

Harvard School of Public Health/*Boston Globe*

MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH REFORM LAW 2011

May 24-26, 2011

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Massachusetts Health Reform Law 2011
Topline Results

The study was conducted for the Harvard School of Public Health and The Boston Globe via telephone (landline and cell phone) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from May 24 to 26, 2011 among a representative sample of 537 respondents age 18 and older in the state of Massachusetts. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The margin of error is +/-5.32 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The previous press release concerning 2009 data reported fractions among those who had heard/read at least a little about the bill; this release reports fractions among the total survey respondents representing all Massachusetts residents for both 2009 and 2011.

- As you may know, Massachusetts has a law that is aimed at assuring that virtually all Massachusetts residents have health insurance. How much have you heard or read about this Massachusetts law? Would you say a great deal, quite a bit, just some, only a little, or nothing at all?

	A great deal/Quite a bit			Just some/Only a little			Nothing at all	Don't know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	NET	Just some	Only a little			
5/26/11	54	26	28	37	22	15	9	--	--
9/16/09	50	26	23	40	27	13	10	--	--

- Given what you know about it, in general, do you support or oppose the Massachusetts Universal Health Insurance Law?

	Have heard/read about MA Universal Health Ins. Law					Have not heard/read about MA Universal Health Ins. Law	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Support the law	Oppose the law	Don't know	Refused			
5/26/11	91	63	21	6	*	9	--	--
9/16/09	90	53	25	11	*	10	--	--

- Do you think the Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law should be repealed, continued as the law currently stands, or continued but with some changes made?

	9/16/09	5/26/11
Have heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	90	91
Law should be repealed	10	9
Law should be continued as it currently stands	20	23
Law should be continued but with some changes made	51	51
Don't know	9	7
Refused	*	1
Have not heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	10	9
Don't know	--	--
Refused	--	--

Note: percentages less than .5 are reported as *; percentages of 0 are reported as --

4. The law requires that all uninsured Massachusetts residents either purchase health insurance or pay a fine. If a state agency determines that a person can't afford a policy, they would not be required to buy one or they would receive help paying part or all of their insurance premiums. Do you support or oppose state government requiring uninsured residents to purchase health insurance?

	Support	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
5/26/11	51	44	4	1

5. Based on what you know about the Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law, how successful do you think the law has been at reducing the number of uninsured in Massachusetts? Would you say, very successful, somewhat successful, not very successful, or not successful at all?

	9/16/09	5/26/11
Have heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	90	91
Law is successful	57	68
Very	18	21
Somewhat	39	47
Law is not successful	19	14
Not very	14	8
Not at all	5	6
Don't know	13	8
Refused	*	1
Have not heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	10	9
Don't know	--	--
Refused	--	--

Note: percentages less than .5 are reported as *; percentages of 0 are reported as --

6. Generally speaking, do you think this Health Insurance Law is helping, hurting, or not having much of an impact on (INSERT)?

The Quality of Your Health Care

	9/16/09	5/26/11
Have heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	90	91
Law is helping the quality of your health care	21	22
Law is hurting the quality of your health care	13	14
Law is not having much of an impact on the quality of your health care	50	52
Don't know whether law is helping/hurting	6	3
Refused	*	*
Have not heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	10	9
Don't know	--	--
Refused	--	--

The Cost of Your Health Care

	9/16/09	5/26/11
Have heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	90	91
Law is helping the cost of your health care	18	23
Law is hurting the cost of your health care	22	30
Law is not having much of an impact on the cost of your health care	42	33
Don't know whether law is helping/hurting	8	4
Refused	*	*
Have not heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	10	9
Don't know	--	--
Refused	--	--

Your Ability to Pay Medical Bills if You Were to Get Sick

	9/16/09	5/26/11
Have heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	90	91
Law is helping your ability to pay medical bills if you were to get sick	22	27
Law is hurting your ability to pay medical bills if you were to get sick	13	13
Law is not having much of an impact on your ability to pay medical bills if you were to get sick	48	47
Don't know whether law is helping/hurting	7	5
Refused	*	*
Have not heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	10	9
Don't know	--	--
Refused	--	--

The Length of Time it Takes for You to Get an Appointment

	5/26/11
Have heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	91
Law is helping the length of time it takes for you to get an appointment with a doctor	13
Law is hurting the length of time it takes for you to get an appointment with a doctor	17
Law is not having much of an impact on the length of time it takes for you to get an appointment with a doctor	53
Don't know whether law is helping/hurting	7
Refused	*
Have not heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	9
Don't know	--
Refused	--

Note: percentages less than .5 are reported as *; percentages of 0 are reported as --

7. As you may know, the cost of health care has been rising for some people over the past few years. Do you think the rising cost of health care in Massachusetts is due mainly to this Health Insurance Law or due mainly to other factors?

	Due mainly to this health insurance law	Due mainly to other factors	Don't know	Refused
5/26/11	20	72	6	2

8. Looking to the future, do you think Massachusetts can afford to continue with this health insurance law as it currently stands, or do you think the state cannot afford to continue with this law?

	9/16/09	5/26/11
Have heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	90	91
Can afford to continue	36	42
Cannot afford to continue	39	38
Don't know if can afford/cannot afford to continue	15	9
Refused	1	1
Have not heard/read about MA Universal Health Insurance Law	10	9
Don't know	--	--
Refused	--	--

9. In general, do you support, oppose or neither support nor oppose the health care reforms that were passed by Congress in March of 2010?

	SUPPORT			OPPOSE			Neither	Don't Know	Refused
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly			
5/26/11	40	19	21	27	9	18	24	9	*

10. Former Governor Mitt Romney, who helped to pass the Massachusetts Health Insurance Law, has taken the position that the Massachusetts law should NOT have been used as a model for the health care reforms that were passed by Congress in March of 2010.

Do you personally think the Massachusetts Health Insurance Law SHOULD have been used as model or do you think the Massachusetts Health Insurance Law SHOULD NOT have been used as a model?

	Should have been used as a model	Should not have been used as a model	Don't know	Refused
5/26/11	43	47	8	1

11. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? (IF NECESSARY: This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchase yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid?)

	Yes, covered	No, not covered	Don't know	Refused
5/26/11	93	6	--	1
9/16/09	94	5	1	*

- 11a. Have you gotten insurance or changed your insurance because of the Massachusetts law requiring everyone to have health insurance?

	5/26/11
Have health insurance	93
Have gotten insurance or changed insurance because of the law	11
Have not gotten insurance or changed insurance because of the law	82
Not covered by any form of health insurance	6
Don't know	--
Refused	1

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Comparative questions from AP-GfK Poll, conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications, March 24-28, 2011. N=1001 adults nationwide. Margin of error ± 4.2 .

Q. In general, do you support, oppose or neither support nor oppose the health care reforms that were passed by Congress in March of 2010?

	Support	Oppose	Neither	Unsure
3/11	35	45	17	2

Note: percentages less than .5 are reported as *; percentages of 0 are reported as --