

NATIONWIDE ONLINE POLL

November 17-22, 2023

N=1,000 Registered Voters Nationwide

Q12. Here are a few issues facing the country. For each, please indicate how important a priority you feel that issue should be for elected officials like members of Congress and your state legislature to address: a very important priority, somewhat important priority, not too important priority, or not a priority at all.

Q12A. Expanding access to mental health care [SPLIT A]	Very important priority	60%
	Somewhat important priority	30%
	Not too important priority	7%
	Not a priority at all	2%
	Don't know	1%
Q12B. Expanding access to mental health care for children and youth [SPLIT B]	Very important priority	55%
	Somewhat important priority	33%
	Not too important priority	8%
	Not a priority at all	3%
	Don't know	1%
Q12C. Addressing the mental health crisis in this country [SPLIT A]	Very important priority	59%
	Somewhat important priority	32%
	Not too important priority	6%
	Not a priority at all	2%
	Don't know	1%
Q12D. Addressing the mental health crisis among children and youth in this country [SPLIT B]	Very important priority	57%
	Somewhat important priority	33%
	Not too important priority	7%
	Not a priority at all	2%
	Don't know	1%
Q12E. Making health care more affordable	Very important priority	69%
	Somewhat important priority	24%
	Not too important priority	5%
	Not a priority at all	1%
	Don't know	0%
Q12F. Combating the opioid epidemic	Very important priority	49%
	Somewhat important priority	37%
	Not too important priority	10%
	Not a priority at all	3%
	Don't know	1%

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Q12G. Reducing substance use disorders	Very important priority	41%
	Somewhat important priority	42%
	Not too important priority	12%
	Not a priority at all	3%
	Don't know	2%
Q12H. Lowering the cost of living for working families	Very important priority	71%
	Somewhat important priority	23%
	Not too important priority	3%
	Not a priority at all	2%
	Don't know	1%
Q12I. Improving education and K-12 schools	Very important priority	64%
	Somewhat important priority	29%
	Not too important priority	5%
	Not a priority at all	1%
	Don't know	1%
Q13. When thinking about elections for Congress, are you more likely to vote for...?	Democratic candidates	40%
	Republican candidates	37%
	Depends	19%
	Neither	2%
	Don't Know	2%

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Q14. Here are some people and groups active in politics. Please indicate whether you have a very favorable opinion, a somewhat favorable opinion, a somewhat unfavorable opinion, or a very unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't recognize them, just indicate that.

Q14C. Health insurance companies	Very fav	9%
	Somewhat fav	27%
	Total fav	36%
	Somewhat unfav	33%
	Very unfav	29%
	Total unfav	62%
	Name ID	98%
	Can't Rate	2%
Q14D. Health care providers, like doctors and nurses	Very fav	48%
	Somewhat fav	39%
	Total fav	86%
	Somewhat unfav	9%
	Very unfav	3%
	Total unfav	12%
	Name ID	99%
	Can't Rate	1%

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Q15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? There is a growing mental health crisis facing adults in this country.	Strongly agree	55%
	Somewhat agree	35%
	Total agree	90%
	Somewhat disagree	5%
	Strongly disagree	1%
	Total disagree	7%
	Don't know	3%
Q16. From what you know, how difficult is it for an adult to get access to mental health care right now?	Very difficult	22%
	Somewhat difficult	37%
	Total difficult	59%
	Somewhat easy	18%
	Very easy	5%
	Total easy	23%
	I am not sure how easy or difficult it is for adults to access mental health care	17%
Q17. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? There is a growing mental health crisis facing children and youth in this country.	Strongly agree	54%
	Somewhat agree	37%
	Total agree	91%
	Somewhat disagree	5%
	Strongly disagree	0%
	Total disagree	5%
	Don't know	3%
Q18. From what you know, how difficult is it for a child or youth to get access to mental health care right now?	Very difficult	20%
	Somewhat difficult	34%
	Total difficult	54%
	Somewhat easy	16%
	Very easy	5%
	Total easy	20%
	I am not sure how easy or difficult it is for children and youth to access mental health care	26%
Q19. Compared to when you were growing up, are children and youth in this country today facing...?	More mental health challenges and struggles than in the past	75%
	Fewer mental health challenges and struggles than in the past	3%
	About the same amount of mental health challenges and struggles as in the past	17%
	Don't know	5%
Q20. In your view, right now, is mental health care...?	Too expensive	62%
	Affordable	10%
	I am not sure how much it costs to access mental health care	28%

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Q21. Next are some things that some people say are contributing to a mental health crisis in this country among adults, children, and youth. Please indicate if you think each one is a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem for mental health.

