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Interviews: 805 adults, including
81 reached by cell phone
Date: August 15-17, 2009

FINAL

Study #9669
NBC News Health Care Survey
August 2009

48 Male
52 Female
[109]

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

The margin of error for 805 interviews is $\pm 3.5\%$

(ASKED ONLY OF SAMPLE TYPE 2--CELL PHONE ONLY RESPONDENTS.)

1. Do you have a landline in addition to your cell phone, or is your cell phone the only telephone you have?

Have a landline	-	TERMINATE	[138]
Cell phone is only telephone.....	100	CONTINUE	
Not sure	-	TERMINATE	

2a. For statistical purposes only, would you please tell me how old you are? (IF "REFUSED," ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

18-24	7	[145-146]
25-29	5	
30-34	10	
35-39	6	
40-44	8	
45-49	9	
50-54	11	
55-59	10	
60-64	10	
65-69	9	
70-74	5	
75 and over.....	8	
Not sure/refused	2	

2b. To ensure that we have a representative sample, would you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

Yes, Hispanic.....	10	[147]
No, not Hispanic	90	
Not sure/refused	-	

2c. And again, for statistical purposes only, what is your race—white, black, Asian, or something else?

White	78	[148]
Black.....	11	
Asian	1	
Other	2	
Hispanic (VOL)	8	
Not sure/refused	-	

3. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that Barack Obama is doing as president?

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	<u>6/09</u>	<u>4/09</u>	<u>2/09</u>	
Approve	51	53	56	61	60	[149]
Disapprove.....	40	40	34	30	26	
Not sure	9	7	10	9	14	

4. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing in handling the issue of health care reform?

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	<i>Bill Clinton</i>		
			<u>7/94</u>	<u>6/94</u>	
Approve	41	41	40	43	[150]
Disapprove.....	47	46	52	47	
Not sure	12	13	8	10	

5. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the way that Republicans in Congress are handling the issue of health care reform?

Approve	21	[151]
Disapprove	62	
Not sure.....	17	

Thinking some more about the issue of health care . . .

6. Do you think the American health care system needs a complete overhaul, major reform, minor reform, or is there no need for change?

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>4/09</u>	
A complete overhaul.....	21	33	[152]
Major reform	39	37	
Minor reform	31	21	
No need for change	7	7	
Not sure	2	2	

7a. From what you have heard about Barack Obama's health care plan, do you think his plan is a good idea or a bad idea? If you do not have an opinion either way, please just say so.

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	<u>6/09</u>	<u>4/09</u>	
Good idea	36	36	33	33	[153]
Bad idea	42	42	32	26	
No opinion	17	17	30	34	
Not sure	5	5	5	7	

- 7b. And from what you have heard about Barack Obama's health care plan, do you believe it will result in the quality of your health care getting better, worse, or staying about the same as now? If you do not have an opinion, please just say so.

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	<u>4/09</u>	
Getting better	24	21	22	[154]
Getting worse.....	40	39	24	
Staying about the same	27	29	29	
No opinion.....	7	9	20	
Not sure	2	2	5	

8. Thinking about efforts to reform the health care system, which would concern you more?

Not doing enough to make the health care system better than it is now by lowering costs and covering the uninsured. OR

Going too far and making the health care system worse than it is now in terms of quality of care and choice of doctor.

Not doing enough	41	[155]
Going too far.....	54	
Not sure.....	5	

And thinking about one aspect of the debate on health care legislation. . .

9. Would you favor or oppose creating a public health care plan administered by the federal government that would compete directly with private health insurance companies?

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	
Favor	43	46	[156]
Oppose	47	44	
Not sure	10	10	

10. Please tell me which ONE statement you agree with more on the issue of creating a new public health plan administered by the federal government.

(Some/Other) people say it would help lower health care costs because it would compete with private health plans. This new public plan would provide coverage for the uninsured and all Americans would have an option for quality affordable health care.

(Some/Other) people say that patients might not always have access to their choice of doctors and the government would lower costs by limiting medical treatment options and decisions that should be made instead by patients and doctors.

	<u>8/09</u>	<u>7/09</u>	<u>6/09</u>	
Lower costs and provide health care for all Americans	45	41	47	[157]
Limit access to doctors and medical treatment options	48	52	42	
Not sure.....	7	7	11	

11. Do you have a health plan, that is, are you covered by a private health insurance plan or by a government program such as Medicare, Medicaid, or Tricare? **(IF RESPONDENT OFFERS MORE THAN ONE, ASK:)** Well, what kind of plan would you say your primary plan is?

