

# THE WMUR GRANITE STATE POLL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

February 3, 2014

### HEALTH CARE LAW STILL UNPOPULAR IN NH, MOST THINK HEALTH CARE COSTS WILL INCREASE

By: Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D.  
 Zachary S. Azem, M.A.  
 UNH Survey Center  
[www.unh.edu/survey-center](http://www.unh.edu/survey-center)  
 603/862-2226

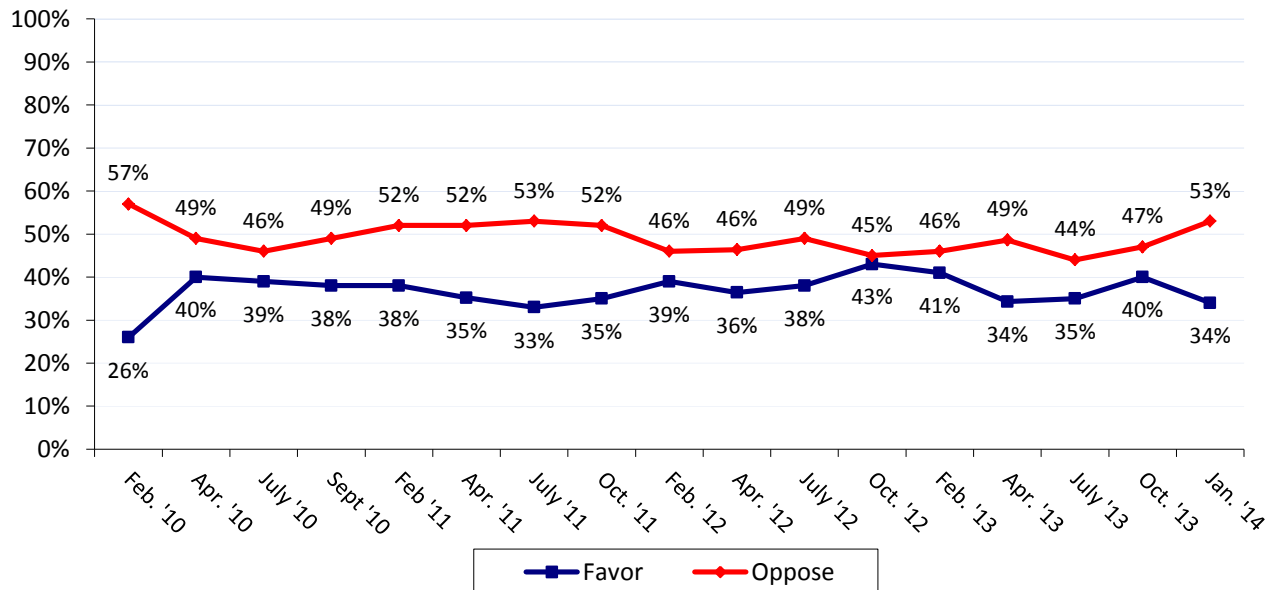
DURHAM, NH – The Affordable Care Act (ACA) remains unpopular with Granite Staters. New Hampshire residents believe health care costs will increase under the ACA.

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR Granite State Poll**,\* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred and eighty-four (584) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone between January 21 and January 26, 2014. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.1 percent.

