



The American Panel Survey

A Quick Look at Americans' View of Healthcare Options, January 2017

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House Republicans are struggling to define a new plan to replace the ACA (Obamacare). They are doing this at a time when Pew Research indicates that public support for the 2010 law is at an all-time high.¹ In January, *The American Panel Survey* asked its panel about several aspects of the ACA and alternative plans.

As Figure 1 indicates, TAPS confirms the Pew finding that a slightly more Americans oppose repealing ACA than support repeal. These attitudes are highly structured by party, as Table 1 shows. The vast majority of Democrats oppose repeal; the vast majority of Republicans favor repeal.

Several features of Obamacare are quite popular. Prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions (Figure 2), requiring certain preventive services to be provided without additional out-of-pocket changes (Figure 3), and allowing people to be include on parents policies until age 26 (Figure 4) are very popular. These features increase the cost of providing insurance coverage and are proving to be a challenge to congressional Republicans' efforts to create less expensive health insurance options.

While a small majority of Americans oppose repeal of the ACA, the penalty for failing to acquire health insurance is opposed by a large plurality (Figure 5). In mid-February, it was reported that Republicans were considering premium penalties paid to insurance companies as an alternative to the tax penalty under the ACA. We did not survey our panel about this plan yet.

In sum, as of January 2017, Americans

- are nearly evenly divided on repealing the ACA, with opponents to repeal outnumbering supporters of repeal;
- expensive features of the ACA remain very popular; and
- the tax penalty for mandated coverage is unpopular.

In a future report, we will provide more analysis on how partisan and other characteristics structure opinions about healthcare proposals.

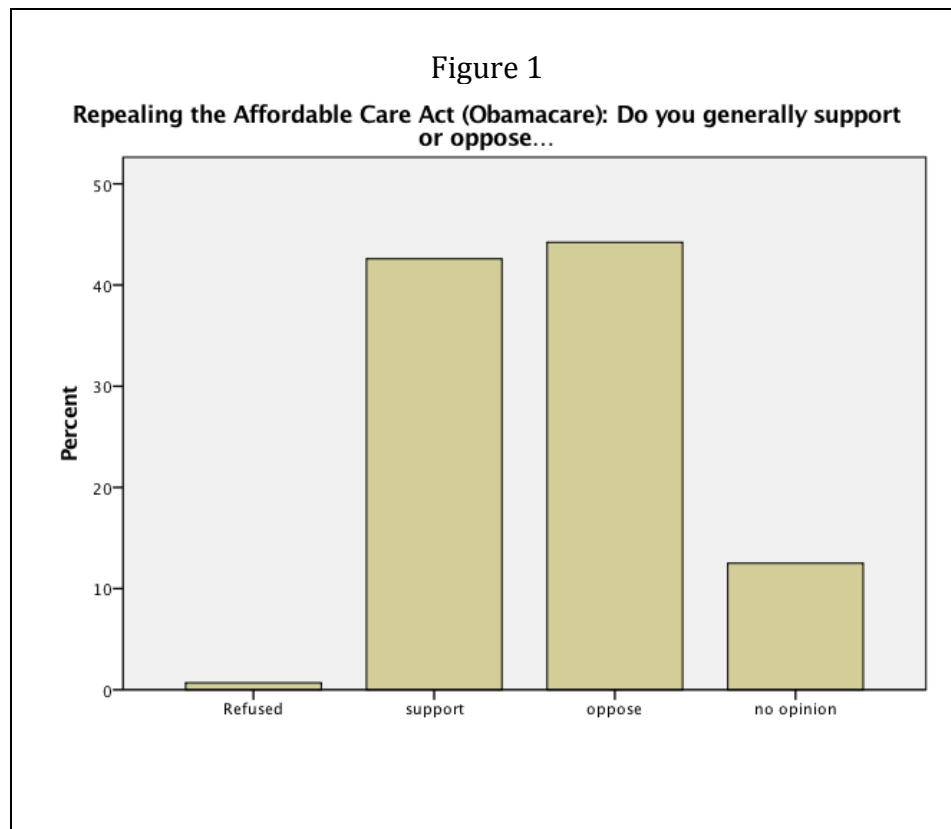


Figure 2

The federal health care law should prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage based on a person's medical history.

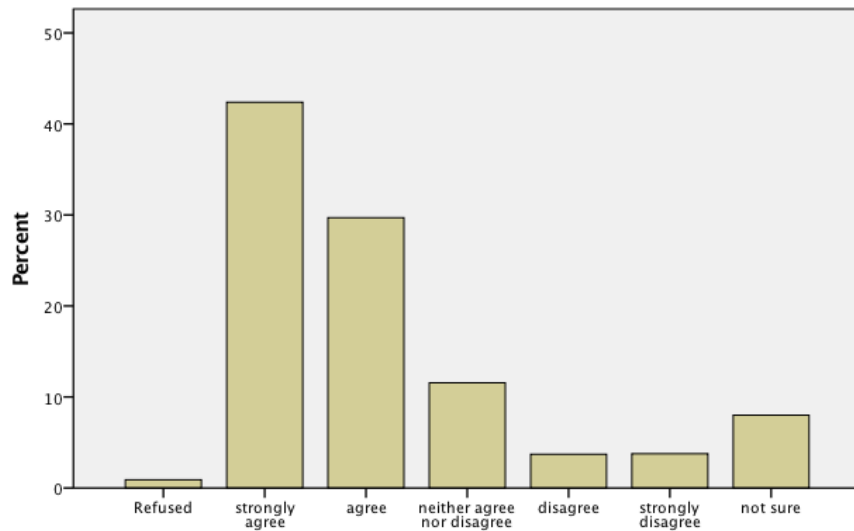


Figure 3

The federal health care law should eliminate out-of-pocket expenses for many preventative services.

