

CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

Americans reveal a relatively low confidence level about the future of health care, and particularly in their ability to afford that care.

Confidence in Health Care's Future Is Low

- Many Americans are not confident that they will be able to afford medical care and that they will have adequate freedom to choose their own medical providers. Only about one-quarter express a high degree of confidence about these two aspects of care.
- About one-third of Americans are confident that they will be able to get the treatments they need over the next 10 years. However, a significant proportion (41 percent) are only somewhat confident in this aspect of health care.

Aspect of Health Care Over the Next 10 Years	Extremely or Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Too or Not At All Confident
Afford health care without financial hardship	24%	36%	38%
Freedom to choose provider	27	37	34
Able to get needed treatments	34	41	24

Confidence Varies by Gender

- Women are significantly less confident than men about all aspects of the future of health care.

Aspect of Health Care Over the Next 10 Years	Percentage Not Too or Not At All Confident	
	Male	Female
Afford health care without financial hardship	33%	43%
Freedom to choose provider	29	39
Able to get needed treatments	18	30

Confidence Varies by Plan Type

- Managed care enrollees are significantly less confident in the future of health care than persons enrolled in traditional indemnity plans.

Aspect of Health Care Over the Next 10 Years	Percentage Not Too or Not At All Confident		
	HMO ^a -Type Plan	PPO ^b -Type Plan	Fee-for-Service Plan
Afford health care without financial hardship	41%	36%	27%
Freedom to choose provider	45	35	20
Able to get needed treatments	27	24	13

^aHealth maintenance organization.

^bPreferred provider organization.

(continued)

Confidence Varies by Health Status

- Unhealthy Americans more likely than healthy Americans to be not confident about various aspects of health care.

Aspect of Health Care	Percentage Not Confident		
	Health Status		
	Excellent or Very Good	Good	Fair or Poor
Afford health care without financial hardship	30%	42%	56%
Freedom to choose provider	30	36	44
Able to get needed treatments	18	27	40

Source: 1999 Health Confidence Survey.