#### Health Care Reform

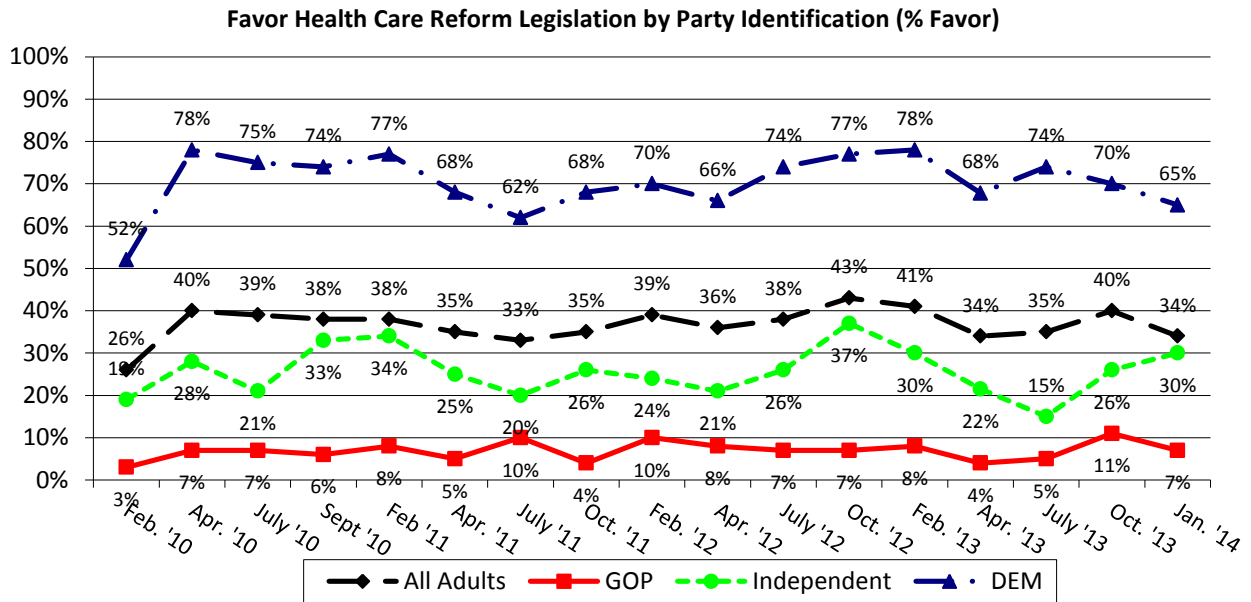
Despite repairing many of the problems prospective buyers experienced with the Affordable Care Act web site last fall, the law is even more unpopular with Granite Staters. In the most recent Granite State Poll, only 34% of New Hampshire adults favor the legislation, 53% oppose it, and 13% are neutral or don't know enough about it to say. While it has never been popular, opposition to the ACA has increased nine percentage points since the summer.

**Favor / Oppose Health Care Reform Legislation**



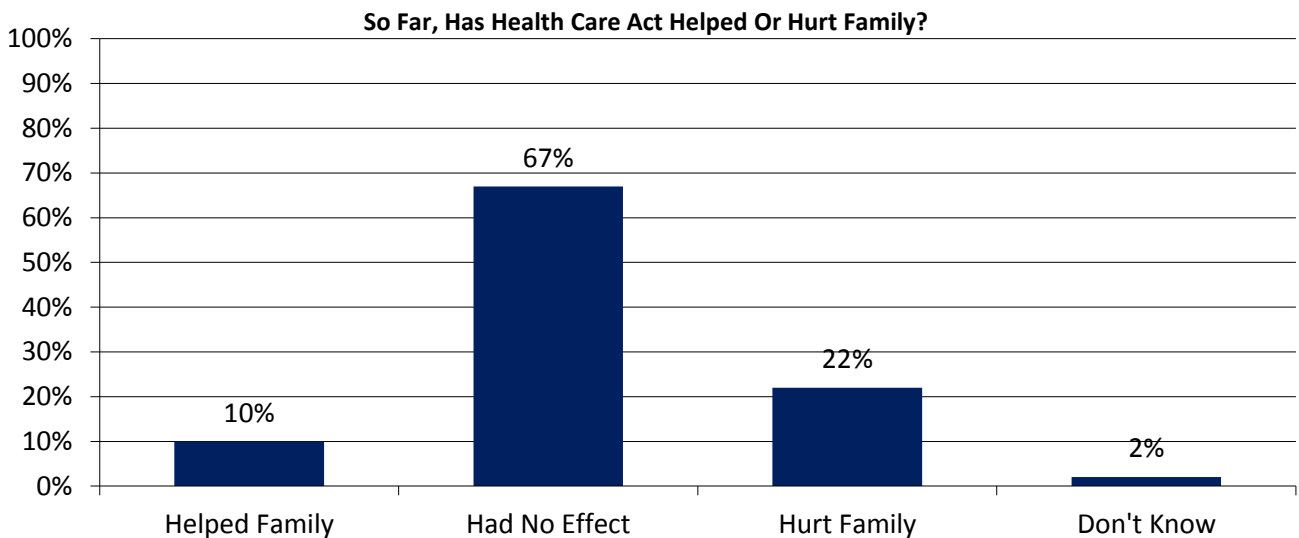
\* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Poll*, sponsored by WMUR-TV, and conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