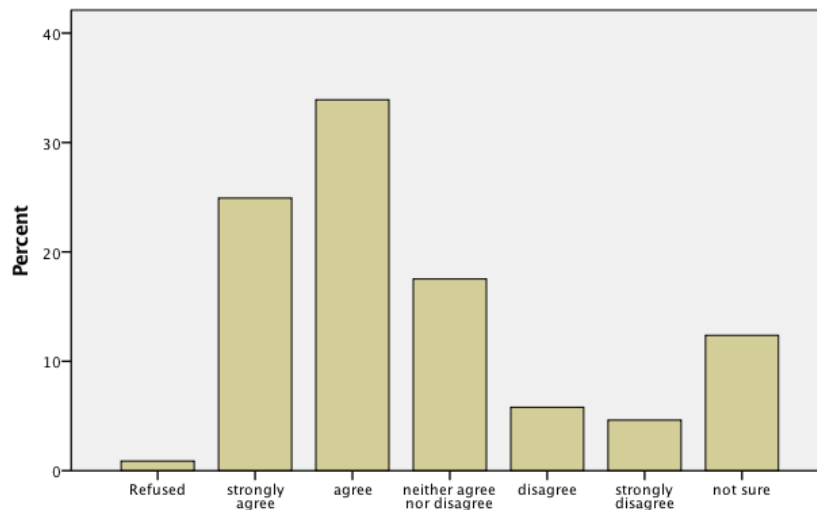


Figure 4

The federal healthcare law should require insurance companies to allow people to be included on their parents' policies up to age 26.

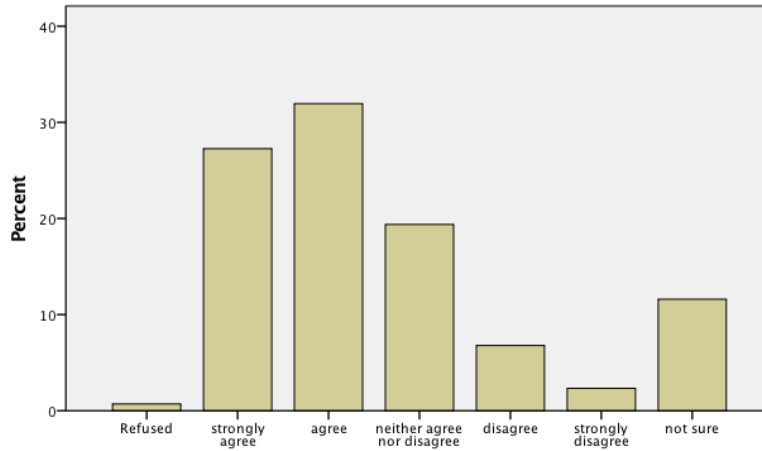
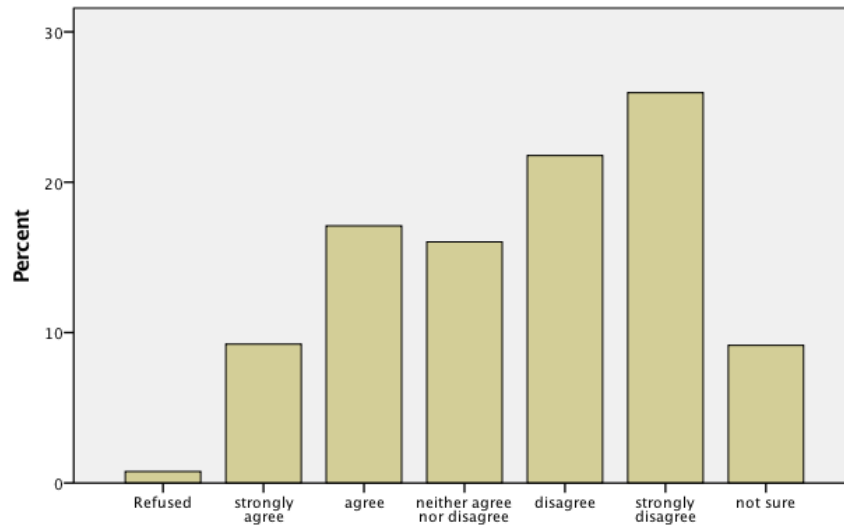


Figure 5

The federal health care law should require nearly all Americans to have health insurance or else pay a penalty.



About the Author

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About *The American Panel Survey*

The American Panel Survey (TAPS) is a monthly online panel survey of over 2,200 people. Panelists were recruited as a national probability sample with an addressed-based sampling frame. The survey is conducted by GfK Knowledge Networks for the Weidenbaum Center at Washington University. Individuals without Internet access were provided a laptop and internet service at the expense of the Weidenbaum Center. In a typical month, about 1,800 of the panelists complete the online survey. Analyses in this report use weights based on CPS benchmarks. Technical information about TAPS is available at taps.wustl.edu.

Note

1. <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/02/23/support-for-2010-health-care-law-reaches-new-high/>.