Q21A. Mental health care is too expensive and many people cannot afford the care they need	Major problem	68%
	Minor problem	16%
	Not a problem	4%
	Don't know	11%
Q21B. Social media	Major problem	62%
	Minor problem	29%
	Not a problem	6%
	Don't know	3%
Q21C. Health insurance companies denying coverage of needed mental health services [SPLIT A]	Major problem	64%
	Minor problem	17%
	Not a problem	4%
	Don't know	16%
Q21D. Health insurance companies not having appropriate providers or services for mental health care [SPLIT B]	Major problem	58%
	Minor problem	24%
	Not a problem	3%
	Don't know	15%
Q21E. Health insurance plans are too confusing to navigate and access mental health services	Major problem	51%
	Minor problem	33%
	Not a problem	8%
	Don't know	8%
Q21F. First responders don't have the right training or resources to help people facing a mental health crisis	Major problem	50%
	Minor problem	31%
	Not a problem	8%
	Don't know	11%
Q21G. A shortage of mental health care providers, like therapists and psychiatrists	Major problem	55%
	Minor problem	26%
	Not a problem	7%
	Don't know	12%
Q21H. Violence and shootings in schools [SPLIT A]	Major problem	79%
	Minor problem	16%
	Not a problem	4%
	Don't know	2%
Q21I. Rising crime and violence [SPLIT B]	Major problem	75%
	Minor problem	16%
	Not a problem	5%
	Don't know	4%

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Q21J. The opioid crisis and substance use disorders	Major problem	70%
	Minor problem	22%
	Not a problem	3%
	Don't know	4%
Q21K. The stigma around mental health	Major problem	54%
	Minor problem	33%
	Not a problem	9%
	Don't know	5%
Q21L. Financial stress that people are feeling	Major problem	79%
	Minor problem	18%
	Not a problem	2%
	Don't know	2%
Q21M. Insufficient mental health services in schools for children and youth who are struggling	Major problem	62%
	Minor problem	23%
	Not a problem	5%
	Don't know	10%
Q22. Which of the following do you think are the TWO biggest mental health-related problems in the country today? [TWO RESPONSES ACCEPTED]	The cost of mental health care	55%
	Health insurance companies denying coverage for treatment	48%
	Health insurance coverage being too confusing to navigate	22%
	A shortage of providers	29%
	A shortage of treatment options	26%
	Don't know	10%

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Q23. Next are some potential solutions to improve the mental health of children and youth that some people have proposed. Please indicate if you favor or oppose each one.

Q23A. Teach appropriate life skills to children and youth in K-12 schools, such as responsible decision-making, interpersonal skills, and self-management, that help them succeed in school and life	Strongly favor	75%
	Somewhat favor	18%
	Total favor	94%
	Somewhat oppose	2%
	Strongly oppose	2%
	Total oppose	4%
Q23B. Hire and train school psychologists, social workers, and counselors to provide mental health supports to children and youth in K-12 schools	Strongly favor	63%
	Somewhat favor	25%
	Total favor	88%
	Somewhat oppose	6%
	Strongly oppose	3%
	Total oppose	9%
Q23C. Train K-12 teachers and school staff in mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention	Strongly favor	57%
	Somewhat favor	31%
	Total favor	88%
	Somewhat oppose	5%
	Strongly oppose	3%
	Total oppose	8%
Q23D. Offer mental health training to students so they can support their peers	Strongly favor	40%
	Somewhat favor	35%
	Total favor	75%
	Somewhat oppose	12%
	Strongly oppose	6%
	Total oppose	18%
	Don't know	7%