The Affordable Care Act remains popular among Democrats (65% favor), but remains very unpopular among both Independents (30%) and Republicans (7%).

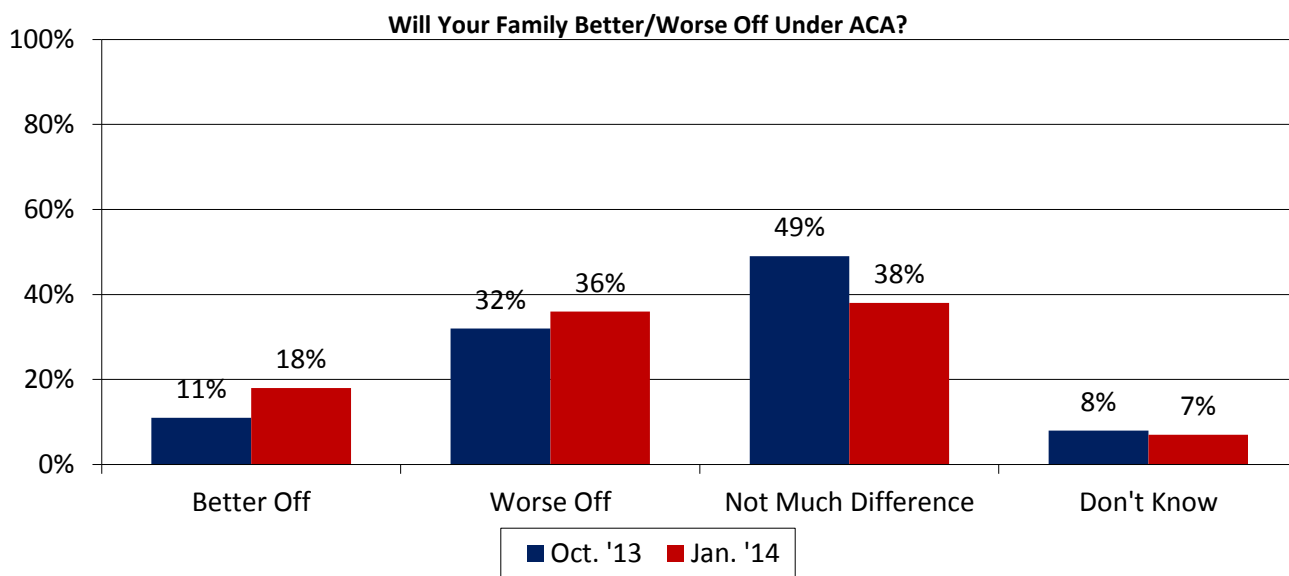


### Effect of the Health Care Law

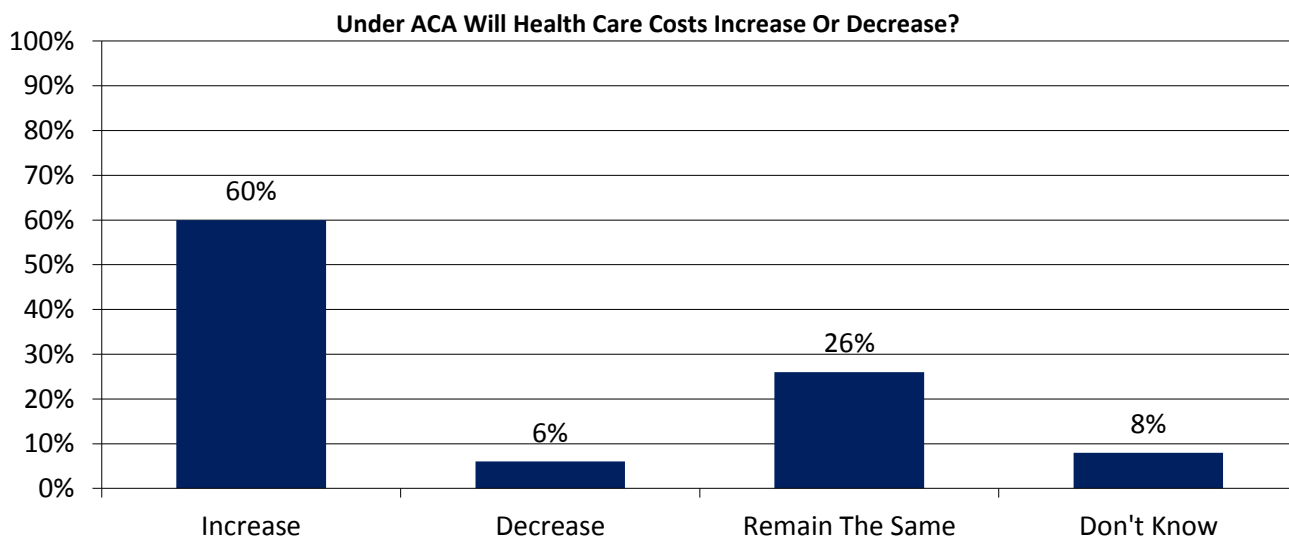
When asked if the health care act has helped or hurt their family so far, most Granite Staters (67%) say the act has had no effect on their family, 10% say the act has helped, 22% say it has hurt, and 2% are unsure. As with most questions about the healthcare law there is a partisan divide – 17% of Democrats say they law has helped while 32% of Republicans say the law has hurt.



Looking long term, most Granite Staters think their family will be worse off or about the same under the ACA. Only 18% think they will be better off, 36% think they will be worse off, 38% think it won't make much difference, and 7% are unsure. There is a significant partisan divide on this issue as 60% of Republicans think they will be worse off compared to just 16% of Democrats.



A significant reason people are opposed to the ACA is that they think health care will be more expensive under the ACA. Three in five (60%) New Hampshire residents believe that their medical costs will increase, only 6% think costs will decrease, 26% think they will remain the same, and 8% are unsure. This question also has a partisan split—majorities of Republicans (75%) and Independents (66%) say their costs will increase, but even 42% of Democrats believe their costs will go up.



## Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest WMUR Granite State Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Five hundred and eighty-four (584) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone between January 21 and January 26, 2014. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.1 percent.

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households, respondent sex, age, and region of the state. In addition to potential sampling error, all surveys have other potential sources of non-sampling error including question order effects, question wording effects, and non-response.

### Favor / Oppose Health Care Reform Legislation Passed in Congress

“Let me ask you a question about healthcare. The U.S. House and Senate passed legislation in March of 2010 that will overhaul the nation’s health care system. Based on what you have seen or heard, do you favor or oppose the health care legislation that was passed in Congress, or don’t you have an opinion?”

(ASKED IN FEB ’10) “Let me ask you a question about healthcare. The U.S. House and Senate have just passed legislation that would overhaul the nation’s health care system. Based on what you have seen or heard, do you favor or oppose the health care legislation that is going through Congress, or don’t you have an opinion?”

