

**Kansas Hospital Association**  
**Public Opinion Poll:**  
*Medicaid Expansion and Access to*  
*Health Care in Kansas*  
**FINDINGS REPORT**

Submitted to

**The Kansas Hospital Association (KHA)**

ETC Institute  
725 W. Frontier Circle  
Olathe, KS  
66061

January 2013



# ***Kansas Hospital Association Public Opinion Poll: Medicaid Expansion and Access to Health Care in Kansas***

## **Executive Summary**

### **Overview and Methodology**

During December of 2012, ETC Institute administered a poll for The Kansas Hospital Association (KHA). The purpose of the survey was to gather input from Kansas residents regarding the expansion of Medicaid and access to health care in Kansas. The sampling plan for the survey was designed to gather statistically representative data from residents living in each of the Kansas Hospital Association's six districts. The sample was stratified to ensure the completion of at least 100 surveys in each district.

The three-page survey was administered by phone to a random sample of 610 Kansas residents. The overall results of the survey have a precision of at least +/- 4.0% at the 95% level of confidence. The results for each district have a precision of at least +/- 9.7% at the 95% level of confidence.

This report contains the following:

- executive summary that highlights the major findings from the survey
- charts depicting the results of the survey for
- tables showing the overall results for each question on the survey, along with all open-ended question responses
- survey results by KHA district
- a copy of the survey instrument

The major findings from the poll are provided below and on the following pages. When applicable, notable differences by district are also highlighted.

### **Access to Health Care**

- **Perceptions of Access.** Most (91%) of the residents surveyed believed that every Kansas should be able to access medical care when he/she needs; 6% did not and 3% were not sure.
- **Percentage of Households With Unmet Medical Needs.** Twelve percent (12%) of residents reported there was at least one time during the past year that someone in their household needed medical care but did NOT get it. The districts with the highest percentage of households with unmet medical needs during the past year were: 1) the South Central District (14%) and the Southeast District (14%). The districts with the lowest reported percentage of households with unmet medical needs during the past year were: the Northwest District (8%) and the Southwest District (8%).

- **Reasons Households Had Unmet Medical Needs.** The primary reason that residents were unable to get the necessary medical care they needed during the past year was because it cost too much or was not covered by insurance (87%). Some of the other reasons were: they could not get the medical care they needed locally (14%), providers were too busy or the wait time was too long (7%) and they could not get an appointment when needed (7%). Some of the notable differences for unmet medical needs by district are provided below:
  - The Southeast, South Central and Northeast Districts had the highest percentage of residents with unmet medical needs because the cost was too high or was not covered by insurance.
  - The Southeast District was the only district with residents who had unmet medical needs because they couldn't get off work or find child care.
  - The Southwest District had the highest percentage of residents with unmet medical needs because they couldn't get an appointment when needed.
  - The Southwest and Northeast Districts were the only districts with residents who had unmet medical needs because they were too nervous or afraid.
  - The Northeast and Southeast Districts were the only districts with residents who had unmet medical needs because they did not know where to go.
  - The Southwest District was the only district with residents with unmet medical needs because they could not find a provider who accepts Medicaid.
  - Residents living in the Northwest and Southwest Districts had a higher percentage of residents who had unmet medical needs because providers were too busy or the wait time was too long.
  - The North Central and Southwest District had a higher percentage of residents with unmet medical needs because they could not get it locally.

## Support and Perceptions of Medicaid Expansion

- **Option 1: Expand Medicaid to Cover Kansans with an Income up to \$15,420 or 138% of the Federal Poverty Level.** Sixty percent (60%) of residents supported the expansion of Medicaid coverage in Kansas to cover individuals who have an income level of up to \$15,420 annually or 138% of the federal poverty level; 24% were not supportive and 16% were not sure. The district with the highest level of support was the Northeast District (67%); the district with the lowest level of support was the North Central District (53%).

