

Supplementary Appendix

This appendix has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

Supplement to: SteelFisher GK, Blendon RJ, Sussman T, et al. Physicians' views of the Massachusetts health care reform law — a poll. *N Engl J Med* 2009;361:e39. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp0909851.

Harvard School of Public Health

Physician Views of Massachusetts Health Reform

Supported by grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation

Topline Results

The study was conducted for the Harvard School of Public Health via mail and web (online) by SSRS/ICR, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from August 11 to September 15, 2008, among a sample of 2135 physicians practicing in Massachusetts. The margin of error for total respondents is +/-2.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

1. In an average week, approximately what percent of your time do you spend on direct patient care?

	09/21/09
LESS THAN 50% (NET)	13
Less than 10%	2
10-24%	4
25-49%	7
50% OR MORE (NET)	87
50-74%	15
75% or more	72
None	*
Don't know	*
Refused	*

2. Approximately what percent of your patients are now on Medicaid or are uninsured?

	09/21/09
LESS THAN 50% (NET)	81
Less than 10%	33
10-24%	34
25-49%	14
50% OR MORE (NET)	8
50-74%	4
75% or more	4
None	1
Don't know	9
Refused	1

3. Approximately what percent of your patients are now on Medicare?

	09/21/09
LESS THAN 50% (NET)	68
Less than 10%	15
10-24%	24
25-49%	29
50% OR MORE (NET)	16
50-74%	14
75% or more	2
None	6
Don't know	9
Refused	1

4. How would you rate the nation's system for providing medical care to Americans?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	5	28	43	23	1	*

5. How would you rate the Massachusetts system for providing medical care to people in this state?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	10	53	30	6	1	*

6. Overall, how satisfied are you with your current practice?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	31	48	16	4	*	1

7. Thinking about the past three years, how have things at your practice changed overall? Have they gotten much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse, much worse, or haven't they changed at all?

	Much better	Somewhat better	Somewhat worse	Much worse	No change	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	4	19	42	8	24	1	2

(Asked of respondents whose practice has gotten somewhat/much worse in the past three years; n = 1067)

8. Below is a list of reasons why things at your practice may have gotten worse. Please check whether each of the following is a major reason, minor reason, or not a reason at all why things have gotten worse at your practice.

a. The economy

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	35	47			

b. The Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	11	34	43	8	4

c. Changes in Medicare

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	24	38	29	6	4

d. Changes in Medicaid

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	19	41	30	6	5

e. Changes in private coverage

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	38	39	17	3	4

f. Other changes in health care

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	39	34	10	9	8

(Asked of respondents whose practice has gotten somewhat/much worse in the past three years; n = 1067)

8g. Is there any other reason why things at your practice might have gotten worse?

	09/21/09
DIRECT PRACTICE CHANGES (NET)	22
Lack of quality physicians/staff	8
Increased volume of patients/workload	8
Decreased care quality/individual care	5
Too much/increasing overhead expenses	4
Other direct practice changes mentions	2
Poorer insurance coverage/reimbursement	18
Administrative burden – paperwork/records/billing	24
Increase regulations/bureaucracy/malpractice	21
Patient-related	4
Other	6
No	18
Don't know	9
Refused	9

(Asked of respondents whose practice has gotten somewhat/much better in the past three years; n = 488)

9. Below is a list of reasons why things at your practice may have gotten better. Please check whether each of the following is a major reason, minor reason, or not a reason at all why things have gotten better at your practice.

a. The economy

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	3	12	75	5	6

b. The Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	13	25	50	7	5

c. Changes in Medicare

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	1	8	74	9	7

d. Changes in Medicaid

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	2	8	74	9	7

e. Changes in private coverage

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	8	21	58	7	7

f. Other changes in health care

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	12	26	45	11	6

(Asked of respondents whose practice has gotten somewhat/much better in the past three years; n = 488)

9g. Is there any other reason why things at your practice might have gotten better?

	09/21/09
DIRECT PRACTICE CHANGES (NET)	38
Increased patient volume/practice expansion	11
Management/staff/internal improvements	26
Other direct practice changes mentions	2
Better coverage/reimbursement	6
Technology changes	20
Administrative related	3
Business hours	2
Factors outside practice	7
Other	8
No	12
Don't know	9
Refused	5

10. Given what you know about it, in general, do you support or oppose the Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law?

	Support	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	70	13	13	3

11. Do you think the Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law should be repealed, continued as the law currently stands, or continued but with some changes made?

	Repealed	Continued as the law currently stands	Continued, but with some changes made	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	7	29	46	15	3

(Asked of respondents who believe Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law should continue, but with some changes made; n = 995)

12. Briefly, what would be the most important change you would like to see made?

<i>Most important change physicians would like to see</i>	<i>09/21/09</i>
Expand Coverage (net)	34
Include all/more people	11
Ensure better/more comprehensive coverage	12
Increase physicians/providers available	7
Introduce single payer system	3
Ensure businesses cannot drop Coverage	1
Address Costs (net)	23
Institute cost controls/spending limits	6
Utilize more/different funding	7
Implement malpractice reform/tort reform	2
Ensure affordability	7
Improve Reimbursement	13
Reduce Coverage (net)	8
Restrict access	1
Increase patient contributions/ Ensure income eligibility	7
Other (net)	10
Streamline administration	4
Eliminate mandate	2
Regulate insurance companies	1
Other	3
Don't know	7
Refused	5

13. Generally speaking, do you think the Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law is helping, hurting, or not having much of an impact on each of the following?

a. People who did not have health insurance before the law

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	79	3	10	7	1

b. People who did have health insurance before the law

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	7	16	67	9	1

c. Primary care practices

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	31	25	16	27	2

d. Specialty practices

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	24	18	29	27	1

e. Hospitals

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	31	24	11	33	2

f. The quality of care in Massachusetts

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	37	12	34	15	2

g. The overall cost of health care in Massachusetts

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	9	53	11	25	2

h. The cost that patients in Massachusetts pay

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	16	31	21	30	2

i. Patients' ability to get to see a primary care provider

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	29	34	19	18	1

j. Patients' ability to get to see a specialty physician

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	24	22	30	23	1

14. Now, about your practice and the patients you see:

Generally speaking, do you think the Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law is helping, hurting, or not having much of an impact on each of the following?

a. Your medical practice overall

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	22	13	57	7	1

b. The hospital where you practice or send most of your patients

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	23	18	31	27	1

c. The quality of care your patients receive

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	19	6	66	8	1

d. The overall cost of health care for your patients

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	16	26	35	22	1

e. The costs that your patients pay out-of-pocket for needed care

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	21	21	33	24	1

15. Now, about how this law may be affecting specific aspects of your practice:

Generally speaking, do you think the Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law is helping, hurting, or not having much of an impact on each of the following?

a. The administrative burden on your practice

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	3	35	43	6	12	1

b. The amount of time you can spend with a patient

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	2	21	66	7	4	1

c. Your ability to get needed referrals for your patients

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	11	20	51	9	8	1

d. Your patients' continuity of care

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	26	10	49	7	7	2

e. Your patients' adherence to the care regimen you've prescribed

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	21	8	54	8	8	1

f. Your ability to have a patient admitted to a hospital

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	11	4	61	14	9	1

g. Your ability to keep a patient in the hospital the length of time you feel is necessary

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	5	10	52	19	13	1

h. Your ability to order diagnostic tests or procedures for your patients

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	18	17	50	7	7	1

i. Your ability to prescribe drugs your patients need

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	21	22	43	6	7	1

j. Your personal financial situation

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	5	19	62	5	8	2

k. The financial situation of your practice as a whole

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	9	24	47	5	14	2

l. Your insured patients' ability to pay for care

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	12	14	53	4	15	1

m. Your uninsured patients' ability to pay for care

	Helping	Hurting	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	42	9	27	5	15	1

16. Generally speaking, do you think the Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law is increasing, decreasing, or not having much of an impact on each of the following?

a. The amount of time patients wait to get an appointment to see you

	Increasing	Decreasing	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	24	2	60	9	5	1

b. The amount of time patients wait in the waiting room before they can see you

	Increasing	Decreasing	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	17	1	70	8	4	1

c. The number of patients in your practice who are uninsured

	Increasing	Decreasing	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	7	48	29	6	9	1

d. The number of patients in your practice who receive uncompensated care – either because they are uninsured or because their insurance does not cover the care they need