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Neutral/DK</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(N)</u>
<b>Jan. '14</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>(581)</b>
<b>Oct. '13</b>	40%	14%	47%	(659)
<b>July '13</b>	35%	21%	44%	(512)
<b>Apr. '13</b>	34%	17%	49%	(504)
<b>Feb. '13</b>	41%	13%	46%	(581)
<b>Oct. '12</b>	43%	12%	45%	(590)
<b>July '12</b>	38%	13%	49%	(518)
<b>Apr. '12</b>	36%	18%	46%	(534)
<b>Feb. '12</b>	39%	15%	46%	(524)
<b>Oct. '11</b>	35%	13%	52%	(554)
<b>July '11</b>	33%	14%	53%	(513)
<b>Apr. '11</b>	35%	12%	52%	(504)
<b>Feb. '11</b>	38%	10%	52%	(519)
<b>Sept. '10</b>	38%	13%	49%	(513)
<b>July '10</b>	39%	15%	46%	(502)
<b>Apr. '10</b>	40%	10%	49%	(512)
<b>Feb. '10</b>	26%	16%	57%	(498)

### Has Health Care Law Helped Or Hurt Family

“As you may know, a few of the provisions of the health care law have already gone into effect. So far, has the new law helped you and your family, not had an effect, or has it hurt you and your family?” ROTATE RESPONSES

	<u>Jan. '14</u>
Helped	<b>10%</b>
Had No Effect	<b>67%</b>
Hurt	<b>22%</b>
Don't Know	<b>2%</b>
(N=)	<b>(581)</b>

### Family Better/Worse Off Under Health Care Law

“Do you think you and your family will be better off or worse off under the new health care law, or will it not make much of a difference?”

	<u>Oct. '13</u>	<u>Jan. '14</u>
Better Off	11%	18%
Worse Off	32%	36%
No Difference	49%	38%
Don't Know	8%	7%
(N=)	(662)	(583)

### Will Health Care Costs Increase Or Decrease?

“And from what you know of that legislation, do you think the amount you pay for medical care will increase, decrease or remain the same?”

	<u>Jan. '14</u>
Increase	60%
Decrease	6%
Remain The Same	26%
Don't Know	8%
(N=)	(582)

**Favor / Oppose Health Care Legislation Passed in Congress**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Favor</u></b> <b>34%</b>	<b><u>Neutral/DK</u></b> <b>13%</b>	<b><u>Oppose</u></b> <b>53%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>581</b>
Registered Democrat	66%	14%	21%	117
Registered Undeclared	37%	14%	50%	265
Registered Republican	8%	9%	83%	139
Democrat	65%	17%	19%	217
Independent	30%	12%	59%	126
Republican	7%	11%	81%	218
Liberal	70%	11%	20%	126
Moderate	37%	15%	48%	227
Conservative	6%	14%	80%	167
Support Tea Party	3%	7%	90%	108
Neutral	15%	17%	68%	194
Oppose Tea Party	64%	12%	24%	248
Romney/Ryan Voter	3%	9%	88%	220
Obama/Biden Voter	66%	14%	20%	266
Other	13%	14%	72%	32
Did Not Vote in 2012	10%	24%	66%	38
Union household	28%	12%	61%	67
Non-union	35%	14%	51%	505
Read Union Leader	29%	11%	60%	152
Read Boston Globe	46%	11%	43%	82
Watch WMUR	31%	15%	54%	340
Listen to NHPR	57%	11%	32%	183
10 yrs. or less in NH	45%	12%	43%	79
11 to 20 years	32%	16%	52%	130
More than 20 years	33%	13%	54%	356
18 to 34	30%	22%	48%	143
35 to 49	24%	10%	66%	162
50 to 64	38%	12%	50%	155
65 and over	52%	11%	37%	99
Male	32%	11%	57%	288
Female	36%	15%	49%	293
High school or less	24%	20%	56%	114
Some college	35%	12%	53%	125
College graduate	31%	16%	53%	216
Post-graduate	49%	4%	47%	115
Attend services 1 or more/week	35%	7%	57%	104
1-2 times a month	16%	28%	56%	72
Less often	36%	10%	53%	155
Never	39%	14%	47%	214
North Country	38%	16%	46%	57
Central / Lakes	28%	17%	54%	97
Connecticut Valley	48%	8%	44%	75
Mass Border	28%	11%	61%	158
Seacoast	44%	12%	44%	81
Manchester Area	30%	16%	55%	114
First Cong. Dist.	30%	16%	54%	299
Second Cong. Dist.	39%	10%	51%	281