YES, private health insurance	60	[158]
YES, MediCARE	17	
YES, MediCAID	3	
YES, Tricare	2	
NO, do not have a health plan.....	14	
Other	3	
Don't know/refused.....	1	

12. Now I am going to tell you more about the health care plan that President Obama supports and please tell me whether you would favor or oppose it.

The plan requires that health insurance companies cover people with pre-existing medical conditions. It also requires all but the smallest employers to provide health coverage for their employees, or pay a percentage of their payroll to help fund coverage for the uninsured. Families and individuals with lower- and middle-incomes would receive tax credits to help them afford insurance coverage. Some of the funding for this plan would come from raising taxes on wealthier Americans.

Do you favor or oppose this plan? **(IF "FAVOR/OPPOSE," ASK:)** And do you strongly or only somewhat (favor/oppose) this plan?

	8/09	7/09	6/09	4/09 ¹	
Favor	53	56	55	56	[166]
Strongly	35	NA	NA	NA	
Somewhat.....	18	NA	NA	NA	
Oppose	43	38	35	33	
Somewhat.....	14	NA	NA	NA	
Strongly	29	NA	NA	NA	
Depends (VOL).....	2	3	3	6	
Not sure.....	2	3	7	5	

¹In April 2009, this question was worded, "...the health care plan President Obama proposed..."

13. Have you seen, read, or heard the news coverage about people protesting against the health care plan at town hall meetings with Members of Congress?

Yes.....	85	CONTINUE	[167]
No.....	14	Skip to Q.15	
Not sure.....	1		

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE SEEN/READ/HEARD NEWS COVERAGE OF PROTESTS IN "YES" IN Q.13.)

- 14a. Has what you have seen, read, or heard about these town hall meeting protests made you more favorable toward, less favorable toward, or made no difference in your feelings about President Obama's health care plan?

More favorable.....	16	[168]
Less favorable	19	
Made no difference.....	62	
Not sure.....	3	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE SEEN/READ/HEARD NEWS COVERAGE OF PROTESTS IN "YES" IN Q.13.)

14b. And do you think that these protests are doing more harm than good, or more good than harm?

More harm than good	43	[169]
More good than harm	42	
Both (VOL).....	4	
Neither (VOL)	5	
Not sure.....	6	

(ASK EVERYONE)

15. Let me read you a number of criticisms that town hall protesters have made about the proposed health care plan. For each one, please tell me whether this seems to you to be likely to happen or unlikely to happen.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY LIKELY TO HAPPEN

	Likely To Happen	Unlikely To Happen	Not Sure	
Will give health insurance coverage to illegal immigrants	55	34	11	[170]
Will lead to a government takeover of the health care system.....	54	39	7	[173]
Will use taxpayer dollars to pay for women to have abortions	50	37	13	[172]
Will allow the government to make decisions about when to stop providing medical care to the elderly.....	45	50	5	[171]

16. From which ONE of the following television news sources do you get MOST of your information about the health care debate? If you do not watch any of these, please just say so.

Broadcast network news, such as NBC, ABC, or CBS	40	[174]
The cable channel CNN	17	
The cable channel MSNBC	7	
The cable channel Fox News	23	
None of these.....	11	
Not sure	2	

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school	1	[175-176]
Some high school	5	
High school graduate.....	26	
Some college, no degree.....	17	
Vocational training/2-year college.....	10	
4-year college/bachelor's degree	25	
Some postgraduate work, no degree.....	2	
2-3 years postgraduate work/master's degree.....	10	
Doctoral/law degree.....	2	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

F2. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else? **(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:)** Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? **(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:)** Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent?

Strong Democrat	24	[177]
Not very strong Democrat.....	9	
Independent/lean Democrat	8	
Strictly Independent.....	22	
Independent/lean Republican.....	9	
Not very strong Republican	8	
Strong Republican	12	
Other (VOL).....	5	
Not sure.....	3	

F3. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative? **(IF "LIBERAL" OR "CONSERVATIVE," ASK:)** Do you consider yourself to be very (liberal/conservative) or somewhat (liberal/conservative)?

Very liberal.....	9	[178]
Somewhat liberal	14	
Moderate	34	
Somewhat conservative	22	
Very conservative	16	
Not sure.....	5	

F4. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than ten thousand dollars, between ten thousand dollars and twenty thousand dollars, between twenty thousand dollars and thirty thousand dollars, between thirty thousand dollars and forty thousand dollars, between forty thousand dollars and fifty thousand dollars, between fifty thousand dollars and seventy-five thousand dollars, between seventy-five thousand dollars and one hundred thousand dollars, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$10,000	4	[179]
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000.....	7	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	11	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000.....	8	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000.....	9	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	16	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000.....	12	
More than \$100,000	19	
Not sure/refused	14	