

Poll on Expanding Health Insurance Coverage to the Remaining Uninsured

Methodology: This study was conducted March 25-April 5 by American Decisions and Latino Decisions. Interviews were completed by telephone, including 600 non-Latino and 400 Latino Registered Voters in California. Respondents answered in English or Spanish at their discretion. Results were weighted to known population characteristics using the Current Population Survey. The nominal margins-of-error are +/- 3.1% for the full sample, +/-4.0% on the non-Latino sample, and +/- 4.9% on the Latino sub-sample.

1. What would you say is your view of Senate Bill 75’s extension of Medi-Cal coverage to all low-income children, including those without documents? Would you say your (random reverse) strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove, or don’t you have an opinion on this matter?

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Strongly Approve	40%	62%	29%
Somewhat Approve	22%	22%	23%
Somewhat Disapprove	8%	3%	11%
Strongly Disapprove	21%	8%	28%
TOTAL APPROVE	62%	84%	51%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	30%	10%	39%
Don't know	8%	6%	10%

2. SB75 applies to children up through age 18. To the best of your knowledge, does current law allow for Medi-Cal to be provided to any undocumented adults? Would you say...

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
No undocumented adults may be covered	23%	14%	27%
Some undocumented adults can be covered if they have received temporary work permits or exemptions from deportation	39%	42%	37%
All undocumented adults can currently be covered	20%	29%	15%
Don't know	19%	14%	21%

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As it turns out, current law does allow some undocumented adults to gain coverage, but only if they have been granted temporary work permits and consequent protection from deportation.

3. What is your view of the current law’s allowing some undocumented immigrants to be covered if they have received temporary work permits? Would you say your (random reverse) strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove, or don’t you have an opinion on this policy?

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Strongly Approve	33%	43%	28%
Somewhat Approve	35%	35%	35%
Somewhat Disapprove	8%	3%	11%
Strongly Disapprove	15%	8%	18%
TOTAL APPROVE	68%	77%	63%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	23%	11%	29%
Don't know	9%	11%	8%

4. Currently, the California Legislature is considering a proposal to extend Medi-Cal coverage to all low-income adults, including those without documents. Would you say you (random reverse) strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the plan, or don’t you have an opinion on this proposal?

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Strongly Approve	26%	42%	18%
Somewhat Approve	17%	26%	12%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%	10%	18%
Strongly Disapprove	32%	11%	42%
TOTAL APPROVE	42%	68%	30%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	48%	22%	60%
Don't know	10%	10%	10%

There are a variety of ways to pay for expanding health coverage to all California residents, including undocumented adults. I am going to offer you several ideas for how this might work. After each, tell me if you favor the proposal, oppose the proposal, or are unsure. One possibility is to have the state expand health care coverage to the remaining uninsured by:

5. Using existing state funds to expand the Medi-Cal program.

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Favor	30%	48%	21%
Oppose	45%	23%	56%
Don't know /unsure	25%	30%	23%

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6. Increasing taxes on tobacco product purchases to pay for expanded Medi-Cal.

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Favor	60%	70%	55%
Oppose	30%	17%	36%
Don't know /unsure	10%	13%	9%

7. Increasing taxes on health insurance companies to pay for expanded Medi-Cal.

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Favor	26%	35%	22%
Oppose	53%	38%	60%
Don't know /unsure	21%	27%	18%

8. Increasing production taxes on fracking oil and/or offshore oil production

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Favor	32%	35%	30%
Oppose	43%	31%	49%
Don't know /unsure	25%	34%	21%

Besides using new or existing tax dollars to expand Medi-Cal, there are other approaches to provide coverage. Again, after each, tell me if you favor the proposal, oppose the proposal, or are unsure.

9. Requiring non-profit health insurance plans to use some of their reserve funds each year to provide coverage for the remaining uninsured.

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Favor	35%	48%	29%
Oppose	36%	20%	44%
Don't know /unsure	29%	33%	27%

10. Expanding non-profit hospitals' community benefit requirements to include requirements to cover the remaining uninsured.

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Favor	37%	51%	31%
Oppose	33%	14%	42%
Don't know /unsure	30%	35%	28%

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11. Increasing state tax breaks for industries, such as the agricultural industry, to enable them to provide health care coverage for workers.

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Favor	54%	64%	49%
Oppose	25%	13%	31%
Don't know /unsure	21%	23%	20%

12. Which statement best describes your current employment status?

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Working - as a paid employee	45%	52%	41%
Working - self-employed	10%	8%	11%
Not working - on temporary layoff from a job	1%	2%	1%
Not working - looking for work	3%	3%	2%
Not working - retired	29%	17%	35%
Not working - disabled	5%	6%	4%
Not working - other reason (SPECIFY)	6%	11%	4%

13. Were you covered by health insurance for the last year? If so, were you covered for the whole year, part or just part of the year?

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Full year	93%	89%	95%
Part of the year	4%	7%	2%
No Coverage last year	3%	4%	2%
Don't know	1%	0%	1%

14. People use different terms to describe their political views. When it comes to your political viewpoints, do you consider yourself to be liberal or conservative? Follow up: Would you say very, or somewhat Follow up if None/Other: Would you say you are slightly more liberal or slightly more conservative?

	Total	Latino	Non-Latino
Very liberal	15%	13%	16%
Somewhat liberal	22%	26%	20%
Slightly liberal	6%	6%	6%
None / Other	5%	4%	5%
Slightly conservative	7%	10%	5%
Somewhat conservative	22%	23%	22%
Very conservative	17%	11%	19%
Don't know	7%	7%	7%