Summary Report of Findings From the Critical Insights on Maine™ Survey for Maine Consumers for Affordable Health Care

October 2020
Introduction
Background & Methodology

- Each spring and fall, Critical Insights, a division of Digital Research, Inc. conducts the Critical Insights on Maine™ tracking survey, a comprehensive, statewide public opinion survey of registered voters that covers a variety of topics of interest to businesses, government, and the general public.
- Critical Insights on Maine™ has been documenting the attitudes, perceptions, and preferences of Maine’s residents for more than 20 years, making it the longest-running consistently-administered tracking survey in the Northeast.
  - In addition to general-interest items (the results of which are released to the media as a public service), the survey also includes a number of proprietary items for sponsoring entities, with results of those items released only to those sponsors.
- This document presents the results of questions included in the fall 2020 wave of the survey on behalf of Consumers for Affordable Health Care.

- This wave of the survey included a total of 600 respondents across the state who were surveyed by phone (300 respondents) or online (300 respondents) in September and October of 2020.
  - With a total sample of 600 respondents, results presented here have a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.
  - All survey respondents were registered voters who live in Maine; final data were statistically weighted to reflect the demographics of the state’s population.
  - On average, the entire survey was 20 minutes in administrative length – including both general-interest items and all proprietary subscriber items.
Proprietary Results
Three out of four surveyed voters in Maine are concerned about the costs of prescription drugs, with half describing themselves as very or somewhat concerned.

**Concern About the Costs of Prescription Drugs**

- **Total Concerned:**
  - 2018: 74%
  - 2020: 73%

Concern about the costs of prescription drugs has remained steady since 2018.

- Concern about the costs of prescription drugs is equally high among all demographic groups and both congressional districts.

**How concerned are you about the cost of prescription drugs for yourself and your family?**

- **Not Concerned at All**
  - 2018: 25%
  - 2020: 23%

- **A Little Concerned**
  - 2018: 19%
  - 2020: 20%

- **Somewhat Concerned**
  - 2018: 21%
  - 2020: 24%

- **Very Concerned**
  - 2018: 34%
  - 2020: 29%

- **Not Sure**
  - 2018: 1%
  - 2020: 4%

(n=600)
Very large majorities of Maine voters support controls on prescription drug prices. At least eight out of ten are in favor of requiring drug companies to release information on how they set drug prices or assessing penalties for unjustified increases in prescription drug costs. Roughly seven out of ten would support an Office of Affordable Health Care or limiting drug prices to the price paid by Canadians.

Support for Policies That Address Prescription Drug Prices

- Requiring drug companies to release information to the public on how they set their drug prices: 64% Strongly Support, 21% Somewhat Support, 85% Total Support
- A law that penalizes drug manufacturers who increase drug prices without sufficient evidence to justify such increases: 62% Strongly Support, 19% Somewhat Support, 82% Total Support
- Creating an independent Office of Affordable Health Care in Maine to analyze, monitor and report health care spending trends in an effort to reduce health care cost: 38% Strongly Support, 31% Somewhat Support, 68% Total Support
- A law preventing State or private health plans from purchasing drugs at a cost higher than the price paid by Canadians: 43% Strongly Support, 22% Somewhat Support, 65% Total Support

(n=600)

To what extent would you support or oppose these potential policies that are designed to reduce health care and prescription drug costs?
At least four out of ten voters in Maine are worried about losing health insurance coverage or remaining uninsured. Just as many are concerned about the affordability of health insurance.

**Concerns About the Cost of Health Insurance**

- Losing your health insurance coverage and becoming uninsured: 27% Very Concerned, 18% Somewhat Concerned, 44% Total Concerned
- Remaining uninsured without health insurance coverage: 26% Very Concerned, 14% Somewhat Concerned, 40% Total Concerned
- Receiving an unexpected health care bill for services you believed were covered by your health insurance plan: 30% Very Concerned, 21% Somewhat Concerned, 52% Total Concerned
- Not being able to afford health insurance: 29% Very Concerned, 16% Somewhat Concerned, 46% Total Concerned
- Not being able to afford to pay copays, deductibles, and coinsurance: 25% Very Concerned, 17% Somewhat Concerned, 42% Total Concerned

One-third of all surveyed Mainers are worried about BOTH losing coverage AND remaining uninsured (34%).

Mainers younger than 35 and those who have not graduated from college are more likely than their counterparts to be concerned about several of these issues.

How concerned are you, personally, about the following in terms of your or your family’s access to health care?
Seven out of ten voters are in favor of a proposal that would help Mainers manage their health insurance. Another seven out of ten would support a publicly-funded insurance option in the state.

Support for Expanding Health Insurance Access

Continuing to fund an independent, nonprofit organization to help Mainers understand their health insurance options, apply for coverage, and assist people with filing appeals if they are denied coverage

- Strongly Support: 45%
- Somewhat Support: 29%
- Total Support: 73%

A publicly-funded, nonprofit health care coverage program where Mainers could purchase a comprehensive health plan that would cost less than private insurance

- Strongly Support: 50%
- Somewhat Support: 22%
- Total Support: 72%

To what extent would you support or oppose these potential policies that are designed to reduce health care and prescription drug costs?
Many Mainers are concerned about their access to a variety of medical services.

How concerned are you, personally, about the following in terms of your or your family’s access to health care?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Very Concerned</th>
<th>Somewhat Concerned</th>
<th>Total Concerned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not being able to access mental health or substance use</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>treatment</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not being able to access or afford the COVID-19 testing or</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>treatment you or a family member need</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not being able to go to the dentist</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not being able to afford the prescription drugs or medicine</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you need</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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