

## GENDER DIFFERENCES

### *Confidence in the Future of Health Care*

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

Aspect of Health Care	Percentage Not Too or Not At All Confident			
	Over the Next 10 Years		Once Eligible for Medicare	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Afford health care without financial hardship	33%	43%	46%	55%
Freedom to choose provider	29	39	40	50
Able to get needed treatments	18	30	32	43

- 61 percent of women report that the health care system in America today needs major change, compared with 45 percent of men.

Men are more likely than women to give high marks to managed care.

- 55 percent of men give an excellent, very good, or good rating to the quality of care available under managed care, compared with 44 percent of women.
- 49 percent of men give an excellent, very good, or good rating to choice of hospitals under managed care, compared with 43 percent of women.
- 48 percent of men give an excellent, very good, or good rating to access to preventive care under managed care, compared with 42 percent of women.
- 26 percent of men give an excellent, very good, or good rating to access to experimental treatments under managed care, compared with 20 percent of women.

### *Medicare*

Women are more likely than men to favor using the federal budget surplus to shore up Medicare or to add prescription drug benefits to Medicare.

- 77 percent of women favor using the budget surplus to pay some of the costs of Medicare, compared with 68 percent of men.
- 74 percent of women favor expanding Medicare to cover prescription drug costs, even though it means that Medicare will incur higher costs, compared with 68 percent of men.

Source: 1999 Health Confidence Survey.