	Increasing	Decreasing	Not having much impact	Not relevant to your practice / NA	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	13	33	33	7	14	1

17. What is your medical specialty?

	09/21/09
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN (NET)	34
Family Practice	7
General Practice	1
Internal Medicine	15
Pediatrics	12
SPECIALIST (NET)	65
Allergy/Immunology	1
Anesthesiology	1
Cardiology	3
Dermatology	2
Emergency Medicine	2
Endocrinology	1
Gastroenterology	3
Geriatrics	1
Infectious Diseases	1
Nephrology	2
Neurology	3
Obstetrics/Gynecology	5
Oncology/Hematology	2
Ophthalmology	3
Orthopedics	3
Otolaryngology (Ear, Nose, and Throat)	2
Pathology	1
Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation	1
Podiatry	4
Psychiatry	6
Pulmonology	1
Radiology	3
Rheumatology	1
Surgery	5
Urology	2
Oral and maxillofacial surgery	1
Radiation oncology	1
Plastic surgery	1
Neurosurgery	*
Neonatology	*
Neuropsychology	*
Sleep medicine	*
Oral surgery (dentistry)	*
Other	4
Refused	1

18. What year did you graduate from medical school?

	09/21/09
1979 or earlier	32
1980-1989	30
1990- 1999	26
2000-2009	9
Don't know	--
Refused	2

19. In what kind of practice setting do you provide most of your direct patient care?

	09/21/09
IN A HOSPITAL (NET)	35
Inpatient Unit <u>in a hospital</u>	7
Emergency Department <u>in a hospital</u>	2
Ambulatory Clinic or Office <u>in a hospital</u>	22
Laboratory or Radiology Practice <u>in a hospital</u>	3
NOT IN A HOSPITAL (NET)	60
Ambulatory Clinic or Office <u>NOT in a hospital</u>	48
Laboratory or Radiology Practice <u>NOT in a hospital</u>	*
Ambulatory Surgical Center <u>NOT in a hospital</u>	1
Urgent Care Clinic <u>NOT in a hospital</u>	*
Community Health Center	4
Private practice/office practice	5
Multi-specialty clinic	*
Other	4
Don't know	*
Refused	1

20. Approximately what percent of your patients belong to racial/ethnic minority groups, including African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians?

	09/21/09
LESS THAN 50% (NET)	85
Less than 10%	23
10-24%	38
25-49%	24
50% OR MORE (NET)	10
50-74%	6
75% or more	5
None	*
Don't know	3
Refused	1

21. Including you, how many physicians are there at your practice site, meaning at the address or suite where you do most of your direct patient care?

	09/21/09
1-5	51
6-10	20
11-20	12
21+	15
Don't know	*
Refused	2

- 21a. In contracting with most payers, is this group of physicians completely independent or are you joined with other practices?

	Completely independent	Joined with other practices	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	35	55	7	2

22. Regarding your employment, do you own your own practice, are you a partner or part-owner in a practice, or are you an employee of a hospital or practice?

	Own practice	Partner/part-owner in a practice	Employee of a hospital or practice	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	22	21	56	*	1

23. Are you paid primarily through a salary or some other means?

	Salary	Some other means	Both salary and other means	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	56	21	19	*	3

24. How many beds are in the hospital where you practice, or to which most of your patients are admitted?

	09/21/09
1-100	8
101-300	31
301-500	11
501-1000	11
More than 1000	*
Not Applicable	14
Don't know	23
Refused	2

25. Thinking about this same hospital, would you say that most, some, or just a few of the patients received uncompensated care or were on Medicaid or MassHealth prior to the Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Law?

	Most patients	Some patients	Just a few patients	Not Applicable	Don't know	Refused
09/21/09	9	44	9	14	19	5

26. Are you...?

	Male	Female	Refused
09/21/09	69	30	1

RACE SUMMARY TABLE

	09/21/09
White (non-Hispanic)	77
Black/African American (non-Hispanic)	1
Asian (non-Hispanic)	10
Hispanic (NET)	3
White Hispanic	2
Black Hispanic	*
Hispanic, Other	*
Hispanic unspecified	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	*
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	*
Middle eastern	1
Some other race	*
Refused	6