ACEP National Health Reform Legislation Survey Results

Presented by: American College of Emergency Physicians

ACEP conducted the poll from April 23, 2010 to April 30, 2010. Emails were sent to 17,361 emergency physicians across the United States. 1,822 responded. The survey has a theoretical sampling error range of ± 2.24%.

1. As an emergency physician, how confident are you that the problems facing the nation’s emergency care system will be addressed now that national health reforms have been signed into law?

![Confidence Chart]

2. Do you think the new health reform law will effectively address the problems regarding uncompensated care in emergency departments?

![Response Chart]
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3. Do you think the health care reforms will affect Americans’ access to timely emergency care?

![Access to Emergency Care Pie Chart]

- Yes, more people will have access to emergency care: 18%
- No, fewer people will have access to emergency care: 20%
- People will have the same access to emergency care: 46%
- Uncertain if people will have the same access to emergency care: 16%

4. How do you think the health care reforms will affect Americans’ need for emergency care?

![Need for Emergency Care Pie Chart]

- Fewer people will need emergency care: 9%
- No change: 38%
- More people will need emergency care: 53%
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5. My emergency department (ED) is overcrowded:

6. In the past year crowded conditions in my ED have:
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7. Boarding of admitted emergency patients in my hospital happens:

8. Do you think emergency department visits will increase or decrease over the next 6 months as a result of the newly enacted health care reform efforts?
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9. Do you think emergency department visits will increase or decrease 1 year from now as a result of the newly enacted health care reforms?

- Visits will decrease: 3%
- Visits will stay the same: 13%
- Visits will first increase, then decrease: 4%
- Visits will first increase, then decrease: 0%
- Visits will stay the same: 13%
- Don’t know: 9%

10. In the past year, what estimated percentage of your emergency patients were referred to you by a primary physician?

- 0-10 percent: 28%
- 11-25 percent: 51%
- 26-50 percent: 15%
- 51-75 percent: 2%
- 76-100 percent: 0%
- Don’t know: 4%
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11. Do you think the health care reforms will address the critical issues affecting your care of emergency patients, such as boarding and overcrowding?

12. How do you think the health care reforms recently enacted will affect the number of specialist physicians willing to take call for the nation’s emergency departments?
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13. What effect do you think the health care reform law will have on physicians’ desire to practice medicine?

14. Has health care reform influenced your decision to continue or discontinue your practice as an emergency physician?
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15. How do you think the health care reforms recently enacted will affect the number of medical specialist physicians, such as OBGYNS, neurosurgeons and cardiologists, in the United States?

- The number of medical specialists will increase: 7%
- The number of medical specialists will decrease: 44%
- No change: 23%
- Don't know: 26%

16. Do you believe that your emergency department will remain open now that the health care reform bill is law?

- Yes, I have no concerns: 61%
- Probably, I have no immediate concerns: 28%
- Not sure of the long-term future of the ED: 10%
- My emergency department is under imminent threat of closure: 1%
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17. On a scale from 1 to 10, (1 being the least important priority, 10 being the most important priority) How important is it for Congress to address medical liability reform now that the health reform bill is law?

18. At what level do you think health insurance co-pays for emergency care a deterrent to people seeking emergency care?
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19. Our annual ED volume is:

![ED volume chart]

20. What is your hospital type?

![Hospital type chart]
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21. My hospital is:

![Hospital Location Pie Chart]

- Urban: 38%
- Suburban: 44%
- Rural: 16%
- Government / Military: 1%
- Decline to state: 1%