

Examining Health Care: What's the Public's Prescription?

National Issues Forums by the
American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences
Kettering Foundation

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The Partners

- The Kettering Foundation researches strategies that strengthens the role of citizens in self-governance.
- National Issues Forums is an independent network of civic and educational organizations that uses research-based issue books as a tool to deliberate public issues.
- AAFCS is a professional organization working to improve the quality of individual and family life.

What is the deliberative process?

Deliberative democratic practice

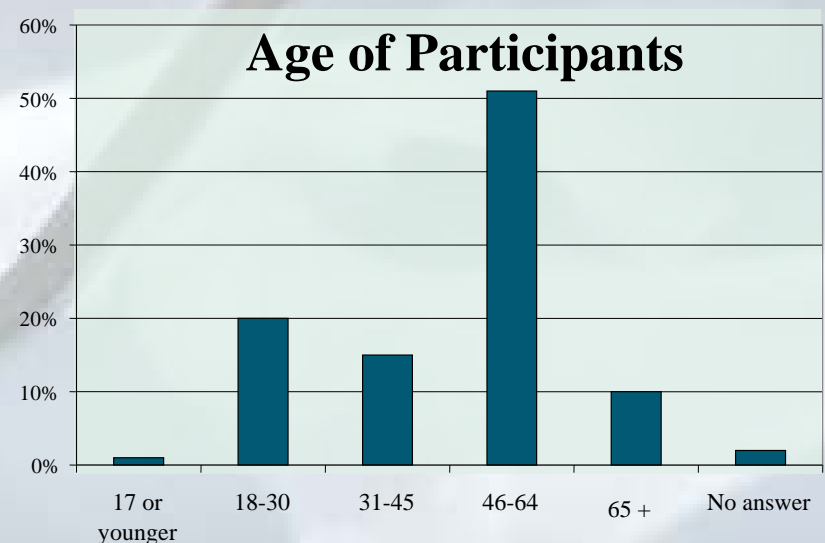
- Involves people in town meeting-style deliberation of public issues
- Allows participants to discuss, not debate, concerns, drawbacks, and tradeoffs
- Encourages participants to search for a shared sense of direction before taking action
- Creates a public voice to influence policy
- Engages citizens in follow-up actions

Demographic Data

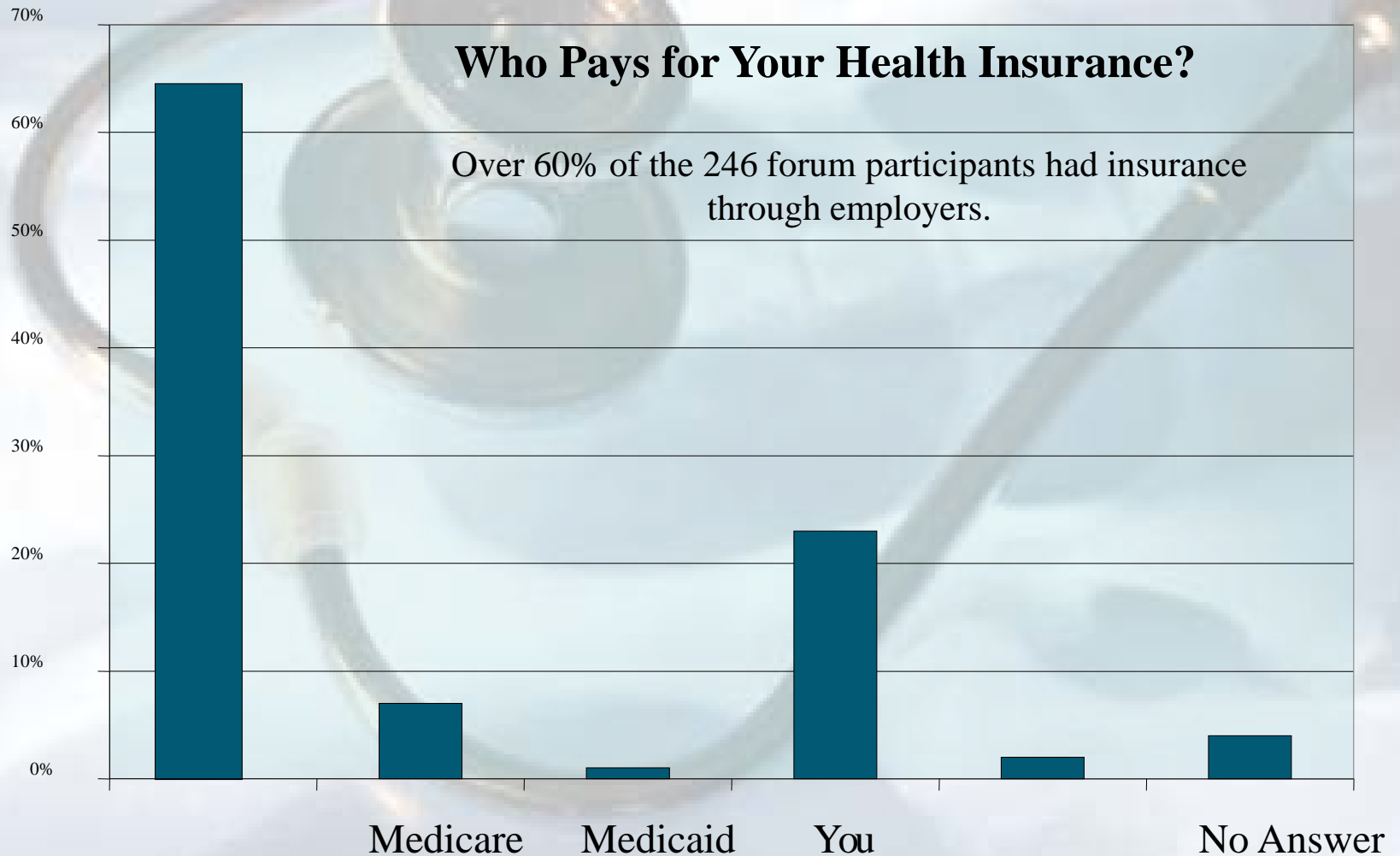
- Nine state affiliates hosted 12 deliberative forums, with 246 individuals completing post-forum questionnaires.
- Forum participants were predominantly white (87%) females (93%).
- Fifteen percent lived in rural areas, 45% in small towns, 13% in large cities, and 25% in suburban areas.