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<p>Q23E. Provide age-appropriate mental health education in K-12 schools</p>	<p>Strongly favor Somewhat favor Total favor Somewhat oppose Strongly oppose Total oppose Don't know</p>	<p>57% 32% 89% 4% 3% 8% 4%</p>
<p>Q23F. Have K-12 schools conduct regular mental wellness checks to identify students who may need support</p>	<p>Strongly favor Somewhat favor Total favor Somewhat oppose Strongly oppose Total oppose Don't know</p>	<p>46% 35% 81% 9% 6% 15% 4%</p>
<p>Q23G. Allow excused absences from school for mental health reasons in grades K-12</p>	<p>Strongly favor Somewhat favor Total favor Somewhat oppose Strongly oppose Total oppose Don't know</p>	<p>41% 33% 75% 13% 5% 18% 7%</p>
<p>Q24. What stands out to you most positively from the proposals you just read about to improve the mental health of children and youth? [OPEN-ENDED] [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]</p>		
<p>Getting schools and teachers involved in mental health / schools offering more help / more services in schools / getting kids help they need in schools / more therapy for kids / more mental health resources in schools</p>		<p>24%</p>
<p>More mental health professionals in schools / more counselors / more providers / more mental health workers / more psychiatrists</p>		<p>12%</p>
<p>More training for teachers / better training for school staff</p>		<p>15%</p>
<p>Educating children on mental health / training for kids / peer support / training for peer counseling / teaching kids to watch for signs</p>		<p>12%</p>
<p>Teaching kids life skills / giving kids coping mechanisms / education in decision making and self sufficiency / school curriculum</p>		<p>9%</p>
<p>Mental health assessment for kids in school / wellness checks for kids / mental health screenings / evaluating kids when schools see symptoms / early diagnosis</p>		<p>4%</p>
<p>Mental health days for students / allowing absences for mental health</p>		<p>2%</p>
<p>Acknowledging mental health is a crisis / glad we are talking about this issue / more attention on important issue / more resources devoted to important issue</p>		<p>13%</p>
<p>Generic positive (These are good ideas / I like all of these ideas / this is needed)</p>		<p>2%</p>
<p>Other</p>		<p>9%</p>
<p>None / don't like these policies / this shouldn't be taught in schools / leave issue up to parents</p>		<p>10%</p>
<p>Don't Know</p>		<p>3%</p>

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Q25. Next are some more potential solutions to improve mental health that some people have proposed. Please indicate if you favor or oppose each one.

Q25A. Require health insurance companies to cover out-of-network mental health care at no extra charge when timely or appropriate in-network services aren't available to address the medical needs of a patient	Strongly favor	63%
	Somewhat favor	24%
	Total favor	87%
	Somewhat oppose	6%
	Strongly oppose	2%
	Total oppose	8%
Q25B. Require health insurance companies to cover needed mental health care when prescribed by a patient's doctor	Strongly favor	75%
	Somewhat favor	19%
	Total favor	94%
	Somewhat oppose	3%
	Strongly oppose	1%
	Total oppose	4%
Q25C. Prohibit health insurance companies from cutting a patient's mental health care short or imposing arbitrary limits on their care	Strongly favor	69%
	Somewhat favor	22%
	Total favor	91%
	Somewhat oppose	3%
	Strongly oppose	2%
	Total oppose	6%
Q25D. Prohibit health insurance companies from denying patients needed mental health care and forcing them to try cheaper alternatives that their doctor says will be less effective	Strongly favor	68%
	Somewhat favor	18%
	Total favor	86%
	Somewhat oppose	5%
	Strongly oppose	4%
	Total oppose	9%
Q25E. Require insurance companies to maintain accurate and up-to-date information for consumers about the mental health care providers in their network	Strongly favor	68%
	Somewhat favor	25%
	Total favor	92%
	Somewhat oppose	2%
	Strongly oppose	2%
	Total oppose	4%
	Don't know	4%

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Q26. What stands out to you most positively from the proposals you just read about to expand insurance coverage of mental health care? **[OPEN-ENDED] [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]**

Make it easier to access mental health care / makes the system easier / more value out of insurance	5%
Make mental health care affordable for everyone / lower costs	8%
Stop greedy insurance companies / take on profit driven companies / standing with consumer over the companies / holds companies responsible / putting patients before insurance companies / make companies do what's right	11%
Require insurance companies to cover mental health care (general) / more coverage for everyone / expand coverage to more people	20%
Require insurance companies to pay for out of network providers	8%
Stop insurance companies from cutting care short or setting limits / no cuts to mental health services / no arbitrary restrictions / stop coverage denials	24%
Stop insurance companies from pushing alternative treatments / can't deny you and make you try something less effective	3%
Require up to date information on insurance / more information on coverage options	2%
Puts doctors in charge / listen to doctors / doctors determine care instead of insurance companies / insurance has to cover recommended or prescribed care	7%
Generic positive (These are good ideas / I like all of these ideas / this is needed)	9%
Other	5%
None / don't like these policies / shouldn't make private companies do these things	9%
Don't Know	5%

Q27. Which of the following is the best reason to support the proposals you just read about to improve mental health?	It will make mental health care more affordable and lower out-of-pocket costs for patients	16%
	It will help more people who need it access mental health care treatments	37%
	It will combat substance use disorders and the opioid epidemic	5%
	It will stop insurance companies from denying patients treatments prescribed by their doctors	20%
	It will improve the mental health of children and youth	13%
	Other	3%
	Don't Know	6%