- **Option 2: Expand Medicaid to Cover Kansans with an Income up to \$11,172 or 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.** More than half (55%) of residents were supportive of expanding Medicaid in Kansas to cover individuals with an income level up to \$11,172 annually or 100% of the federal poverty level; 31% were not supportive and 14% were not sure. The district with the highest level of support was the Northwest District (59%); the district with the lowest level of support was the Southeast District (51%).
- **Medicaid Expansion Bringing Additional Funds to Kansas.** After learning that Medicaid expansion would bring more than \$800 million in federal dollars to Kansas over three years, there was a slight increase in the level of support for Medicaid expansion in Kansas. Sixty-two percent (62%) of residents were supportive, 23% were not supportive and 15% were not sure. The districts with the highest level of support were the Northeast District (67%) and the Southeast District (67%); the district with the lowest level of support was the North Central District (54%).
- **Other Perceptions of Medicaid Expansion.** Some of the other findings related to the perceptions of Medicaid expansion in Kansas are provided below:
  - After learning that Kansas would begin to share 10% of the Medicaid costs or \$30.3 million annually after three years if Medicaid is expanded, half (51%) of residents were supportive of finding a new revenue to continue Medicaid expansion in Kansas; 12% felt the state should stop participating in Medicaid expansion when the federal government pays only 90% of the cost, 21% felt the state should not expand Medicaid and 16% were not sure.
  - Seventy-two percent (72%) of the residents surveyed felt that Kansas should expand Medicaid to maximize funds and prevent Kansas tax dollars from going to other states; 19% disagreed and 9% were not sure.
  - Nearly sixty percent (57%) of residents did NOT think that insurance premiums would go down if more people are covered by insurance, including Medicaid; 27% did think insurance premiums would go down and 16% were not sure.
  - Most (81%) of the residents surveyed felt government programs, like Medicare and Medicaid, should at least cover what it costs hospitals and doctors to provide health care services; 11% did not and 8% did not know.

## Local Hospitals Over the Next 10 Years

- **Perceptions of How Local Hospitals Will Change Over the Next 10 Years.** Sixty-one percent (61%) of the residents surveyed thought their local hospital would continue to provide about the same level or service (34%) or expand/provide more services (27%) over the next ten years; one-fourth (25%) thought their hospital would make cutbacks/provide fewer services, 7% thought their local hospital would close and 7% did not know.

**Distribution of Respondents by KHA District**

<u>District</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Northwest	104	17.0 %
North Central	101	16.6 %
Northeast	100	16.4 %
Southwest	103	16.9 %
South Central	101	16.6 %
Southeast	101	16.6 %
Total	610	100.0 %

**1. Do you believe that every Kansan should be able to access medical care when he/she needs it?**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1=Yes	557 91.3 %
2=No	33 5.4 %
9=Don't Know	20 3.3 %
Total	610 100.0 %

**2. Medicaid is a federal and state health insurance program for poor people and some other needy populations. It is funded by state and federal funds. The federal health reform law allows states to expand Medicaid to cover individuals who have an income level up to \$15,420 annually or 138% of the federal poverty level. It is estimated this expansion would provide coverage to an additional 122,000 Kansans.**

**Do you support the expansion of Medicaid coverage in Kansas as I have just described?**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1=Yes	364 59.7 %
2=No	145 23.8 %
9=Don't Know	101 16.6 %
Total	610 100.0 %

**3. Another option would involve a more limited expansion of Medicaid to cover individuals who have an income level up to \$11,172 annually or 100% of the federal poverty level. Would you support a more limited expansion of Medicaid as I have just described?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Yes	333	54.6 %
2=No	189	31.0 %
9=Don't Know	88	14.4 %
Total	610	100.0 %

**4. For the first three years, the federal government would pay for all the costs to expand Medicaid. After three years, the federal government begins transitioning to paying 90% of the cost. Knowing that Medicaid expansion would bring more than \$800 million in Federal dollars to Kansas over three years, would you support Medicaid expansion?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Yes	379	62.1 %
2=No	143	23.4 %
9=Don't Know	88	14.4 %
Total	610	100.0 %

