

KEY FINDINGS FROM CROMER GROUP PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

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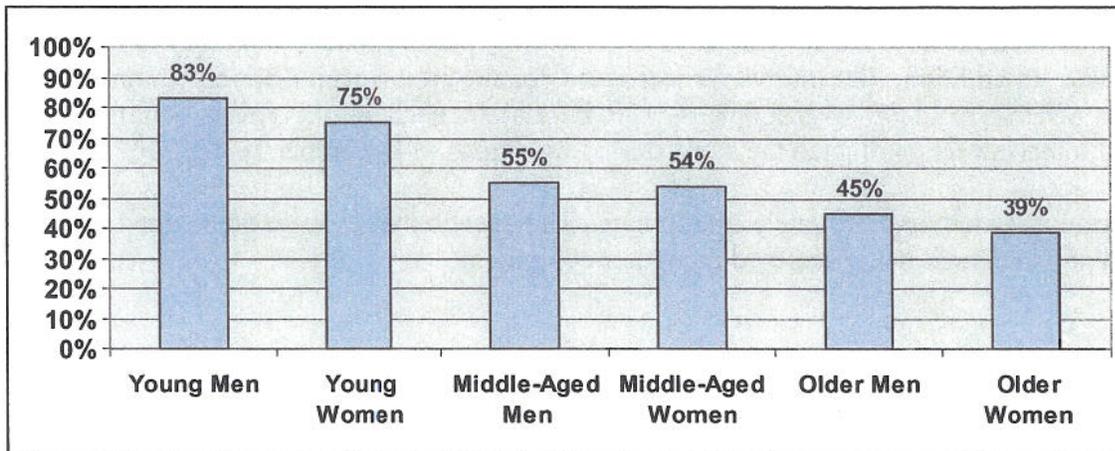
This is a synopsis of a survey of 505 voting residents of Alaska proportional to general election turnout conducted by The Cromer Group dealing with certain attitudes toward health care in Alaska. In addition, 700 interviews were also conducted in seven different communities selected by ASHNHA in an oversample – 100 interviews each in the seven communities. Professional interviewers conducted the study during the nights of December 10-13, 2007.

Interviews lasted approximately 20 minutes. The questionnaires were then edited, coded, keypunched and tabulated using standard computer equipment.

OBJECTIVES

1. To determine who or where the first stop is in getting medical care when needed, and the variety of ways Alaskans pay for healthcare.
 2. To assess a basic level of appreciation among Alaskans concerning their health and their experience in caring for those in need of assistance due to a serious medical condition.
 3. To gauge the level of confidence invested in various healthcare practitioners.
 4. To determine the level of satisfaction with the medical services available and the access to specialty medical services available throughout Alaska.
 5. To measure awareness of and attitudes toward healthcare costs, and the programs and practices aimed at those unable to pay for the service.
 6. To evaluate the acceptance of various healthcare reform measures.
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**BELIEF THAT ONE IS VERY HEALTHY
BY AGE AND GENDER**



35 percent of all Alaskans, within the past five years, have dealt with an overnight stay in a hospital – either for themselves or someone in their household.

In the main study, half the Natives who had a serious medical problem had to leave their community and so did 48 percent of the Natives in the combined Native overview.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Are we doing a good job of addressing health care needs in Alaska?

	<u>Favorable</u> %	<u>Unfavorable</u> %	<u>Can't Say</u> %
ALL VOTERS	59	24	17
Men	62	23	15
Women	56	25	19
Private Sector Men	61	21	18
Private Sector Women	52	33	15
Anchorage Men	70	15	14
Anchorage Women	65	19	16
Young Men	53	24	23
Young Women	44	38	18
Middle-Aged Men	66	22	12
Middle-Aged Women	56	29	15
Older Men	61	24	16
Older Women	62	12	26

“Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the regulations that require community hospitals to care for poor and indigent patients, regardless of their ability to pay for those services provided?”

- Strongly Favor = 46 percent
 - Somewhat Favor = 35 percent
 - Somewhat Oppose = 8 percent
 - Strongly Oppose = 4 percent
 - Can't Say = 7 percent
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“Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the decision by some hospitals to charge other patients more to offset the losses they incur by caring for the poor and indigent?”

- Strongly Favor = 11 percent
- Somewhat Favor = 21 percent
- Somewhat Oppose = 27 percent
- Strongly Oppose = 35 percent
- Can't Say = 7 percent

Alaskans like the fact that you have to take care of the poor but they do not like the fact that you just might charge them more to offset those losses. In this case, the opposition almost has a 2:1 majority.

“LOCAL HEALTH CARE CONCERNS”

By a ratio of almost 2:1, more voters in Alaska say the biggest health care concern in their community is substance abuse – drugs and alcohol – as compared to the second highest concern which is cancer.

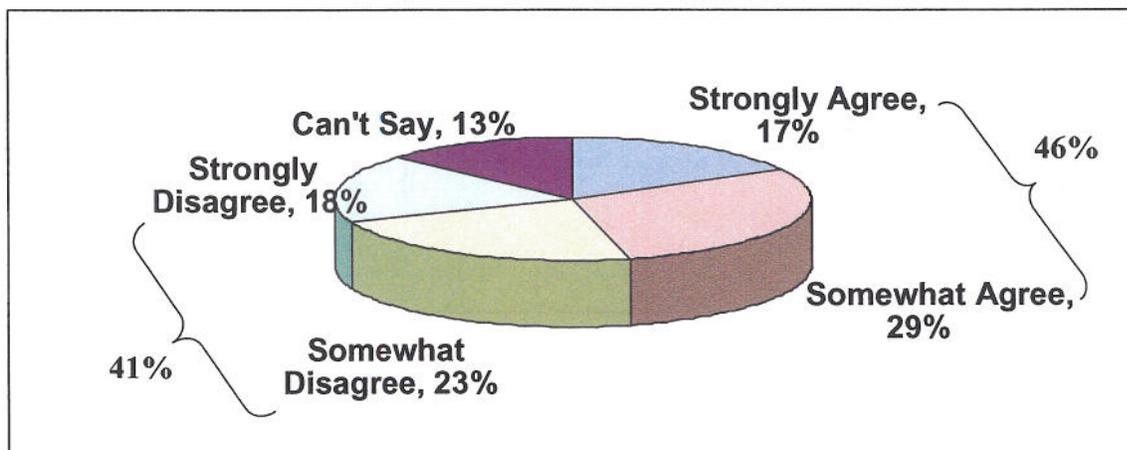
“ACCESS”

“Living in Alaska, I have to make some trade-offs when it comes to health care. In return for the lifestyle, I have to give up access to some medical services, and I'm okay with that.

A lot agreed -45%, but more disagreed – 50 %

Throughout the entire voting populous of Alaska, 23 percent say they have had trouble getting a timely appointment to see a doctor within the past two years. That is basically one-in-four.

**WILLINGNESS TO PAY MORE TO EXPAND ACCESS
TO HEALTH CARE**



Whether it is cost, lifestyle trade-offs, rejection of Medicare as a means of payment, a lower level of esteem for the poor, lack of medical specialists, or even a lack of simply getting an appointment to see a healthcare provider, there are numerous ingredients which are part of the brew that constitutes access. This Association should consider addressing some of these concerns of their fellow Alaskans. It would be appreciated and valued.

“HEALTH CARE REFORM”

“Set up a system of sliding-scale co-pays for patients that would be waived in cases of low-income or serious illness.”

A Very Good Idea	50%	} 83%
Somewhat of a Good Idea	33%	
Somewhat of a Bad Idea	4%	} 7%
A Very Bad Idea	3%	
Can't Say	10%	

Create a state-managed program to help small employers and uninsured individuals to purchase health care insurance.

A Very Good Idea	44%	} 80%
Somewhat of a Good Idea	36%	
Somewhat of a Bad Idea	5%	} 10%
A Very Bad Idea	5%	
Can't Say	10%	

Require that all Alaska communities provide local outpatient services for chemical dependency and mental health care.

A Very Good Idea	38%	} 78%
Somewhat of a Good Idea	40%	
Somewhat of a Bad Idea	8%	} 10%
A Very Bad Idea	4%	
Can't Say	10%	

“Require all employers to offer basic healthcare insurance to their employees and give tax credits to employers for providing health insurance coverage.”

A Very Good Idea	43%	} 75%
Somewhat of a Good Idea	32%	
Somewhat of a Bad Idea	9%	} 15%
A Very Bad Idea	6%	
Can't Say	10%	

“Establish a state advisory commission made up of healthcare providers and community leaders to determine standards for insurance affordability.”

A Very Good Idea	33%	} 71%
Somewhat of a Good Idea	38%	
Somewhat of a Bad Idea	8%	} 14%
A Very Bad Idea	6%	
Can't Say	14%	

“Provide public funding to purchase private insurance or direct coverage for poor or low income families and individuals.”

A Very Good Idea	34%	} 70%
Somewhat of a Good Idea	36%	
Somewhat of a Bad Idea	9%	} 80%
A Very Bad Idea	9%	
Can't Say	13%	

Observations:

The idea of a sliding-scale co-pays on the surface is quite popular with the public. Even a majority of 50 percent think it is a “very good” idea. Rarely do you ever get 50 percent on the “very” response set in public opinion research.

Four-out-of-every-five voters like the idea of a state program to help small employers and uninsured individuals purchase health care insurance. In Fairbanks, 89 percent like the idea.

“Require that all Alaskans obtain a basic level of health insurance, with penalties for not having that basic coverage, and giving discounts on pricing as an incentive to keeping basic health care coverage.”

A Very Good Idea	16%	} 53%
Somewhat of a Good Idea	37%	
Somewhat of a Bad Idea	17%	} 34%
A Very Bad Idea	17%	
Can't Say	14%	

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