Q28. If a candidate for elected office like Congress or your state legislature <u>supported</u> the proposals you just read about to improve mental health, would you be much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, or much less likely to vote for him or her next year? Or would it make no difference?	Much more likely	39%
	Somewhat more likely	37%
	Total more likely	76%
	Somewhat less likely	3%
	Much less likely	3%
	Total less likely	6%
	No difference	12%
	Don't know	6%

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Q29. If a candidate for elected office like Congress or your state legislature <u>opposed</u> the proposals you just read about to improve mental health, would you be much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, or much less likely to vote for him or her next year? Or would it make no difference?	Much more likely	10%
	Somewhat more likely	10%
	Total more likely	20%
	Somewhat less likely	17%
	Much less likely	45%
	Total less likely	61%
	No difference	11%
Q30. Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right? [SPLIT A]	Insurance companies say they can't increase mental health care coverage without raising premiums, so these proposals will just make health care more expensive for everyone.	17%
	Supporters of these proposals say big insurance companies make billions of dollars in profits and should provide critical coverage for mental health services without passing the cost on to patients.	71%
	Don't know	12%
Q31. Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right? [SPLIT B]	Insurance companies say they can't increase mental health care coverage without raising premiums, so these proposals will just make health care more expensive for everyone.	22%
	Supporters of these proposals say insurance companies are already required to cover treatment for many physical health conditions like asthma or diabetes, and mental health should not be treated differently.	60%
	Don't know	18%

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Q32. Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right? [SPLIT A]	Insurance companies say they can't increase mental health care coverage without raising premiums, so these proposals will just make health care more expensive for everyone.	21%
	Supporters of these proposals say people are not getting the mental health coverage they paid for with their premiums and insurance companies need to provide patients with the care they need.	66%
	Don't know	13%
Q33. Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right? [SPLIT B]	Insurance companies say the real problem is a growing lack of mental health care providers.	15%
	Supporters of these proposals say insurance companies need to be doing more to provide access to the providers we do have instead of denying needed services.	66%
	Don't know	19%

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QUESTIONS FOR CLASSIFICATION PURPOSES

Q3. What is your gender?	Man	47%
	Woman	53%
	Other	0%
Q4. Age	18-34	26%
	35-49	24%
	50-64	25%
	65+	25%
	Refused	0%
Q5/6. Race	White or Caucasian	70%
	Black or African American	12%
	Hispanic or Latino	10%
	Asian American or Pacific Islander	3%
	Mixed Race	2%
	Other	2%
	Don't know	1%
Q7. What was the last year of education you completed?	1st-11th grade	1%
	High school graduate	18%
	Vocational or technical school	5%
	Some college, but no degree	24%
	Associate degree	16%
	4-year college graduate or bachelor's degree	23%
	Graduate school or advanced degree	12%
	Refuse to say	1%
Q8-11. Party Self-ID	Strong Democrat	25%
	Not so strong Democrat	12%
	Indep / lean Democrat	7%
	Strong Republican	25%
	Not so strong Republican	11%
	Indep / lean Republican	7%
	Independent	7%
	Other	4%
	Don't Know	1%
Q34. In the past 12 months, have you or someone close to you received mental health services from a doctor, counselor, or other mental health professional?	Yes, I have experienced this personally	24%
	Yes, someone I know has experienced this	28%
	No	45%
	Don't Know	3%

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Q35. Have you or has anyone you know been affected by a health insurance company making it difficult to access mental health care?	Yes, I have experienced this personally	17%
	Yes, someone I know has experienced this	25%
	No	51%
	Don't Know	6%
Q36. Do you have any children eighteen years of age or younger currently living in your household?	Yes	29%
	No	69%
	Prefer not to say	2%
Q37. Do you personally know a child or young person who has struggled with their mental health?	Yes	57%
	No	40%
	Don't Know	3%
Q38. Have any of your children received mental health services from a doctor, counselor, or other mental health professional? [ASKED IF 'YES' IN Q36; N=287]	Yes	38%
	No	61%
	Don't Know	1%
Q39. How important is politics to your personal identity?	Very important	29%
	Somewhat important	35%
	Not too important	22%
	Not at all important	12%
	Don't Know	1%
Q40. Recall Allocated Brief	Biden	49%
	Trump	45%
	Unallocated	1%
	Did not vote	5%
Q53. Region	NORTHEAST	18%
	MIDWEST	22%
	SOUTH	39%
	WEST	21%

****Due to rounding, "totals" of the individual components may differ by +/-1.**