

“What’s Important to You?” Responses to the On-line Questionnaire

Instructions for Accessing These Data

Between October 4, 2005 and August 31, 2006, the Working Group received 4,600 on-line responses to its questionnaire “*What’s Important to You?*” The questionnaire contained questions that flowed directly from the Congressional guidance (in the law) to the Working Group, as well as a number of demographic questions so we could better understand who our respondents were.

The data submitted throughout this 10-month period are included in the Microsoft Excel Worksheet available here. To analyze these data, it is necessary to understand the way in which the questions were asked, when they were asked, and how responses were recorded on the spreadsheet being made available to the public.

The spreadsheet includes responses to several iterations of open-ended questions:

- From October 4, 2006 to October 24, 2006, the questionnaire contained eight open-ended questions, listed below. They were followed by two demographic questions – gender and age.
 1. ***What concerns you most about health care in America today?***
 2. ***We want to know what health care benefits and services Americans want. What health care benefits and services are most important to you?***
 3. ***Our current way of paying for health care includes payments by individuals, employers, and government. Are there any changes you think should be made to this system?***
 4. ***Because health care is very personal, we all have opinions about how we and our families get the care we need and want. How do you want your health care delivered and what’s most important to you about the kind of care you get?***
 5. ***What have you seen in American health care that works well?***
 6. ***What trade-offs do you think the American public is willing to make in either benefits or financing to ensure access to affordable, high quality health care?***
 7. ***What is your single most important recommendation to make to improve health care for all Americans?***
 8. ***Is there anything else you would like to share with us about health care in America?***
- In order to reduce redundancy and increase information about who was writing to us, on October 25, 2006, questions 2, 4, 5, and 8 were dropped from the questionnaire and demographic questions on race, education, and health insurance status were added.

The following table identifies each of the fields in our database and the period each question was posted on the website. Because of the changes to the questions discussed above, it is important to identify which columns in the spreadsheet apply to the data for a given respondent, based on date. Due to space limitations, some fields are truncated.

Data Field

Dates of Data Collection

Respondent ID (Automated Unique Identifier)	10/4/2005 to 8/31/2006
1646_What concerns you most about health care	10/4/2005 to 8/31/2006
1712_Our current way of paying for health care	10/4/2005 to 8/31/2006
1714_What trade-offs do you think the America	10/4/2005 to 8/31/2006
1648_What is your single most important recommendation	10/4/2005 to 8/31/2006
1743_We have a few final questions just to	10/6/2005 to 8/31/2006
2153_ How old are you?	2/3/2006 to 8/31/2006
1749_Are you Hispanic or Latino?	10/25/2005 to 8/31/2006
1750_Which of these groups best represents you	10/25/2005 to 8/31/2006
1751_What is the highest grade or year of school	10/25/2005 to 8/31/2006
1752_Do you have any kind of health care coverage	10/25/2005 to 8/31/2006
1711Priv_We want to know what health care benefit	10/4/2005 to 10/24/2005
1713Priv_Because health care is very personal, we	10/4/2005 to 10/24/2005
1647Priv_What have you seen in American health ca	10/4/2005 to 10/24/2005
1715Priv_Is there anything else you would like to	10/4/2005 to 10/24/2005
1720Priv_We have a few final questions just to he	10/4/2005 to 10/6/2005 became 1743
1806Priv_Are you Hispanic or Latino?	Version never used
1806CommPriv_Are you Hispanic or Latino?	Version never used 10/4/2006 to 2/2/2006 became 2153
1719Priv_How old are you?	Version never used
2176Priv_16. Which of these groups best represen	Version never used
2176CommPriv_16. Which of these groups best represen	Version never used 10/4/2005 only became 1720
1718Arch_We have two final questions just to help	Version never used
1748ArchPriv_Are you Hispanic or Latino?	Version never used
State	10/4/2005 to 8/31/2006
ResponseDate (Automated Date)	10/4/2005 to 8/31/2006

This questionnaire was the first the Working Group posted on its website. The purpose of using open-ended questions at the outset was to give the public an opportunity to “speak freely” to the Working Group about the health care issues that were most important to them.

In addition to the on-line responses to this questionnaire, we also received 1,600 hard-copy responses from individuals and organizations that printed out the questionnaire and mailed the paper forms to us.

The first set of questions was followed by a health care poll that was more highly structured and intended to obtain the public’s input on specific policy issues and options. A third on-line poll solicited comments on the Interim Recommendations of the Working Group. Data from these additional sets of questions are posted separately.