**So Far, Has Health Care Law Helped or Hurt Your Family?**

	<u>Helped Family</u>	<u>Had No Effect</u>	<u>Hurt Family</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>581</b>
Registered Democrat	23%	60%	15%	3%	117
Registered Undeclared	9%	70%	21%	1%	267
Registered Republican	3%	63%	31%	3%	139
Democrat	17%	67%	16%	0%	217
Independent	11%	72%	14%	4%	126
Republican	3%	62%	32%	3%	219
Liberal	20%	61%	18%	0%	126
Moderate	9%	73%	16%	1%	224
Conservative	3%	61%	32%	4%	169
Support Tea Party	1%	56%	40%	3%	110
Neutral	5%	69%	24%	2%	195
Oppose Tea Party	17%	70%	12%	2%	244
Romney/Ryan Voter	2%	65%	30%	3%	220
Obama/Biden Voter	18%	69%	12%	1%	266
Other	11%	49%	39%	1%	32
Did Not Vote in 2012	2%	69%	29%	0%	38
Union household	8%	72%	20%	0%	68
Non-union	10%	65%	22%	2%	504
Read Union Leader	9%	60%	30%	1%	152
Read Boston Globe	15%	73%	12%	0%	82
Watch WMUR	8%	66%	23%	2%	342
Listen to NHPR	14%	71%	15%	0%	185
10 yrs. or less in NH	10%	68%	21%	1%	78
11 to 20 years	15%	57%	25%	3%	130
More than 20 years	8%	70%	20%	2%	357
18 to 34	13%	62%	25%	0%	143
35 to 49	8%	65%	23%	4%	161
50 to 64	12%	63%	23%	1%	155
65 and over	7%	76%	13%	4%	99
Male	9%	63%	26%	3%	285
Female	11%	70%	18%	1%	296
High school or less	7%	71%	18%	4%	114
Some college	10%	63%	26%	1%	125
College graduate	10%	68%	20%	1%	219
Post-graduate	14%	63%	21%	3%	112
Attend services 1 or more/week	15%	61%	24%	1%	104
1-2 times a month	9%	74%	17%	0%	72
Less often	10%	65%	24%	1%	158
Never	9%	66%	21%	4%	211
North Country	13%	61%	26%	0%	57
Central / Lakes	3%	76%	20%	1%	99
Connecticut Valley	14%	62%	23%	1%	75
Mass Border	10%	68%	20%	1%	155
Seacoast	14%	70%	14%	3%	81
Manchester Area	9%	59%	27%	5%	115
First Cong. Dist.	8%	69%	20%	3%	301
Second Cong. Dist.	12%	64%	23%	1%	278

