam
          a. Yes   76%
          b. No   26

       B. Had a dental checkup or teeth cleaning
          a. Yes   64%
          b. No   36

       C. Had an eye exam
          a. Yes   57%
          b. No   43

       D. Had a flu shot
          a. Yes   51%
          b. No   49

Q33.   Do you currently have one person you think of as your primary care doctor or health care provider that you usually go to when you are sick or need health care, or not?

       1. Yes   75%
       2. No   25
       3. DON'T KNOW   1

Q34.   What news media source do you most trust for information about proposed changes to the U.S. Health Care system? **[OPEN-ENDED, RECORD RESPONSE OPTION]**

       1. National cable news (CNN, Fox, MSNBC)   28%
       2. National broadcast news (ABC, CBS, NBC)   15%
       3. Local television   9
       4. Online news   9
       5. Talk radio   4
       6. Social media (Facebook, Twitter)   3
       7. National newspapers   3
       8. Local newspapers   3
       9. Other   2
       10. Don't know/No opinion   25

Q35.   Do you personally know anyone who has ever been addicted to prescription painkillers, or not?

       1. Yes   36%
       2. No   62
       3. DON'T KNOW   2

We're almost done. The final questions are for statistical purposes…

AGEG.

1.	18-29	23%
2.	30-44	27
3.	45-64	33
4.	65+	18

MARRIED. What is your current marital status?

1.	Never married	27%
2.	Married	54
3.	Divorced	11
4.	Widowed	5
5.	Separated	2
6.	DON'T KNOW	1

INCOME. What was your total household income for 2017? **[READ CATEGORIES]**

1.	Less than $15,000	9%
2.	$15,0000-$25,000	11
3.	$25,000-$40,000	13
4.	$40,000-$75,000	22
5.	$75,000-$150,000	22
6.	More than $150,000	9
7.	DON'T KNOW	14

EDOFR. What is the highest level of education you completed? **[READ CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY]**

1.	Less than high school	4%
2.	High school	23
3.	Some college	25
4.	College degree	30
5.	Post-graduate degree (MA, LLD, PhD)	17
6.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	1

RELIGION. What is your religious denomination **[PRON: DEE-NOM-I-NATION]?**

1.	Protestant	14%
2.	Catholic	25
3.	Other Christian	34
4.	Jewish	2
5.	Muslim, Buddhist, or other non-Christian	4
6.	Agnostic/Atheist	9
7.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	13

FUND. **[IF RELIGION EQ 1]** Would you say that you are evangelical, fundamentalist, or born-again?

1.	Yes	63%
2.	No	36

RACE. Would you say that you are…

1.	Anglo/Anglo	46%
2.	African American	11
3.	Hispanic	36
4.	Other	6

LIBCON. Generally speaking, would you say that you are…

1.	Liberal	17%
2.	Moderate, or	34
3.	Conservative.	37
4.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	13

PID3.

1.	Democrat	39%
2.	Neither	22
3.	Republican	39

PID7.

1.	Strong Democrat	14%
2.	Weak Democrat	11
3.	Lean Democrat	14
4.	Independent	22
5.	Lean Republican	11
6.	Weak Republican	11
7.	Strong Republican	16

GENDER. (BY OBSERVATION)

1.	MALE	49%
2.	FEMALE	51

Thank you very much for your time today/ this evening! Have a good day/evening.