**5. If Medicaid is expanded, after three years, the State of Kansas would begin to pay a share of the costs which will grow to 10 percent. This cost is projected to be \$30.3 million annually. Knowing this, which of the following statements best reflects your thoughts about the future?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=I would support finding new revenue to continue Medicaid expansion in Kansas	309	50.7 %
2=The state should stop participating in Medicaid expansion when the federal government pays only 90 percent of the cost	74	12.1 %
3=The state should not expand	128	21.0 %
9=Don't know	99	16.2 %
Total	610	100.0 %

**6. If Kansas chooses not to expand Medicaid, the federal funds that should come to Kansas will go to other states, like Missouri and California.**

**Do you believe that Kansas should expand Medicaid to maximize federal funds and prevent**

<b>Kansas tax dollars from going to other states?</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Yes	437	71.6 %
2=No	117	19.2 %
9=Don't Know	56	9.2 %
Total	610	100.0 %

**7. People with health insurance pay higher premiums to help subsidize care for the uninsured and underinsured. Do you think insurance premiums will go down if more people are covered by insurance, including Medicaid?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Yes	163	26.7 %
2=No	350	57.4 %
9=Don't Know	97	15.9 %
Total	610	100.0 %

**8. Do you think government programs like Medicare and Medicaid should cover at least what it costs hospitals and doctors to provide health care services?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Yes	493	80.8 %
2=No	66	10.8 %
9=Don't Know	51	8.4 %
Total	610	100.0 %

**9. Which of the following BEST describes what you think will happen to your local community hospital over the next 10 years? [Read list check ONE]**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Your local hospital will expand and provide more services	162	26.6 %
2=Your local hospital will continue to provide about the same level of service	206	33.8 %
3=Your local hospital will make cutbacks and provide fewer services	154	25.2 %
4=Your local hospital will close	44	7.2 %
9=Don't know	44	7.2 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

**10. In the past year, was there any time when someone in your household needed medical care but did NOT get it?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Yes	71	11.6 %
2=No	539	88.4 %
9=Don't Know	0	0.0 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

**10a. If YES to Q10: what were the primary reasons you (or someone else in your household) were unable to get the medical help you needed in this situation? [check all that apply]**

<b>Q10a Reasons</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=It cost too much or was not covered by insurance	62	87.3 %
9=Couldn't get medical care needed locally	10	14.1 %
8=Providers were too busy/wait time was too long	5	7.0 %
3=Couldn't get an appointment when needed	5	7.0 %
6=Didn't know where to go	4	5.6 %
5=Too nervous or afraid	3	4.2 %
2=Couldn't get off work or find child care	1	1.4 %
7=Couldn't find a provider who accepts Medicaid	1	1.4 %
4=No transportation	0	0.0 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	



**11. Would you generally describe the location of your home as being rural or urban?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Rural	356	58.4 %
2=Urban (includes suburban)	254	41.6 %
Total	610	100.0 %

**12. Which of the following ranges best describes your annual household income?**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Less than \$40,000	169	27.7 %
2=\$40,000 to \$79,999	205	33.6 %
3=\$80,000 to \$119,999	123	20.2 %
4=\$120,000 or more	53	8.7 %
9=Prefer not to disclose	60	9.8 %
Total	610	100.0 %

**13. Which of the following best describes your**

<b>Age?</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Under 30 years	99	16.2 %
2=31-50 years	227	37.2 %
3=51-65 years	151	24.8 %
4=66-80 years	110	18.0 %
5=81 years or older	20	3.3 %
9=did not disclose	3	0.5 %
Total	610	100.0 %

**Q14 Gender (Don't Ask):**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1=Male	291	47.7 %
2=Female	319	52.3 %
Total	610	100.0 %