2013 Pennsylvania Public Health Survey

Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion and
The Muhlenberg College Public Health Program

Final Frequency Report
Sample – 435 Adult Pennsylvanians
Fielding Dates: April 1– 13, 2013
Method – Telephone including land lines (296) and cell phones (139)
Margin of Error = +/- 5.5% at 95% Level of Confidence
Data Weighted by Age, Race, Educational Attainment and Gender

Q1: In which of the following age categories does your current age fall.

18-29…………………..15%
30-49…………………..29%
50-65…………………..31%
or Over 65……………..25%

Q2: What county do you currently reside in? (Coded Into Regions)

Southeast……………………39%
Southwest…………………...22%
Remainder of the State……...40%

Q3: Thinking about health care in the country as a whole, are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the quality of health care in this country?
.
Very Satisfied……………………15%
Somewhat Satisfied………………43%
Somewhat Dissatisfied…………...22%
Very Dissatisfied ………………...17%
Not Sure (Volunteered)……………2%

Q4: For the following aspects of health care please tell me whether you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with that aspect. First, the quality of health care you receive.

Very Satisfied……………………36%
Somewhat Satisfied………………52%
Somewhat Dissatisfied…………... 7%
Very Dissatisfied ………………... 3%
Not Sure (Volunteered)……………1%

Q5: Next, your health care costs, including both expenses not covered by insurance, and the cost of your insurance, if any.

Very Satisfied……………………16%
Somewhat Satisfied………………32%
Somewhat Dissatisfied…………...21%
Very Dissatisfied ………………...29%
Not Sure (Volunteered)……………2%

Q6: Your ability to get a doctor's appointment when you want one.

Very Satisfied……………………53%
Somewhat Satisfied………………38%
Somewhat Dissatisfied…………......5%
Very Dissatisfied ………………......3%
Not Sure (Volunteered)……………1%

Q7: Now for each item I name, please tell me if you think it's a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor at all in rising health care costs in the United States. First, people getting medical treatments they don't really need.

Major Factor……………………..64%
Minor Factor……………………..22%
Not a Factor at All…………………5%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………….8%

Q8: Next drug and insurance companies making too much money

Major Factor……………………..79%
Minor Factor……………………..12%
Not a Factor at All…………………5%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………….4%

Q9: Too many medical malpractice law suits.

Major Factor…………………….64%
Minor Factor……………………..22%
Not a Factor at All…………………4%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………….9%

Q10: Doctors and hospitals making too much money.

Major Factor……………………..37%
Minor Factor……………………..39%
Not a Factor at All……………….15%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………….9%

Q11. 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………………………..52%
Public………………………..43%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………6%

Q12. 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…………………………..21%
Somewhat Support…………………………..18%
Somewhat Oppose…………………………..14%
Strongly Oppose…………………………..46%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………………………2%

Q13. Making a law requiring fast food restaurants to list nutrition information—such as calorie count—for all items on their menus.

Strongly Support…………………………..53%
Somewhat Support…………………………..23%
Somewhat Oppose………………………….. 7%
Strongly Oppose…………………………..15%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………………………2%

Q14. 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………………………………34%
Somewhat Support…………………………..18%
Somewhat Oppose…………………………...17%
Strongly Oppose……………………………..28%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………………………3%

Q15. Government-funded advertising campaigns that promote eating right and exercising.

Strongly Support………………………………31%
Somewhat Support…………………………..33%
Somewhat Oppose…………………………...10%
Strongly Oppose……………………………..25%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………………………2%

Q 16. Next I would like to ask a few questions about issues related to firearms. In general, do you think gun control laws should be made more strict, less strict or kept as they are now?

More Strict…………………………..47%
Less Strict……………………………6%
Kept the Same………………………44%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………………3%

Q 17. Do you favor or oppose a federal law requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers?

Favor……………………………89%
Oppose……………………………9%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………...3%

Q18. How much do you think stricter gun laws would do to help prevent gun violence? Would laws help a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

A Lot…………………………………20%
Some……………………………….30%
Not Much…………………………..20%
Not at All…………………………...28%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………………1%

Q19: How much do you think better mental health screening and treatment would do to help prevent gun violence? Would better mental health screening and treatment help a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

A Lot…………………………….45%
Some……………………………36%
Not Much…………………………11%
Not at All…………………………... 7%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………………1%

Q20: How much do you think more police or armed security guards would do to help prevent mass shootings in public places such as schools, movie theaters, and malls? Would more police or armed security guards help a lot, some, not much or not at all

A Lot…………………………….20%
Some……………………………30%
Not Much…………………………..20%
Not at All…………………………...28%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………………1%

Q21: 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…………………………….33%
Oppose…………………………….40%
Neither Favor or Oppose………….24%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………….3%

Q22. 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………………………28%
The Same………………………..60%
Less Strict………………………...5%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………..4%

Q23: If the sale and possession of marijuana were made legal, do you think it would increase crime, reduce crime, or have no effect on crime?

Increase Crime…………………..27%
Reduce Crime…………………..32%
No Effect on Crime…………….33%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………….8%

Q24: 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………………..14%
Harm Health…………………...41%
No Effect on People……………37%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………….9%

Q25: 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…………..37%
Less Serious Drug Use…………….7%
No Effect…………………………43%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………...11%

Q26. In general, do you favor or oppose the use of vaccines to immunize people against major diseases?

Favor……………………………88%
Oppose……………………………7%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………...3%

Q27. How much benefit do you think that vaccinations provide the society as a whole. Would you say vaccinations provide major benefits, minor benefits or no benefits to society?

Major Benefits…………………..81%
Minor Benefits…………………..13%
No Benefits………………………2%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………...4%

Q28. 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……………………..10%
Minor Risks……………………..58%
No Risks…………………………27%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………...5%

Q29: 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……………………5%
Somewhat Agree…………………13%
Somewhat Disagree………………22%
Strongly Disagree………………...35%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………..26%

Q30: 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……………………12%
Somewhat Agree……………….…..9%
Somewhat Disagree………………15%
Strongly Disagree………………....60%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………….5%

Q31:   In general, children in the United States receive too many immunizations.

Strongly Agree……………………..8%
Somewhat Agree…………………...9%
Somewhat Disagree……………….20%
Strongly Disagree…………………53%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………...10%

Q32: In recent years the process of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" has become more widely used in Pennsylvania. In general, would you say that "fracking" poses a major risk, a moderate risk, a minor risk or no risk to the health of Pennsylvania residents?

Major Risk…………………………21%
Moderate Risk………………….…21%
Minor Risk…………………………29%
No Risk at All………………………9%
Not Sure (Volunteered)…………....19%

Q33: Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements. First, Natural gas drilling companies should NOT have to disclose the chemicals they inject underground in the drilling process because they contend that those chemicals are a trade secret that belong to them.

Strongly Agree…………………………..6%
Somewhat Agree………………………2%
Somewhat Disagree………..…………12%
Strongly Disagree……………………..74%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………………..6%

Q34: The process of fracking is diminishing the quality of drinking water in parts of Pennsylvania.

Strongly Agree………………………..28%
Somewhat Agree……………………...24%
Somewhat Disagree………..…………10%
Strongly Disagree……………………..10%
Not Sure (Volunteered)………………..28%

Q35: Concerns regarding the public health risks of fracking are being overstated by the media.

Strongly Agree……………………..18%
Somewhat Agree…………………..26%
Somewhat Disagree………………..14%
Strongly Disagree…………………20%
Not Sure (Volunteered)……………23%

Q36: The State of Pennsylvania needs to enact stronger regulations on the process of fracking in order to protect the health of state residents.

Strongly Agree……………………37%
Somewhat Agree…………………..34%
Somewhat Disagree…………………7%
Strongly Disagree…………………..6%
Not Sure (Volunteered)……………16%

Q37. Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. First, what is your current marital status?

1. Single…………………………21%
2. Married……………………….62%
3. Separated……………………1%
4. Divorced…………………….7%
5. Widowed……………………7%
6. Partnered……………………1%
7. Not sure (Volunteered)……...1%

Q38. What is your highest level of education? Is it (READ LIST)?

1. Less than High School………………4%
2. High School graduate………………31%
3. Some college or technical school ….25%
4. College graduate (4 yr only)………..24%
5. Graduate or professional degree……14%
6. Not sure (Volunteered)……………….1%

Q39. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? (READ LIST)

1. White/Caucasian……………………79%
2. African-American……………………9%
3. Hispanic……………………………3%
4. Latino………………………………3%
5. Asian………………………………1%
6. Native American……………………<1%
7. Mixed race…………………………1%
8. or other……………………………1%
9. Not Sure (Volunteered)………………3%

Q40: Which of the following categories best describes your current voting status? Are you registered as a (READ LIST)?

1. Democrat …………………………….39%
2. Republican…………………………...34%
3. Independent…………………………...14%
4. Other Party…………………………..1%
5. Not registered to vote in Pennsylvania …..8%
6. Not Sure (Volunteered) …………………..3%

Q41. Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST)?

1. Catholic………………………………………31%
2. Protestant…………………………………...42%
3. Jewish……………………………………….2%
4. Muslim……………………………………..<1%
5. Hindu………………………………………<1%
6. Other Religion (Including agnostic)………..17%
7. or Atheist …………………………………….4%
8. Not Sure (Volunteered)……………………...3%

Q42. How many children do you have under 18? (Coded into Categories)

1. No Children   78%
2. One or More Children 22%

Q43: Which of the following best describes your health care insurance status. Are you primarily insured :

1. by a plan provided by your employer………..46%
2. by a plan that you purchase individually…….16%
3. by Medicaid coverage…………………………4%
4. by Medicare coverage………………………...19%
5. or are you uninsured…………………………10%
6. other (Volunteered)…………………………......3%
7. not sure (Volunteered)…………………………2%

Q44. Which of the following categories best describes your family income? (READ LIST)

1. Under $20,000...................10%
2. $20,000-$40,000…………19%
3. $40,000-$60,000…………13%
4. $60,000-$80,000…………..9%
5. $80,000-$100,000…………9%
6. Over $100,000……………11%
7. Not sure (Volunteered)…….4%
8. Refused (Volunteered)……25%

Q45. Thank you for your help with the survey. We appreciate your time. (Gender determined by Voice Recognition)

1. Male………..48%
2. Female……..52%