

State Surveys Highlight Small Business Support for Healthcare Reform

Small Business Majority conducted surveys of small business owners in 16 states between December 2008 and June 2009. The preliminary results set forth below provide a useful insight into the way entrepreneurs generally view healthcare issues—as averages of statistically valid representations of the small business communities within each state.

Key Findings

- Reform is urgently needed to fix the U.S. economy, according to an average of 69% of respondents, with individual state responses ranging from 59% to 75%.
- An average of 86% of small businesses owners who don't offer health coverage to their employees say they can't afford to provide it (state results ranged from 77% to 92%). Those that do offer it are struggling to afford it, say an average of 72% (with a range of 62% to 89%).
- 82% of small business owners surveyed, on average, believe people should be able to buy insurance policies regardless of preexisting conditions; state totals range from 72% to 90%.
- An average of 81% of small business owners support the concept of a marketplace or exchange from which the self-employed, small business owners and individuals can purchase health insurance. Support in each state ranged from 76% to 87%. (This question was asked in 8 states.)
- Small businesses are willing to share the responsibility for making health insurance affordable along with insurers, healthcare providers, individuals and government, according to an average of 66% of respondents. By state, those agreeing with the concept of shared responsibility ranged from 59% to 72%.

Political Identification

- Respondents to the small business surveys represented a range of political points of view. 40% identified themselves as Republicans, 23% as Democrats and 28% as independents.

Methodology

- Small Business Majority sponsored the 16 surveys in states representing nearly every region of the United States. Most were conducted in late May and early June 2009; two were carried out in December 2008. The margin of error varied from 5.7% to 6.9% in each individual state based on sample size (with the margin of error for regional groupings of certain states ranging from 3.1% to 4.0%). The surveys were conducted by Lake Research Partners. While the results are generally consistent from state-to-state, the average results stated above do not reflect a valid national sample.
- States surveyed: Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin