

Health Care For All New York

Bringing Consumers' Voices to the Health Reform Conversation

"I need an eye drop that lasts a week, but the medicine costs \$83 a bottle. I have to keep bugging the doctor for samples because I can't afford to pay for it. Sometimes he doesn't have it and my eyesight suffers tremendously. When I do have it, I use very small quantities so it can last longer."

- Farhad, a 62 year-old from Hempstead, NY

New York is in a Health Care Crisis

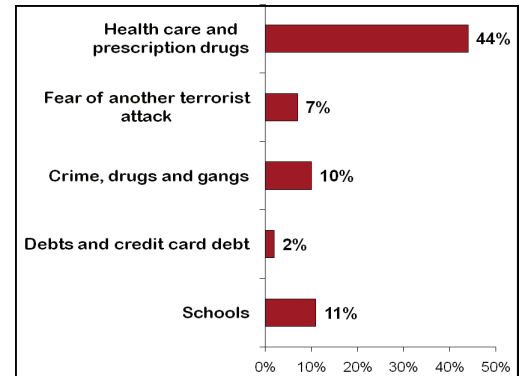
13% of New York State residents are uninsured.¹ That's 2.5 million children, families, and workers of all income levels. A recent statewide poll conducted by the Community Service Society found that in the past year, 1 in 4 New Yorkers was forced to go without a needed prescription due to a lack of money or health insurance.² Another 22% went without or postponed medical care or surgery for the same reason.

While the majority of the state residents do have health insurance, this problem affects us all. In fact, more than half of all New Yorkers—regardless of income level—reported personally knowing someone who has been without insurance in the past two years.³

New Yorkers Want Action

Around the state, health care and prescription drugs are proving to be the top personal worry for New Yorkers and the #1 issue that they want their elected officials to act on. Fully 65% said that they would be more likely to

Health Care is the #1 Issue New Yorkers Want Their Elected Officials to Act On



Source: CSS Statewide Survey, November 2007.

* Truncated list

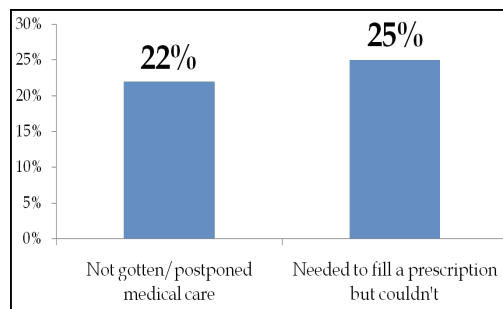
vote to re-elect their state legislator if they were to support a health care proposal to cover all New York residents.⁴ In fact, 6 in 10 residents statewide reported that they were more worried that the government would take *no action* on this issue, than they are about more taxes and government.

New Yorkers want health reform NOW.

Health Care For All New York (HCFANY) is a statewide campaign founded by The American Cancer Society, The Center For Working Families, The Children's Defense Fund, The Community Service Society, The Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign, New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage, The New York Immigration Coalition, and The Public Policy Education Fund of New York that is dedicated to achieving affordable, comprehensive, and high-quality health care for all residents of New York.

As the State moves forward to design a health care solution for New York State, HCFANY will be there to meet it. Every New Yorker has unique health care needs, concerns, and opinions. It is our goal to bring the voice of each New Yorker to the health reform debate to ensure that any health care reform proposal put forth by the State addresses the people it means to serve.

New Yorkers Are Not Getting Needed Care Due to Lack of Money or Health Insurance



Source: CSS Statewide Survey, November 2007.

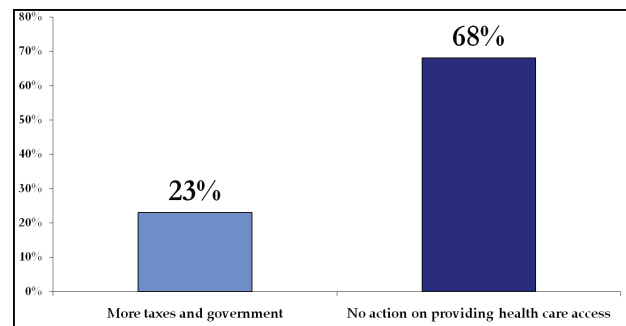


Make it Good, Make it Better, Make it Happen!

We now have a tremendous opportunity to not only make sure that the state follows through with a health reform initiative, but that any plan set forth reflects the needs of all New Yorkers. With this in mind, HCFANY has united around “10 Standards for Affordable, Quality Health Care for All” that serve as the basis for promoting and evaluating various health care reform proposals.

These standards will help us to identify the best reform proposal for New York, to fine-tune it, and to push the State to adopt it. With our faltering economy, it is important to ensure that health reform does not get lost in forthcoming spending cuts, nor compromised in quality. Now, more than ever, New Yorker’s need quality, affordable health care they can rely on, and trust.

New Yorkers Are More Worried That The State Will Take No Action on Health Care Than Raising Taxes.



Source: CSS Statewide Survey, November 2007.

10 Standards for Affordable, Quality Health Care for All

- ✓ Everyone must have health coverage and access to health care.
- ✓ Health coverage must be affordable to the family budget.
- ✓ Health coverage must include comprehensive benefits to meet people’s needs.
- ✓ Government must be an active watchdog and regulator of the health care system.
 - Health coverage must include strong consumer protections
 - Consumer assistance programs must be created and funded to ensure that our universal coverage goals are realized.
 - Government must promote transparency in health systems and ensure consumers easy access to information about health quality and outcomes.
- ✓ Health coverage must promote equity in health care utilization and outcomes.
 - Health coverage must eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health care access and quality.
 - The health care system must reduce disparities in health care access between people with serious illnesses and disabilities and those without.
- ✓ Health insurance must be portable and enrolling into existing and new public health insurance programs must be administratively simple.
- ✓ Everyone must have the choice of a public health plan.
- ✓ Health care reform must include effective cost controls that promote quality.
- ✓ All employers must contribute fairly to the cost of health care, and employers’ health costs must be predictable and in reasonable proportion to their total labor costs.
- ✓ The safety-net health care delivery system must be preserved and enhanced.

REFERENCES

¹ Three-year blend of 2005, 2006 and 2007 Current Population Survey (CPS), Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC). Includes both adults and children.

² CSS Statewide Survey, November 2007.

³ CSS Statewide Survey, November 2007.

⁴ CSS Statewide Survey, November 2007.

Be part of the solution!
Join the Health Care for All New York Campaign by going to:
www.hcfany.org