Demographic Data

- Forum host states:
Arkansas,
Georgia, Maryland,
Mississippi, Oklahoma,
South Dakota,
Washington,
West Virginia,
Wisconsin
- Majority of participants were 46 to 64 years of age.



Health Insurance Coverage



Participant Perspectives on Health Care in America

Do you agree or disagree with the statements listed below?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
All Americans should have some kind of health insurance	74%	20%	2%	2%	2%
Doctors should treat patients as full partners in their own health care.	71%	26%	1%	0%	1%
Huge malpractice awards are driving up the cost of health care.	56%	29%	8%	3%	4%
Regardless of income, minorities do not receive the same quality of health care as whites do.	29%	33%	16%	10%	12%
The public should have easier access to information about doctors' mistakes.	44%	39%	12%	2%	3%
Patients dealing with many parts of the health care system often have no one to oversee the whole picture.	59%	35%	2%	1%	3%

Participant Perspectives on Health Care Policy Reform

Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure	No Answer
Expand Medicare to include prescription drugs.	57%	31%	4%	2%	5%	1%
Require doctors to be retested periodically, to ensure that they are still competent.	50%	39%	7%	2%	2%	0%
Make people whose choice of behavior threatens their own health, pay more for insurance.	45%	37%	13%	3%	2%	0%
Have the government collect and publish information on medical mistakes.	46%	30%	12%	5%	7%	1%
Provide all Americans with health care they can afford.	39%	28%	10%	10%	12%	0%
Create local and regional health care systems to make doctors and hospitals share services and equipment.	33%	48%	8%	3%	8%	0%

Participant Perspectives on Health Care Policy Tradeoffs

Do you favor or oppose the statements listed below?	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure	No Answer
Health care providers should coordinate and share facilities and resources, EVEN IF patients would have to wait longer for some services.	10%	44%	26%	11%	8%	1%
Doctor should spend more time with their patients, EVEN IF this raises the cost of health care.	16%	56%	16%	3%	7%	0%
All Americans should have access to basic health care services, EVEN IF this means cutting coverage of some costly treatments.	22%	41%	15%	11%	10%	1%

Implications for Public Policy

- Find ways to provide insurance for all Americans - 41 million citizens without insurance is unacceptable
- Consider ways to limit malpractice costs

Implications for Associations

- Offer forums - citizens can and will engage in deliberation

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