



Muhlenberg College Public Health Program

2016 Pennsylvania Health Poll

The following report provides finding from the annual Muhlenberg College Public Health Program survey of Pennsylvanians on public health issues. This year's survey examined topics that included heroin addiction, Planned Parenthood, immunizations, marijuana legalization and the performance of the President and Congress in their handling of health care matters. The survey marks the 4th year of this initiative that is a partnership between the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion and the Muhlenberg College Public Health Program

Key Findings

1. Pennsylvanians are split nearly equally in terms of their satisfaction with the quality of health care in the nation with 49% of Pennsylvanians reporting they are satisfied with health care and 51% dissatisfied with this aspect of life in the United States.
2. Residents of the state are evenly divided on President Obama's handling of health care in the nation but overwhelmingly disapprove of Congress's handling of this policy area.
3. By over a 3 to 1 margin (49% to 15%) Commonwealth residents report positive over negative views about Planned Parenthood.
4. A majority of Pennsylvanians indicate that the federal government should continue to provide funds to Planned Parenthood.
5. Keystone State residents are equally divided in terms of support for a tax on tax on junk food such as soda, chips, and candy, with 48% supporting such a tax and 49% opposing this option.
6. Pennsylvanian views on the complete legalization of marijuana in the state remain fairly stable over the past three years with 39% in favor of legalization and 38% opposed to such a measure.
7. Three out of four Commonwealth residents believe that heroin abuse in the United States is a very serious problem.
8. Over half of Pennsylvanians personally know someone who has been addicted to heroin or another opiate.
9. A majority of Keystone State residents now strongly disagree with the claim that the chances of a child getting autism are increased if they receive the recommended childhood immunizations.

Methodological Statement

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of 403 adults in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between February 27 and March 7, 2016. Respondents were interviewed in English on both land lines (196) and cell phones (207) by the staff of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion (MCIPO) in Allentown, Pennsylvania on the Institute's Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system. With a randomly selected sample of 403 respondents the margin of error for the surveys is +/- 6% at a 95% level of confidence. Margins of error for questions with smaller sample size will be larger. In addition to sampling error, one should consider that question wording and other fielding issues can introduce error or bias into survey results. The sample data has been weighted by gender, race, age and educational attainment to reflect those Pennsylvania population characteristics as reported by the United States Census Bureau for 2014 . The calculation of sampling error takes into account design effects due to the weighting identified above. In order to reach a representative sample of adult Pennsylvanians both land lines and cell phones are called up to 5 times. The response rate for this survey as calculated using the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) RRII formula is 12%. Due to rounding the totals provided in the frequency report may not total 100%. The survey instrument (presented in its entirety below) was designed by Dr. Christopher P. Borick of the MCIPO in conjunction with students in the Public Health Program at Muhlenberg College. The survey was funded exclusively by the MCIPO. For more detailed information on the methods employed please contact the MCIPO at 484-664-3444 or email Dr. Borick at cborick@muhlenberg.edu.

Muhlenberg College Public Health Program

2016 Pennsylvania Health Poll

Frequency Report

Q1: Thank you. In which of the following age categories does your current age fall. READ LIST _____

18-29.....24%
30-49.....25%
50-65.....27%
or Over 65.....24%

Q2: What county do you currently reside in? _____

Coded Into Regions:

Southeast.....31%
Southwest.....19%
Remainder of State.....51%

(HEALTH INSURANCE/GENERAL HEALTH CARE)

Q3: As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable view of this law?

1. Very favorable.....12%
2. Somewhat favorable.....31%
3. Somewhat unfavorable.....21%
4. Very unfavorable.....16%
5. Neither Favorable/Unfavorable (vol).....<1%
6. Not Sure (vol).....19%

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016
Very Favorable	13%	12%	17%	12%
Somewhat Favorable	31%	27%	23%	31%
Somewhat Unfavorable	13%	18%	17%	21%
Very Unfavorable	28%	29%	25%	16%
Neither Favorable/ Unfavorable	5%	4%	2%	<1%
Not Sure	10%	11%	17%	19%

Q4: Do you think you and your family are better off or worse off under the health reform law, or don't you think it has made much difference?

1. Better Off.....16%
2. Worse Off.....18%
3. No Difference.....54%
4. Not Sure (volunteered).....11%

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016
Better Off	28%	15%	13%	16%
Worse Off	38%	31%	25%	18%
No Difference	23%	48%	51%	54%
Not Sure	12%	6%	10%	11%

Q5: How about the country as a whole? (READ IF NECESSARY) Is the country better off or worse off under the health reform law, or don't you think it has made much difference?

1. Better Off.....36%
2. Worse Off.....31%
3. No Difference.....21%
4. Not Sure (volunteered).....12%

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016
Better Off	39%	32%	31%	36%
Worse Off	44%	40%	40%	31%
No Difference	8%	12%	16%	21%
Not Sure	9%	16%	13%	12%

Q6: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the issue of health care?

1. Approve.....45%
2. Disapprove.....43%
3. Not Sure.....12%

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016
Approve	45%	33%	37%	45%
Disapprove	45%	58%	53%	43%
Not Sure	10%	9%	10%	12%

Q7: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Congress is handling the issue of health care?

- 1. Approve.....12%
- 2. Disapprove.....75%
- 3. Not Sure.....14%

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016
Approve	14%	8%	9%	12%
Disapprove	75%	80%	80%	75%
Not Sure	11%	12%	12%	14%

Q8: Thinking about health care in the country as a whole, are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or strongly dissatisfied with the quality of health care in this country?

- Strongly Satisfied.....10%
- Somewhat Satisfied.....39%
- Somewhat Dissatisfied.....35%
- Strongly Dissatisfied16%
- Not Sure.....1%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016
Strongly Satisfied	15%	11%	14%	10%
Somewhat Satisfied	43%	38%	34%	39%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	22%	28%	27%	35%
Strongly Dissatisfied	17%	19%	21%	16%
Not Sure	2%	4%	4%	1%

Q9: With respect to the abortion issue , would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?

- Pro-choice.....52%
- Pro-life.....41%
- Neither/Other (Vol)..... 4%
- Not Sure (Vol)..... 3%

Q10: Is your opinion of Planned Parenthood favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about it to form an opinion?

- Favorable.....49%
- Unfavorable.....15%
- Not Heard Enough.....32%
- Not Sure (Vol).....5%

Q11: Currently, the federal government provides some funding to Planned Parenthood. Do you think Planned Parenthood should or should not receive funding from the federal government?

Should fund.....56%
 Should not fund.....31%
 Not Sure (Vol).....13%

Q12. Next I would like to ask some questions about the issue of obesity. Some people say obesity is a private issue that people need to deal with on their own. Others say that it is a public health issue that society needs to help solve. Which comes closer to how you feel?

Private.....49%
 Public.....45%
 Not Sure (Vol).....6%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2016
Private	52%	54%	49%
Public	43%	37%	45%
Not Sure	6%	9%	6%

Q13. Now we'd like to ask you some general questions about government policies. Please tell me if you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each of the following. First, Putting a special tax on junk food—that is things like soda, chips, and candy—and using the money for programs to fight obesity.

Strongly Support.....22%
 Somewhat Support.....26%
 Somewhat Oppose.....23%
 Strongly Oppose.....26%
 Not Sure (Vol).....2%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2016
Strongly Support	21%	25%	22%
Somewhat Support	18%	21%	26%
Somewhat Oppose	14%	22%	23%
Strongly Oppose	46%	30%	26%
Not Sure	2%	2%	2%

Q14. Making a law requiring fast food restaurants to list nutrition information—such as calorie count—for all items on their menus.

Strongly Support.....61%
 Somewhat Support.....24%
 Somewhat Oppose.....6%
 Strongly Oppose.....7%
 Not Sure (Vol).....3%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2016
Strongly Support	53%	58%	61%
Somewhat Support	23%	21%	24%
Somewhat Oppose	7%	8%	6%
Strongly Oppose	15%	11%	7%
Not Sure	2%	1%	3%

Q15. Requiring warning labels on packaged food about the health risks of being overweight, just like there are warning labels on cigarettes about the health risks of smoking.

Strongly Support.....38%
 Somewhat Support.....28%
 Somewhat Oppose.....16%
 Strongly Oppose.....14%
 Not Sure (Vol).....4%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2016
Strongly Support	34%	34%	38%
Somewhat Support	18%	23%	28%
Somewhat Oppose	17%	19%	16%
Strongly Oppose	28%	23%	14%
Not Sure	3%	2%	4%

Q16: Next, I would like to ask you a few questions about marijuana. First, do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose the complete legalization of the use of marijuana for any purpose?

Favor.....39%
 Oppose.....38%
 Neither Favor or Oppose....20%
 Not Sure (Vol).....3%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016
Favor	33%	38%	34%	39%
Oppose	40%	35%	36%	38%
Neither Favor Or Oppose	24%	22%	29%	20%
Not Sure	3%	4%	2%	3%

Q17. Should the regulations of marijuana be more strict than those for alcohol, the same as those for alcohol, or less strict as those for alcohol?

More Strict.....24%
 The Same.....56%
 Less Strict.....14%
 Not Sure (Vol).....6%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016
More Strict	28%	33%	31%	24%
The Same	60%	53%	51%	56%
Less Strict	5%	11%	14%	14%
Not Sure	4%	3%	5%	6%

Q18: If the sale and possession of marijuana were made legal, do you think it would mostly improve the health of people, mostly harm the health of people, or have no effect on the health of people?

Improve Health.....19%
 Harm Health.....37%
 No Effect on People.....31%
 Not Sure (Vol).....13%

Q19: If the sale and possession of marijuana were made legal, do you think it would lead more people to use more serious drugs such as heroin and cocaine, lead fewer people to use more serious drugs, or have no effect on how many people use more serious drugs?

More Serious Drug Use.....32%
 Less Serious Drug Use.....15%
 No Effect.....46%
 Not Sure (Vol).....7%

Q20: How serious of a problem do you think Heroin abuse in America is? (READ LIST)

Very Serious.....75%
 Somewhat Serious.....17%
 Not at all Serious.....2%
 Not sure (VOL).....7%

Q21: Thinking about the level of heroin abuse in your community compared to the nation as a whole, would you say that (READ LIST):

Heroin abuse is more of an issue in your community than other places.....26%
 Heroin abuse is about as much of an issue in your community as in other places.....38%
 Heroin abuse is less of an issue in your community than other places.....18%
 Not sure.....18%

Q22: To the best of your knowledge is heroin abuse more common among white or black Americans?

White.....32%
 Black.....6%
 About the same(VOL).....29%
 Not Sure (VOL).....33%

Q23: Do you personally know anyone who has been addicted to heroin or another opiate?

Yes.....52%
 No.....44%
 Not Sure.....4%

(IMMUNIZATION)

Q24. Next I have a few questions on immunizations. How much risk to society as a whole do vaccinations pose? Would you say vaccinations pose a major risk, a minor risk or no risk to society?

Major Risks.....4%
 Minor Risks.....25%
 No Risks.....65%
 Not Sure (Vol).....6%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Spring 2016
Major Risks	10%	5%	14%	4%
Minor Risks	27%	28%	26%	25%
No Risks	58%	62%	56%	65%
Not Sure	5%	5%	4%	6%

Q25: Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements. First, the chances of a child getting autism are increased if they receive the recommended childhood immunizations.

Strongly Agree.....6%
 Somewhat Agree.....13%
 Somewhat Disagree.....16%
 Strongly Disagree.....51%
 Not Sure (Vol).....14%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Spring 2016
Strongly Agree	5%	8%	7%	6%
Somewhat Agree	13%	13%	10%	13%
Somewhat Disagree	22%	21%	22%	16%
Strongly Disagree	35%	39%	48%	51%
Not Sure	26%	19%	12%	14%

Q26: Because most people get immunized for major infectious diseases it isn't necessary for me to get immunized to be protected from those diseases.

Strongly Agree.....16%
 Somewhat Agree.....15%
 Somewhat Disagree.....12%
 Strongly Disagree.....50%
 Not Sure (Vol).....8%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Spring 2016
Strongly Agree	12%	11%	17%	16%
Somewhat Agree	9%	12%	14%	15%
Somewhat Disagree	15%	14%	13%	12%
Strongly Disagree	60%	57%	55%	50%
Not Sure	5%	6%	2%	8%

Q27: In general, children in the United States receive too many immunizations.

Strongly Agree.....11%
 Somewhat Agree.....11%
 Somewhat Disagree.....21%
 Strongly Disagree.....49%
 Not Sure (Vol).....8%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Spring 2016
Strongly Agree	8%	12%	10%	11%
Somewhat Agree	9%	10%	13%	11%
Somewhat Disagree	20%	22%	18%	21%
Strongly Disagree	53%	47%	56%	49%
Not Sure	10%	9%	3%	8%

Q28. Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. First, what is your current marital status?

	Spring 2016
Single	26%
Married	52%
Separated	<1%
Divorced	8%
Widowed	11%
Partnered	2%
Not sure	<1%

Q29. What is your highest level of education? Is it (READ LIST)?

	Spring 2016
Less Than High School	3%
High School Graduate	35%
Some College Or Technical School	30%
College Graduate (4 Yr Only)	20%
Graduate Or Professional Degree	13%

Q30. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? (READ LIST)

	Spring 2016
White/Caucasian	75%
African-American	11%
Hispanic	7%
Latino	1%
Asian	1%
Native American	<1%
Mixed Race	3%
Or Other	2%

Q31: Which of the following categories best describes your current voting status? Are you registered as a (READ LIST)?

	Spring 2016
Democrat	44%
Republican	34%
Independent	9%
Other Party	3%
Or Not Registered To Vote In Pennsylvania	7%
Not Sure	3%

Q32. Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST)?

	Spring 2016
Catholic	24%
Protestant	40%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	<1%
Hindu	<1%
Other Religion (Including Agnostic)	23%
Atheist	6%
Not Sure	3%

Q33. How many children do you have under 18? _____

	Spring 2016
Has Children Under 18	27%
No Children Under 18	73%

Q34: Which of the following best describes your health care insurance status. Are you primarily insured:

	Spring 2016
By A Plan Provided By Your Employer	40%
By A Plan That You Purchase Individually	18%
By Medicaid Coverage	7%
By Medicare Coverage	26%
Uninsured	3%
Other	4%
Not Sure	2%

Q35. Which of the following categories best describes your family income? (READ LIST)

	Spring 2016
Under \$20,000	11%
\$20,000-\$40,000	22%
\$40,000-\$60,000	20%
\$60,000-\$80,000	15%
\$80,000-\$100,000	8%
Over \$100,000	16%
Not Sure	8%

Q36: What is the zip code for your current residence? _____

Q37. Gender of respondent

	Spring 2016
Male	49%
Female	51%