**Will Your Family Be Better Or Worse Off Under the Health Care Law?**

	<u>Better Off</u>	<u>Worse Off</u>	<u>No Difference</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>583</b>
Registered Democrat	43%	16%	38%	3%	117
Registered Undeclared	14%	38%	42%	7%	267
Registered Republican	7%	55%	31%	7%	139
Democrat	35%	16%	45%	4%	217
Independent	14%	31%	42%	13%	126
Republican	4%	60%	28%	7%	219
Liberal	37%	16%	43%	3%	126
Moderate	20%	28%	47%	6%	227
Conservative	2%	64%	26%	7%	167
Support Tea Party	1%	76%	16%	8%	110
Neutral	8%	40%	38%	14%	194
Oppose Tea Party	35%	17%	46%	2%	247
Romney/Ryan Voter	2%	67%	26%	5%	219
Obama/Biden Voter	35%	14%	47%	5%	269
Other	21%	38%	31%	10%	32
Did Not Vote in 2012	0%	27%	48%	25%	38
Union household	10%	31%	54%	5%	68
Non-union	19%	37%	36%	8%	506
Read Union Leader	11%	50%	34%	4%	151
Read Boston Globe	29%	30%	39%	3%	82
Watch WMUR	15%	36%	42%	7%	341
Listen to NHPR	26%	23%	45%	5%	185
10 yrs. or less in NH	17%	38%	42%	2%	81
11 to 20 years	20%	39%	34%	7%	130
More than 20 years	18%	35%	38%	9%	356
18 to 34	21%	35%	34%	10%	143
35 to 49	16%	45%	30%	9%	164
50 to 64	21%	38%	35%	6%	155
65 and over	17%	22%	57%	4%	99
Male	18%	39%	35%	8%	288
Female	18%	33%	41%	7%	295
High school or less	16%	30%	41%	14%	113
Some college	17%	36%	38%	9%	125
College graduate	18%	42%	35%	5%	219
Post-graduate	24%	30%	41%	4%	114
Attend services 1 or more/week	19%	38%	38%	5%	104
1-2 times a month	10%	45%	33%	12%	72
Less often	18%	33%	40%	9%	158
Never	23%	32%	39%	6%	214
North Country	15%	28%	57%	0%	57
Central / Lakes	12%	38%	35%	15%	99
Connecticut Valley	24%	36%	34%	5%	75
Mass Border	19%	40%	34%	8%	157
Seacoast	19%	25%	49%	6%	81
Manchester Area	19%	42%	33%	6%	115
First Cong. Dist.	15%	38%	39%	9%	301
Second Cong. Dist.	22%	35%	37%	5%	281



**Under Health Care Law Do You Think Your Medical Care Costs Will Increase or Decrease?**

	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Remain The Same</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>582</b>
Registered Democrat	38%	13%	37%	12%	117
Registered Undeclared	63%	5%	25%	6%	267
Registered Republican	78%	4%	14%	5%	139
Democrat	42%	11%	38%	8%	217
Independent	66%	5%	22%	8%	126
Republican	75%	3%	15%	7%	219
Liberal	39%	10%	42%	9%	126
Moderate	58%	7%	30%	5%	227
Conservative	81%	3%	9%	7%	167
Support Tea Party	84%	2%	7%	7%	110
Neutral	70%	2%	20%	8%	195
Oppose Tea Party	42%	12%	40%	7%	246
Romney/Ryan Voter	82%	3%	9%	5%	219
Obama/Biden Voter	42%	11%	39%	9%	267
Other	64%	4%	31%	1%	32
Did Not Vote in 2012	57%	0%	23%	20%	38
Union household	59%	3%	37%	1%	68
Non-union	60%	7%	24%	9%	504
Read Union Leader	66%	3%	29%	2%	151
Read Boston Globe	47%	9%	39%	5%	82
Watch WMUR	63%	6%	25%	7%	340
Listen to NHPR	48%	7%	40%	6%	184
10 yrs. or less in NH	53%	7%	37%	3%	81
11 to 20 years	55%	5%	29%	11%	130
More than 20 years	64%	6%	22%	8%	355
18 to 34	59%	8%	27%	5%	143
35 to 49	67%	3%	23%	8%	164
50 to 64	65%	9%	20%	6%	155
65 and over	44%	5%	36%	14%	97
Male	61%	7%	23%	9%	286
Female	60%	6%	28%	6%	295
High school or less	55%	7%	22%	16%	113
Some college	63%	5%	23%	9%	125
College graduate	65%	6%	24%	5%	219
Post-graduate	53%	8%	35%	4%	114
Attend services 1 or more/week	55%	6%	35%	4%	104
1-2 times a month	62%	6%	24%	8%	72
Less often	66%	6%	22%	6%	156
Never	58%	7%	25%	10%	214
North Country	71%	2%	22%	4%	57
Central / Lakes	68%	5%	23%	3%	98
Connecticut Valley	46%	8%	32%	14%	74
Mass Border	67%	3%	26%	4%	157
Seacoast	57%	7%	25%	10%	81
Manchester Area	52%	11%	26%	12%	115
First Cong. Dist.	59%	7%	25%	9%	301
Second Cong. Dist.	62%	6%	26%	6%	280